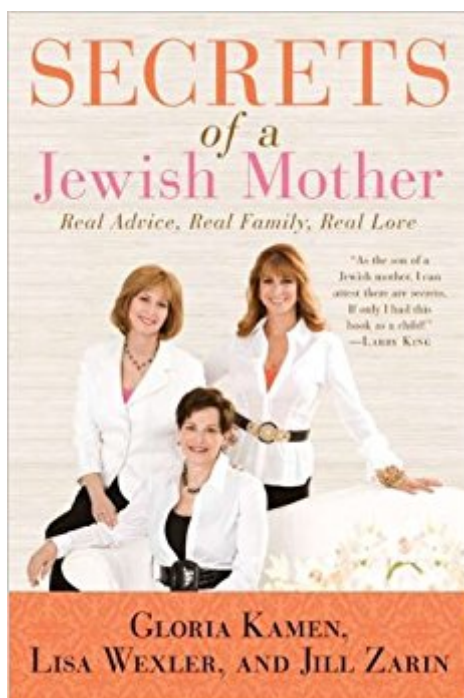


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# Secrets Of A Jewish Mother: Real Advice, Real Family, Real Love



## Synopsis

A Real Housewife of New York City reveals the Jewish mother's secrets to life, love and happiness. The Jewish Mother knows what she wants-and what you should want too. Here, readers will learn how to make her methods their own, and give and get love and happiness in great amounts. Jill Zarin, the breakout star of Bravo's hit series *The Real Housewives of New York*, teams up with her sister, Lisa Wexler, award-winning host of the daily radio program *The Lisa Wexler Show*, and her mother, the estimable Gloria Kamen, who made a splash on Jill's series last year. With real-life stories from the mother/daughter trio illustrating their wise and witty tips on dating, marriage, money, and more, *Secrets of a Jewish Mother* is all the advice readers didn't know they needed but will never forget.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The latest of TV's *Real Housewives of New York City* to enter the publishing arena, Zarin wisely recruits her sister, radio host Wexler, and their mother, online columnist Kamen, to produce an opinionated guide to life from the point of view of three Jewish moms-the kind whose "stereotypical traits" ("domineering, interfering, tactless and loud") have resulted in strong families and successful careers. Insisting that "if a lesson is worth teaching once, it is worth teaching at least two thousand times," the trio use a conversational, collaborative approach to make each themed chapter (including dating, health and beauty, education, career, and, of course, parenting) stick, trading off charismatic group narration with first-person interjections and personal stories that expand upon traditional, time-tested advice: "We come from a long line of long marriages. ...We were taught it is

normal to go through bad times in a marriage, even bad year." They also provide "ask yourself" questions to motivate further exploration, and a short chapter on "Superstitions and the Cliches that Matter." Honest, self-aware, and frequently funny, these women deliver a triple-strength dose of universal advice. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Honest, self-aware, and frequently funny, these women deliver a triple-strength dose of universal advice." -Publisher's Weekly "A great book this Mother's Day" -MSNBC's Morning Joe "Filled with candid, humorous and loving advice and personal glimpses into their lives, this trio offers up some tips we should all heed and live by...This is a thoroughly enjoyable read and should be passed around to mothers, daughters, sister, nieces, aunts, girlfriends and all ladies who might enjoy reading and discovering that in the end we are all basically the same - with the same hopes and desires - and remember an old adage redefined here: 'Hell hath no fury like a [Jewish] mother scorned!' Bravo! to Kamen, Wexler and Zarin (and I don't mean the TV channel)." -Hamptons.com "Reading Secrets of a Jewish Mother is like a sitting around the kitchen table with a pot of coffee and a chocolate bobka, listening to advice from old friends." -Barbara Bietz, author of Like a Maccabee. "[Jill Zarin's] sharing little pearls of wisdom, along with her mom, Gloria Kamen, and sis, Lisa Wexler, in the book Secrets of a Jewish Mother: Real Advice, Real Stories, Real Love. (Just in time for Mother's Day!) Their prescription for successful parenting (friendships, dating, etc.) has a universal quality to it, so it's not only for Jewish moms." -UrbanBaby.com "I felt this book was incredibly smart. It shows the ups and downs of these three women's lives. Like the book title says "Real Advice, Real Stories, Real Love." Nothing is sugarcoated and artificial. I really like how each chapter of the book has stories from each person's life. How Jill dealt with divorce, Gloria's struggle with her friendships at certain points in her life, and Lisa's view on money...In conclusion, I really feel this book is a wonderful read. It makes you think differently about life in certain ways that you normally don't." -Sammi's Blog of Life "...an astonishing cornucopia of heartfelt insights from three savvy, headstrong women who share tried- and-true strategies for dealing with universal issues relating to friendship, dating, marriage, parenting, and family, and you don't have to be Jewish to appreciate it." -Elise Pearlman, Huntington Patch "All-in-All, I love everything that the three mothers had written. I did learn quite a bit of things from each and every one of them. I liked the fact they each gave their own advice and stories in each chapter. From friendship, dating, beauty, marriage, parenting, money and more, this is a great book and a keeper! Another part I liked was in the chapters there was a section called 'Ask Yourself', because I do find myself answering the

questions... So I would like to say Mazel Tov to Jill, Lisa and Gloria. Toda. Thank you for letting me read this wonderfully written book." -Momsword.org "It's not just a Jewish mother that has these secrets, it's a lovely book." -Kathy Lee Gifford, Today "It's a good book, check it out." -Steve Doocy, Fox & Friends "From friendships to love, marriage and children, the book covers many aspects of life with laugh-out-loud stories and pointed advice the [authors] have learned as Jewish mothers and Jewish daughters." -SavvyAuntie.com "No-nonsense advice." -Daily Beast "Practical advice. A mother's wisdom: Know how to laugh at yourself apologize when you're wrong and always carry pepper spray!" -Star "Aside from advice on raising kids and stories from Kamen and her daughters, Secrets of a Jewish Mother deals with marriage, friendship, dating, money, and more, and includes practical quizzes and self- assessment action steps." -Shalom Life "You don't have to be Jewish to read this book, but after reading this book everyone will want to be Jewish. The best practical advice a girl could need from three extraordinary Jewish mothers....Jill's, Lisa's, and Gloria's advice will save you a lifetime of aggravation." -Patti Stanger, Bravo's Millionaire Matchmaker "Gloria epitomizes the Jewish Mother! She has a heart of gold and earrings to match!" -Fran Drescher "You don't have to be Jewish to need a good Jewish mother. Gloria has soooooo much good advice....Chicken soup has got nothing on this lady." -Molly Shannon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased "Secrets of a Jewish Mother" after hearing Jill, Gloria and Lisa speak on the radio - and they had a lot of valid points and good advice. When I sat down to read the book it was so much about Jill and it was written just as her voice when she talks. I couldn't even finish Chapter 1, even though I have tried on multiple occasions.. I thought it would be more about Gloria and her advice, but NO - it was the opposite. I would have returned the book, but I didn't keep the packing slip - so it's going in the garage sale! NOT WORTH MY TIME!

I love Jill and her mother but being brought up in a Jewish home much like Jills, I expected something more clever and not so contrite. I didn't really learn anything I didn't already know but I expected Jill to deliver it in a funnier way. She disappointed me.

Great Book

I was a fan of the Housewives of New York and for decades I've been a customer of Zarins Fabrics on Grand Street on the Lower East Side, (which btw is dirty, dusty often and has a broken elevator)

So, I was of course interested in this book. I watched Jill and her plasticine Mom on TV talk the book up--but, then to read this trite nonsense--They objectify and diminish everyone. While using the term "sincerity" they offer cold and calculating advice. They do not give Jewish Women a good name. I liked Jill Zarin as a character to watch, love her new hairdo and color. However, this book is such a woeful piece of trash that pretends to be wisdom, I am truly offended by it and Jill and her Mom. Actually the whole show has turned into a shameless Infomercial for their various products and services so I've lost interest in it. PS; Full disclosure, I also bought the Countesses first book and Bethany's too. Bethany's book, although I like her the the least, actually had some good advice on how to eat well, live a fast paced life and stay slim. The Countess's book was just sort of silly. But Jill and her Mother and Sister have written a book that if they have any decency they will rethink and disown, instead of trying to sell it to us poor women who are looking for honest, loving clues on how to live a good and decent life, but to these women that seems to mean lots of money, at all costs. Very Dissappointed.

I heard the controversy behind this book and had to see it for myself. I found it hard to put down - and not in a good way. I was driven by morbid curiosity, like rubbernecking at a car accident. Now I don't know who Jill Zarin is and have never watched "Real Housewives of New York" but as I skimmed through the book I found the nuggets of wisdom to be either pretty much common sense or, more often, "Tips on how to perpetuate any number of negative stereotypes about Jewish people and New Yorkers." "Want to "get" a man? - then you need fake lashes, big hair and red dress out. Don't settle for less than you deserve - unless he makes good money. It's better if he loves you more than you love him (where's did I put my Love-O-Meter?) Great tips if your goal is a loveless marriage on Long Island Sound! The rest of the tips were pretty strange and flaky - I suppose if you're living off your parent's dime and dating a dentist then you don't care about taking your dinner home from a restaurant. In between the "car crashes" was a lot of gossipy, syrupy stuff about growing up - I found these stories to be incredibly boring but I guess some people watch Nascar for the car wrecks too. The more I read it the more I couldn't believe this was a serious self-help book. Was this written by monkeys? Published by The Onion? I peeked behind the potted plant to see if there was a hidden camera. Perhaps the title should be "Secrets of a Jewish Mother: how to make sure you and your daughters are attractive and financially secure but still as miserable and petty as you are." I'm waiting for the "Real Housewives of West Virginia" version to come out. That should be good for some laughs too.

This book exemplifies that quote perfectly. The advice given in this book is rather elementary to put it mildly. Condescending might be another way to put it. For example, 'take responsibility for your actions,' & 'be happy for your friends when good things are going on for them.' This is how most people live anyway. The fact that it's being written in a book as a 'newsflash' suggests the authors have no faith in people or do not view others in a very compassionate way. This was also evident in the combative tone. The overall feel of the book is that it's from the point of view of people who do not view others as being valuable (unless you're an eligible bachelor with \$\$). In fact, people described in the book (in their stories) are most often portrayed as outsiders who don't understand them & whose actions and feelings don't have validity. For example, Lisa tells a story of a girl who wasn't worth her time while she was alive (the tone again was hostile) but when she dies, Lisa went to the funeral & the family members got angry with her for ignoring the girl all her life- which she evidently thought was wrong of them to feel (and seemed unaware of how high emotions run at a funeral, esp. one for a younger person). Gloria tells a story about how her group of girlfriends dropped her & the conflict was never resolved- with the message being that they (collectively) must have been wrong and she, right. Jill tells a story about a falling out she had w/ a friend & again there was no resolution (just a tacit implication that he wasn't worth it anyway). It would appear that the average person is more socially skillful, could have handled these situations better, and probably learned more from the experiences than these authors did. All in all the authors convey a message that is emotionally immature and severely lacking in human empathy.

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