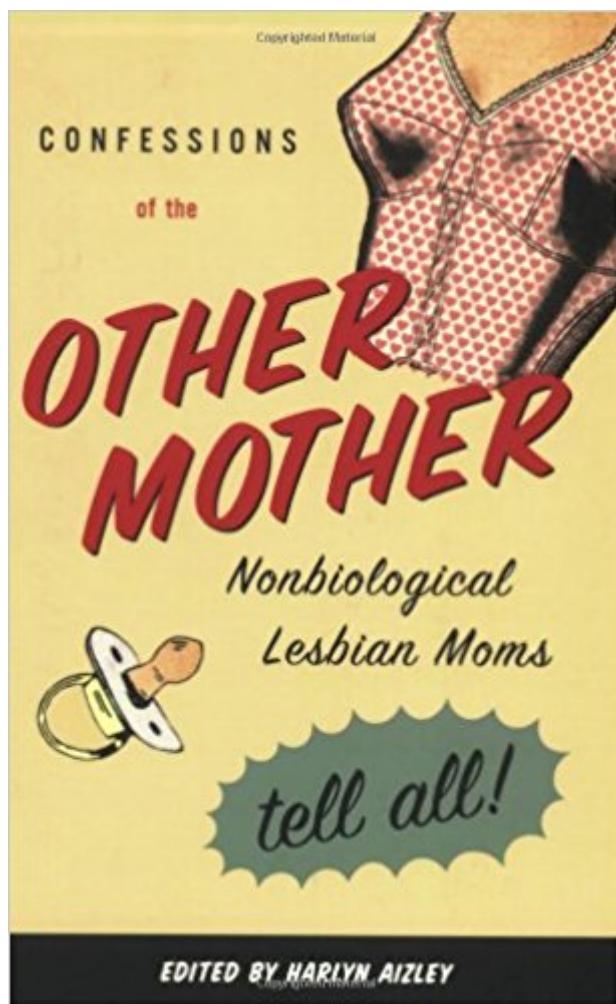


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# Confessions Of The Other Mother: Non-Biological Lesbian Moms Tell All



## Synopsis

A 2006 Lambda Literary finalist in the LGBT anthology category. After author Harlyn Aizley gave birth to her daughter, she watched in unanticipated horror as her partner scooped up the baby and said, "I'm your new mommy!" While they both had worked to find the perfect sperm donor, Aizley had spent nine months carrying the baby and hours in labor, so how could her partner claim to be their child's mommy? Many diapers later, Aizley began to appreciate the complexity of her partner's new role as the other mother. Together, they searched for stories about families like their own, in which a woman has chosen to forgo her own birth experience so that she might support her partner in hers. They found very few. Now, in *Confessions of the Other Mother*, Aizley has put together an exciting collection of personal stories by women like her partner who are creating new parenting roles, redefining motherhood, and reshaping our view of two-parent families. Contributors include Hillary Goodridge, who was one of the lead plaintiffs in the case for same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, stand-up comedian Judy Gold, and psychologist and author Suzanne M. Johnson. This candid peek into a previously unexamined side of lesbian parenting is full of stories that are sometimes humorous, sometimes moving, but at all times celebratory. Each parenting tale sheds light on the many facets of motherhood, offering gay and straight readers alike a deeper understanding of what it means to love and parent in the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

More than 15 years into the lesbian baby boom, Aizley's collection of first-person accounts by nonbiological lesbian mothers is a long time coming. Nonlegalistic and (mostly) nonharrowing, these

tales are only tangentially about powers of attorney, two-parent adoption, and custody battles, instead illuminating what it is to be mom and not-mom at the same time. Some pieces explore the feelings of envy and loss of would-be but infertile mothers learning to accept their easily pregnant partners. Others examine the "lesbian daddy" role, as in Polly Pagenhart's exceptional "Confessions of a Lesbian Dad

What of the "other" mother, the one who provides loving maternal care and some or all material support but hasn't gestated or given birth to the child? The contributors to this book of answers to that question don't shy away from "other" moms' jealousy for the "flesh-on-flesh, boundaryless nurturing" of the breastfeeding bond; the ambivalence of being 40-plus and hitherto "too busy healing my inner child to have my own kids

Amazing, and just what I needed as I have tried to navigate this journey as the "other parent." It has allowed my wife and family to understand my struggles, fears, and concerns, and it has allowed me the chance to feel heard and understood. Thank you for writing a book that really touches on the reality of the mental and emotional challenges the "other mother" faces, I needed this more than I could ever express!

I bought this as a gift for my wife who will be the non bio mom. We are expecting our first baby in July. I feel like this will help her immensely along this journey.

I loved this book. It was my first step in starting to shape an identity as a mother and parent in a same-sex marriage. Each person's story is different, each journey is special. I learned a ton and laughed and cried reading this.

A great book for all parents - lesbian, straight or otherwise - who want to find their own unique way of parenting and defining their own parenting self. Especially useful for those who work in the birth and breastfeeding community and wish to understand their clients particular challenges.

This book is more than I was expecting. Great Find

This book gave me a framework to understand my world. As a lesbian stepmum facing isolation, discrimination and the difficult dynamic of being part of the family (and yet separate), this book

brought stories of positivity and uniqueness to my life. I truly loved it and have recommended it to many of my friends. I spent the whole book saying to myself, "YES i know exactly what you mean... that has happened to us too!!" It really lit a spark in my heart -- full of hopeful possibility and strength. This book reminded me that we are making our own worlds - one family at a time. :) Very affirming! Don't hesitate - buy it!

Book arrived in excellent condition!

As a lesbian step mom I had trouble relating to most of the stories in the book. Most stories start at conception.

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