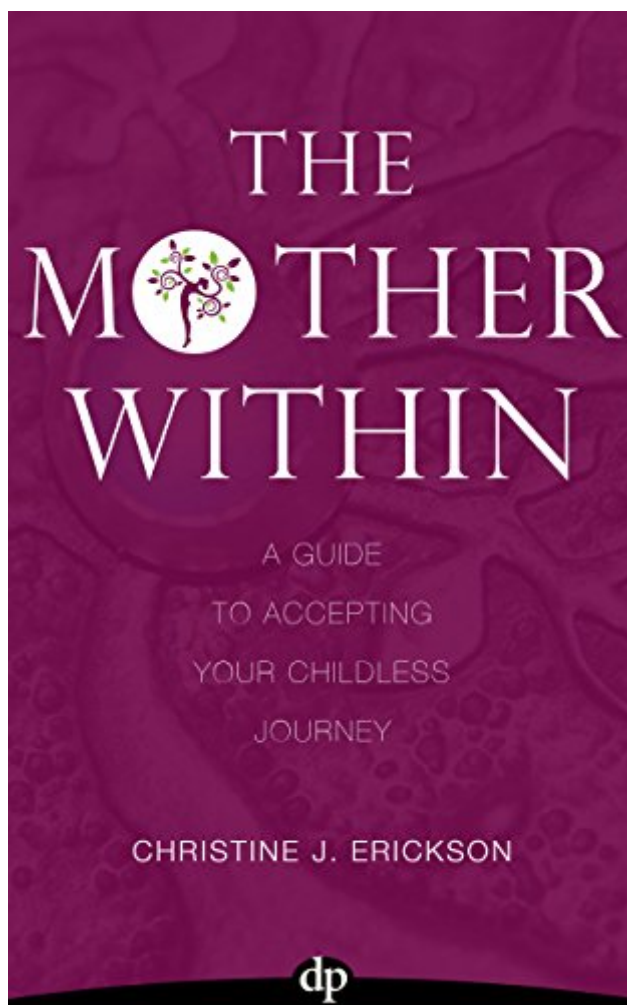


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# The Mother Within: A Guide To Accepting Your Childless Journey



## Synopsis

**FINALIST-2015 INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARD** This passionate and heart felt guide reveals the author's own journey and invites other childless women to acknowledge their maternal selves, accept their personal journeys and to more openly share who they are as a means of redefining the face of childlessness in the wake of misguided social assumptions. In the vein of those who have spoken openly about being childless, such as Jody Day, author of *Rocking the Life Unexpected* and Founder of Gateway Women, Pamela Mahoney Tsigdinoa, who shared her story of infertility in *The Silent Sorority* and Melanie Notkin, who wrote *Otherhood*, this short book is an effort to contribute to the expanding conversation and visibility around the growing number of childless women. This book is for women who desired to have a child and now live with the knowledge that it will not come to pass. It is for women from all paths of childlessness who are trying to redefine what it is to accept this journey and live a meaningful life. This book offers hope and a way forward for women who feel that others don't understand or accept the circumstances that led to their childlessness. It is also for women who consciously chose not have children in unfavorable circumstances, such as an unhealthy relationship or environment, a lack of resources, or an already overpopulated world, who also grieve their unmet desire to have a child. The author considers the journey from the perspective of self, others and the world in a reflective process that spans your relationship with yourself and others and the potential of the collective influence of childless women in our communities and across the globe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christine's book is an often unheard voice in the world of people who are not parents, whether by choice or circumstance. Specifically oriented for women, Christine notes this with the particular challenge, "Motherhood is often seen as an end-all identity for women, and as childless women, the expectation that we will all create impossible legacies such as Oprah or Mother Teresa is often unspoken, but present." It's an unfortunate juxtaposition "either having a stratospheric career or having smiling children. It's not a fair burden placed on the current culture. This book is beautiful in handling the separate identities of mothers and women in general. I wish there was a men's book that tackled a similar distinction between men and fathers. She also pulls no punches here either. Whether it's the institutional preserving of the "traditional" family unit (especially IRS tax breaks slanted towards families at the expense of wealthy single people), the depiction of childless women in the media, or the cultural expectations after a certain age "Christine tackles these perceptions and shows us where we as a society still have room to improve. This book only highlights the beginning of the cultural shift. There is a Mother Within every woman; some choose to express this power through their children, some do not. But the spirit is there, the expression is there. And because it's different doesn't mean they should be lesser valued. Christine's initiative will be a "whitespace" for childless women to share those expressions and art, where they can embrace and learn from their Mother Within.

This is SUCH an important book. I have no doubts it is extremely helpful for women who have found themselves childless or child free and are looking for guidance and a feeling of knowing they aren't alone. However, I wonder if it's almost MORE important for everyone else to read it. As a woman with children, it was a great message. It was a lesson in sensitivity. But even more it was a reminder that we are all whole + complete people and no one's choices make them any less whole or complete. No one can know love more than anyone else because we are BORN pure love. This

was a great reminder of that.

I am a woman at the age of needing to make some important decisions around my future to be a mother or not to be. This read was a really great perspective of the side of the coin of woman who wanted to be a mother that for whatever life circumstance they came up against, could or did not. My fear around not being considered a complete woman without children and not feeling I could be maternal, were dissolved in the concept that every woman, with children or not, has a mother within. I could feel safe to not be in judgment of not having a movie-perfect family and instead feel good within the nurturing and loving role I played in all of my relationships, friends or partner. Thank you for this perspective and insight to living childless, or in my case child free and I feel I can honor whichever decision I make.

As a father with children from a previous marriage, I found it hard to fathom what it means to be a woman who has no children but wanted them. This book was a good beginning step on that journey of understanding. The author is particularly revealing of the cultural penalties that we all inflict without thinking on women without children. The author is also good at expressing the agony of trying hard to have a child and never succeeding. I was hoping for more about healing the wound of not having children if that is what happens in a woman's life. I was reminded as I read the book of the great divide between young adult members of a Jaycee chapter to which I belonged. There were those who did not have children and those who did. The difference was profound. This book may become more important as the role of women in our society changes.

What a beautiful, beautiful book. Deeply moving and timely. Christine Erickson writes with graciousness and kindness that left me feeling warmly hugged throughout. This book encouraged me to reflect on my path and the paths of other women today. It speaks to, not only the inner soul of women, but politics and society. Ms. Erickson gently explores the difficult, hard cold realities of living life today, without a much wanted child. She brings us to peaceful acceptance and embraces all of us, as each others children. I encourage all woman to read this. I believe it speaks to each of us, with, or without children.

I downloaded this book the other day when I had a cold and I was going to read a couple pages to check it out and get back to it when I was feeling better - well - I ended up reading the whole thing without even stopping to pee! This was deeply satisfying to read and much of what Christine wrote

about in her book brought words to experiences I have had but couldn't quite figure out why they felt devaluing to me. I appreciated her sharing a multitude of perspectives including that of the systemic/institutionalized issues that affect women who do not have children and her ability to hold them in a kind and compassionate way, communicating it all with such simple and beautiful clarity. It is an amazingly inclusive book that inspires opening more conversation about the topic and offers access points on many levels for all kinds of people to engage with this thoughtfully. I also admire how in the process of exploring/writing about this, she doesn't vilify anybody - she writes from both an emotionally tender and intellectually unclouded place. I'm grateful for her thought leadership on the topic and would call this an engaging but also an important book to read!

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