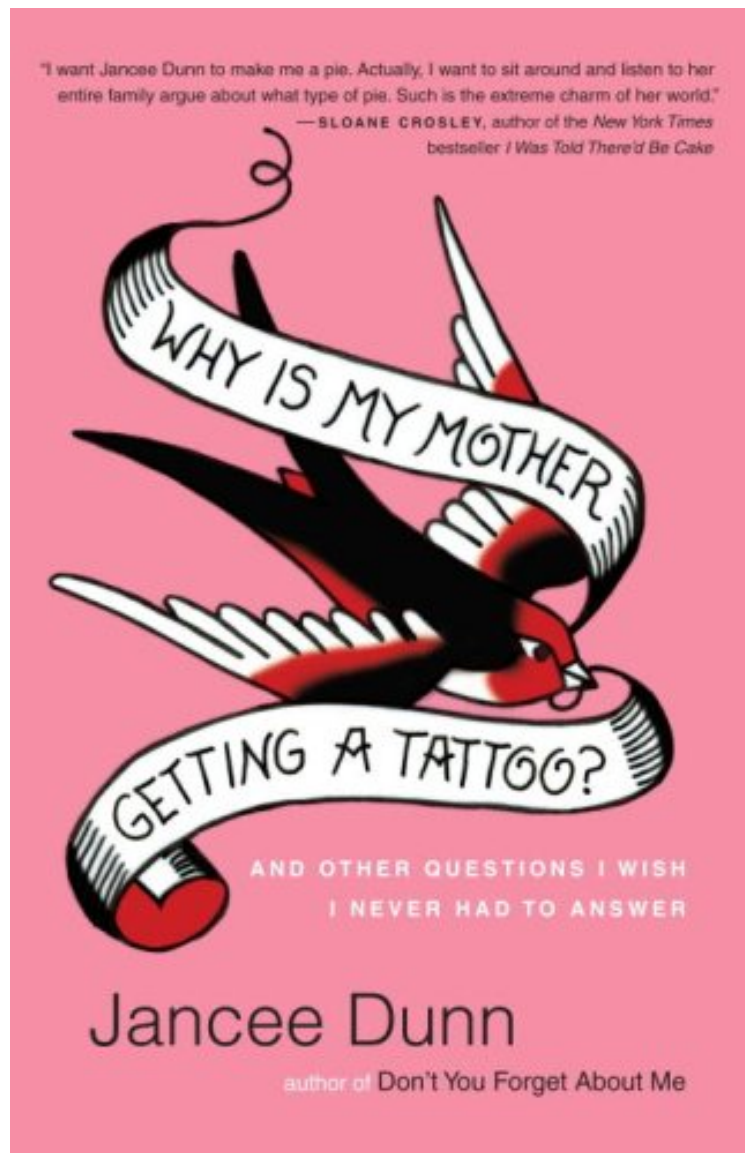


Why Is My Mother Getting a Tattoo?: And Other Questions I Wish I Never Had to Ask

Jancee Dunn

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Jancee Dunn : Why Is My Mother Getting a Tattoo?: And Other Questions I Wish I Never Had to Ask before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Is My Mother Getting a Tattoo?: And Other Questions I Wish I Never Had to Ask:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Funny and RelatableBy Loves Books in MDI didn't live in an area

that had cable when MTV was all the rage and I've never been cool enough to be a regular Rolling Stone reader, so I'd never heard of Jancee Dunn before I bought this book based on a great price, good reviews and a catchy title. So I started to read with no pre-conceived notions or expectations. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and was sorry as it came to an end. While I'm older than the author, I feel like she almost described my life and feelings about many things - and wrote the book I might have if only I had any writing ability. I also have two sisters and I really enjoyed how she was able to write about her family making everything a big production with loving exasperation and acceptance, while also seeming to think it's normal. It was rather reassuring to know that I wasn't the only one who wistfully lusted over the Swiss Colony catalog in my youth only to be disillusioned by what I received in my first - and only order in adulthood. The sections on the celebrity beauty books and the Easy Bake Oven were other favorites. I liked her so much that if she ever had a position available for a friend, I'd apply. It takes a lot to make me laugh out loud, but she managed it multiple times throughout the book. I totally enjoyed this book and look forward to reading her others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a page-turner, but well-written. By J. L. This is not as good as *But Enough About Me*, but I was expecting that. BEAM was about how she got started working at Rolling Stone and a bunch of summaries of celebrity interviews, which was really revealing and told in a great voice. This was about her family life, mostly her parents--just not as interesting to me as the subject of the first book. However, I enjoyed the humor more and more as I went on. It had the same funny self-deprecating writing voice and observations. I laughed aloud several times. If you enjoy memoir/essay-type books, I would encourage you to give this one a try. It won't change your life, but it was a pleasant read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Probably Best Read by Women. By Karen K. Little This is the second book I've read by Jancee Dunn. The first one was more universal. This one feels like a chat with my girlfriends. I found it entertaining (although wasn't keen on the phone conversation chapters). I don't think men would be much into it, but I could be wrong. I am currently reading "Updike," a biography by Adam Begley. As a writer, I'm always curious about how other writers identify their material. Like Dunn, Updike also borrowed greatly from his family and surroundings, making me regret not taking more note of my family's behavior that I could exploit for cash. Dunn follows her book by discussing how she had to manage her relationship with her parents for use of their foibles as articles. I thought that that was the best, funniest part of her book!

Despite her forty years and a successful career as a rock journalist, Jancee Dunn still feels like a teenager, especially around her parents and sisters. Looking around, Dunn realizes that she's not alone in this regression: Her friends, all with successful jobs, marriages, and families of their own, still feel like kids around their moms and dads, too. That gets Dunn to thinking: Do we ever really grow up? *Why Is My Mother Getting a Tattoo?* explores this phenomenon—through both Dunn's coming to grips with getting older and her folks' attempts to turn back the clock. In a series of hilarious and heartwarming essays, Dunn conspires with her sisters to finagle their way into the old family homestead, dissects the whys and wherefores of her parents' obsession with newspaper clippings, confronts the seamy side of the JC Penney catalogs she paged through as a kid, and accompanies her sixtysomething mother to a New Jersey tattoo parlor, where Mom is giddy to get a raven inked onto her wrist. And Dunn does it all with humor and insight.

From Publishers Weekly Dunn's travails will be instantly recognizable to readers in their late 30s and 40s—a generation that's shifted the family bickering about what to serve at holiday dinners to conference calls and e-mails. Her parents are a bottomless well of comedy, sending her wacky newspaper clippings and grilling her loudly about her inability to go to the bathroom during their vacation. Her circle of friends is equally familiar, like the gay buddy who invites her over for TV-movie parties and can always be counted on to make catty remarks about strangers. Several chapters are filled with transcripts of phone conversations with her best friend, Julie, flitting from topic to topic, comparing the embarrassing songs saved on their iPods and wondering why their parents haven't figured out voice mail isn't like an answering machine (Hello? Anybody there? Hello, it's Dad). Dunn's tone is genial, only turning serious briefly near the end when she discusses not having kids—and then inadvertently discovers she's finally pregnant. The seriousness doesn't last long, though, and soon it's back to affectionately mocking her mom's decision to get tattooed—although, as her sisters point out, she's secretly pleased to have something new to write about. (June 23) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "I want Jancee Dunn to make me a pie. Actually, I want to sit around and listen to her entire family argue about what type of pie. Such is the extreme charm of her world. No matter the subject, Dunn's gimlet eye for all of life's minor infractions and daily quirks is superbly addictive." —Sloane Crosley, author of *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* "[Jancee Dunn's] wonder, bemusement, befuddlement, and frank delight at growing into adulthood are highly entertaining... Readers who enjoy humorous memoirs infused with a healthy dose of pop culture are sure to love this book, which has the potential to be an entertaining and provocative book club choice." —Library Journal "Genial [and] affectionately mocking...Dunn's travails will be instantly recognizable to readers in their late 30s and 40s... Her parents are a bottomless well of comedy [and] her circle of friends is equally familiar." —Publishers Weekly About the Author Jancee Dunn is the author of the novel *Don't You Forget About Me* and the memoir *But Enough About Me*. A former writer at Rolling

Stone, she was a correspondent for Good Morning America and an MTV veejay. She has written for The New York Times, GQ, Vogue, O: The Oprah Magazine, and other publications. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, writer Tom Vanderbilt.