

(Ebook pdf) The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba

The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba

Jacki Lyden

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Jacki Lyden : The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Barbara WhiteheadGreat read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating storyBy Lynne FoersterJacki Lyden gives a vivid description of an incredible woman, her mother. Her memoir kept me reading, wanting to know what her mother was doing next, what adventures she was having for herself, but most importantly, how did this all turn out for them. I think we all need a little Sheba in us to live life to the fullest.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I was disappointed, generally a first hand writing of an experience ...By Patricia A. HullI was disappointed, generally a first hand writing of an experience is a great way for me to learn more about a mental health issue and this one was not enjoyable or particularly insightful. Sorry.

'I am the Queen of Sheba,' my mother announced to me in a regal voice...You could say that my life as her daughter, the life of my imagination, began with my mother's visions...As a foreign correspondent for National Public Radio, Jacki Lyden has spent her adult life on the frontlines in some of the most dangerous war zones in the world. Her childhood was a war zone of a different kind. Her mother suffered from what we now call manic-depression; when Jacki was a child in a small Midwestern town, her mother was simply called crazy. Jacki would return home from grade school to find her mother wrapped in a toga of bedsheets, with eyeliner hieroglyphics drawn on her arms and a tiara on her head. In her manic phases, she became a woman with power, Marie Antoinette or the Queen of Sheba; in real life, she was trapped in a destructive marriage to the villainous local doctor. With their mother beyond reach, her children turned to their hardscrabble grandmother, a woman who had her first child at age fourteen and lost her husband in a barroom brawl.Jacki eventually set out on her own impassioned journeys--if her mother could escape to exotic places, so would she. In her twenties she joined a low-rent rodeo. Later, as a radio journalist, she interviewed Yasir Arafat and maneuvered her way through Baghdad at the height of the Persian Gulf War, her reports from faraway lands strangely echoing her mother's travels of the mind.Heartbreaking, hilarious, lyrical, this memoir is a mother-daughter story of the most deeply moving kind, a testimony to obstinate devotion in the face of bewildering illness. Jacki Lyden recalls her calamitous childhood with a child's aching regret and an adult's keen wisdom. Daughter of the Queen of Sheba is an irresistibly compelling tale of two women with a scrappy genius for survival.

.com Black humor alternates with almost unbearable pathos in National Public Radio journalist Jacki Lyden's memoir of her mother's manic-depressive episodes. Dreadful though those periodic bouts of madness were, they also gave an unhappy housewife a sense of power and freedom that Lyden couldn't help but admire. "You could say that the life of my imagination began with my mother's visions," she writes, making connections between her profession of "find[ing] things out in places of great secrets" and her struggle to deal with her mother's illness.From Library JournalDonning a toga fashioned from bed sheets and sporting hieroglyphs drawn with eyeliner on her arms, the delusional Dolores regally proclaims that as the Queen of Sheba, she is bequeathing Mesopotamia to the author, her 12-year-old daughter. As Lyden states with simple eloquence, "everything happened to us after that." Written with astonishing vividness, this harrowing yet fascinating memoir recounts the chaotic decades that follow, as Dolores's bewildering mania inspires her to recast herself variously as the daughter of a Mafia chieftain, a department store heiress, a racehorse owner, the CEO of a catering empire, and the lover of a brewery executive she's never actually met. Improperly diagnosed, and therefore lacking appropriate treatment, Dolores's manic-depressive illness dominates the lives of her family, until a reluctant legal system finally allows the author and her sisters to commit her for what proves to be successful treatment with lithium. This extraordinary tale of survival is narrated with the energy and confidence called for by the vigorous prose and the poise one would expect from award-winning radio journalist Lyden. Enthusiastically recommended for public libraries. ?Linda Bredengerd, Hanley Lib., Univ. of Pittsburgh, Bradford, PACopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistAmong the skills talented newspeople bring to their work is an almost visceral understanding of the ancient art of storytelling. Award-winning NPR foreign correspondent Lyden exercises that art in a memoir whose central reality is Lyden's mother's mental illness. Soon after her first "nervous breakdown," mother Dolores appeared in 12-year-old Lyden's bedroom doorway, swathed in yellow sheets, with eyebrow-pencil hieroglyphics on her arms and a toy tiara on her head; as queen of Sheba, she declared, she bequeathed Mesopotamia to Jackie, and Thebes and Carthage to younger daughters Kate and Sarah, respectively. Manic depression was the source of Dolores' visions and inward journeys, and the condition dominated the lives of these four women--and Dolores' feisty working-class Irish mother, Mabel--well into the daughters' adulthood, when Dolores was successfully medicated with lithium. Often harrowing and plaintive, Daughter also has moments of irresistible humor; Lyden skillfully captures the mad mix of emotions of Dolores' daughters as they seek to cope with her erratic behavior and to reach through the veil of manic depression to the mother they remember and love. Mary Carroll