



Daughters for a Time

Jennifer Handford

Download now

Read Online 

Daughters for a Time

Jennifer Handford

Daughters for a Time Jennifer Handford

Feelings of abandonment fill Helen Francis at a too-young age when her mother dies and her father walks out. Left in the care of her older sister, Claire, she moves on but never truly heals. Now thirty-five and married, Helen is desperate to start a family of her own. After four unsuccessful years of trying to become pregnant, Helen accepts the idea of adoption.

When her baby is finally in her arms, Helen experiences true exaltation. But she is quickly blindsided with the worst possible news: Claire has cancer. Helen's wounds are again torn open as she balances the bliss of a new daughter with the grief of a dying sister.

Daughters for a Time Details

Date : Published April 24th 2012 by Amazon Publishing (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Jennifer Handford

Format : Kindle Edition 287 pages

Genre : Fiction, Parenting, Adoption, Audiobook

 [Download Daughters for a Time ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Daughters for a Time ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Daughters for a Time Jennifer Handford

From Reader Review *Daughters for a Time* for online ebook

Sharon says

I really enjoyed this book. I was blessed to have a baby girl almost 3 years ago but have been dealing with secondary infertility for over 2 years. Most of my friends are working on starting or expanding their families and I'm constantly surprised at how many have struggled or are struggling with infertility. My husband and I have already discussed the possibility of adopting if it's not in the cards for us to have another biological child. Reading this book touched my heart and I spent several nights crying while reading. This is definitely a good choice for women that cherish the relationship between mothers and daughters, and the bond between sisters.

Lianne says

This was a Kindle Daily Deal but I honestly don't remember why it caught my attention. I'm not sure of the exact definition of chick lit (I hate the label) but I think I can safely say this qualifies.

Not my usual cup of tea but compelling. Helen has a great, nice-guy husband (Tim) and they adore each other. Their courtship and early marriage are romantic and idyllic until Helen sinks further and further into depression and feelings of inadequacy because she can't conceive a child.

I can't relate to her struggles to have a biological child but her dysfunctional family dynamics are familiar. Her fear of more abandonment is a realistic deterrent to the Chinese adoption Tim and her sister, Claire, are encouraging her to pursue.

For me, the story was most engaging while I was learning about the Chinese adoption process, especially when Helen and Tim travel to China to bring home their new one-year-old daughter. After that, the story changes direction and became less interesting, but still emotional. Without spoiling the story, Helen learns that creating a family has nothing to do with biology and everything to do with acceptance and forgiveness.

Sheri says

I like the story and there were some passages of really beautiful emotions and feelings. But I think it just was not a super well written novel. Even though the story was there, the story telling skills weren't. I just felt kind of 'eh' after finishing it.

Jo Anne B says

This is a book that would touch every woman. It is primarily about a woman forced to face her infertility and undergo adoption. But it is also about relationships between mother and daughter, father and daughter, sisters, aunt and niece, and husband and wife. It is also about the big C- cancer, infidelity, and death. Is that enough drama for one book? It worked though because it was depressing and real. There wasn't a lot of

happiness in this book. Your heart felt heavy the whole time. You can't help think about your own relationships in your life and what you would do in these situations while reading this book. I feel this author will help a lot of women struggling with these issues or help women to be more empathetic to other women who are.

What I liked best about this book was the insight the author provided into many things. First of all, the main character Helen's father cheated on her mother and she got ovarian cancer and died. Her father couldn't handle the guilt of the infidelity and the grief of the cancer so he left leaving Helen's older sister Claire in charge of taking care of her dying mother and little sister. How can you not feel sorry for both these daughters? What a tragic thing to happen. Helen didn't handle her mother's cancer well and just got angry at her mother for being that way. She was just a little girl and couldn't understand what was happening to her mother, so she was scared and afraid. But she was left with a lot of guilt when her mother died for acting the way she did toward her mother. Because she lost her mother at such a young age, she yearned to fill that mother-daughter void by having a child of her own. That was why she was even more devastated when she learned she would never have her own child. Poor Claire had to be so in control and together for the sake of her little sister Helen and herself. She was a caretaker to her dying mother and raise her sister. This changed the whole dynamic of her and Helen's relationship. It is like she lost a sister too when her mother died.

Helen had relationship issues with men because her father had left her. She expected and thought that it was ok for men to get what they wanted from her and leave her. That led her to get taken advantage of by many men. I never thought of it that way. It makes sense that you do what is familiar and most comfortable. "Love hurt, that is what a girl learned when her father left." When asked why he cheated on their mother, he said "The woman made me feel like I was young and wanted." These were great quotes.

I liked how Helen admitted that she didn't see the good in people like her husband Tim did. It seemed very appropriate given her history. It also made the story seem not as cheesy. Helen was a real person damaged by things that happened in her life. This made her easier to relate to than some woman that was perfect and happy all the time no matter what happened to her.

Helen learned that adopted children may have OCD tendencies and behavioral issues. This made her better able to handle situations that popped up while in public and then better able to talk with children about. Knowing what is really behind children's quirks is really key in parenting but too bad not every kid comes with a diagnoses.

This was a great book and I hope the author becomes a regular one to read.

Sheilah says

This was actually a good book. I found it while browsing my Kindle and figured I couldn't go too wrong, since it was fairly inexpensive.

Helen appears to be a typical infertile character at first, but there are layers to Helen that give her more depth than simply wanting a baby. Her grief rings true.

None of the characters ever seem to want for money, despite the fact that none of them appear to really work. Tim owns a busy, up-and-coming restaurant in D.C. and yet he can leave any time he wants? Not exactly how I understand the restaurant business to be, but it does give Tim the ability to come and go from various

hospitals and doctor's offices without any angst. Plus, Tim is really nothing but set decoration for Helen. Does it really matter that his professional life is less than realistic?

Karen says

SPOILER ALERT: Yes I cried. More than once. But why could Helen so easily carry a baby to term with Claire's egg through in-vitro? This begs the question as to why she just didn't try this earlier with her own or a donor egg. I also thought that Claire's death was rushed and forced. Claire didn't need to be sacrificed to save the story. Helen could have been developed in so many ways, but in order to help Helen fulfill a need she didn't know she had Claire had to die. Too contrived

Faith Spinks says

I was torn on what rating to give this book. Yes, toward the end it was pretty gripping and I did get very emotionally involved in the story but could I go so far as to say that I 'really' liked it? This book was a slow starter. I kept reading because a book has to actually be bad for me to stop and it was an easy to read book. But I found Helen and Claire, the two sisters and two main characters, to be quite frustrating, almost annoying at times. It was an interesting idea for a storyline but at the same time it felt dragged out in places - like someone taking a really long time and including too many details as they tell you their story. By the end their story did draw me in more and I even began to empathise or sympathise and care more. But in the end, on balance I can't truly say more than a simple 'I liked this'!

Wendy Hall says

This was a meaningful, impacting book. It details one woman's journey through infertility, adoption, working through past loss, and then grieving through a fresh loss. This was good for me to read as a foster parent and one I will use to complete and Independent Learner form for continuing education credit. Delving into the stress and strain that people have to go through with major loss, abandonment by parents, and raising a child who is not biologically their own is always helpful for us to further identify with children who have or may come into our care.

All that to say, as important as this story is, some of it fell flat for me. Although it revealed feelings and thoughts of the main character, it seemed to lack a significant depth to it. When the unthinkable happens, I was unmoved for some reason. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but there was something missing in the writing of it that would have made it more emotional and less intellectual for me.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

Daughters for a Time is a family story of how our families are not always blood related but they are our

families all the same. It's a story about how not all families are alike but they can still come together when needed. Sometimes family is all you have to get through the really, really tough times and it can be difficult to figure that out. I was very interested in this book because it tackled the idea and the decision to adopt. I personally think that adoption is really cool. There are so many children out there in the world that really could use a loving home. This book sort of gives an inside picture about what it might be like to adopt a child. There's more storylines within the book but the main one does have to deal with adoption.

Helen and Tim try to get pregnant for several years before Helen eventually gives in to her husband's suggestion that they try to adopt a baby from China. I know that's a really difficult (and very personal) decision to make but Helen seems to drag her feet too much. I had a really hard time getting behind her feet dragging though. I wanted Helen to realize that it's about the love that you can give a child and not whether or not you actually carried the child in your womb. I had to keep reminding myself that there are people out there that do not agree with that sentiment and that it's okay that they don't see it the same way that I do. Helen eventually comes around to the idea and I ended up liking her character a lot by the end because she finally seemed to get that it is all about love and coming together to be a family.

This is a great book for people that don't mind a tough story and don't mind being a little sad through a book. I definitely don't mind this. In the case of *Daughters for a Time*, I felt that the sadness was definitely warranted, which is why I was totally okay with it. This story will definitely tug on your heartstrings a little bit.

Bottom line: Contemporary fiction readers who don't mind tough subjects will enjoy this book.

Dana says

In many ways this well written book hit home, close to my heart. Like Helen Francis, I am no longer a daughter. I, too, suffered through many years of infertility and pregnancy losses (many more of each for me). I, too, adopted from China, though my babies didn't have any of the issues her little Sam had at first, nor did I carry around the fears she did.

The novel had some weaknesses, and it began to dwell in the land of Christian beliefs in the end, and really lost me there, but as a mother, I could relate to Helen's longings, her hopes, her joy when, finally and ultimately, a baby was placed in her arms. Unlike Helen, I did not feel a huge need to have a child genetically linked to my husband and myself. I wanted to be a mother! It took Helen longer to come to that realization than it did for me. She worried greatly that her baby would have issues based on being abandoned as a newborn. I never worried as we were assured the babies in China were held every day, unlike in orphanages in Russia and other countries. My girls were happy and loving and content, and able to fall in love with their new families very easily. We have had no issues in 18 years!

The novel is sad, very, very sad, for Helen lost her mother when she was a child. I still weep for my own mother, and I had her for 53 years! Helen had a father who left her and her sister when her mother died. I had a devoted, loyal and loving father until the day he died. So perhaps her worrying about her Chinese baby having abandonment issues was more a reflection of her own issues, and less about the baby, though the author had characters warn her of potential problems. Baby Sam is a year old when Helen and Tim adopt her. My girls were 4 or 5 months old, which may have made a difference as well.

There are loving characters in this book, all very human and real and likeable, even with their faults. I wept through the last 30 or so pages, and would have given it 4 stars, had the author not brought in Jesus and angels. I like novels based in reality, and for me, in my world, that is not reality. If you are looking for a book that will grab you from the first word and hold your interest until the very last, this one will do that. Keep your hankies nearby.

MetLineReader says

Sadly this book just didn't work for me. It had all the ingredients that should have made it compelling (infertility, adoption, overseas travel, family, health) but after the first 40% I just wasn't bothered anymore.

Shame, as there were a couple of really touching moments but it was a bit too self-satisfied and the religious fervour kept creeping in. It all wrapped up too neatly at the end (despite a particularly sad chapter) that I am not sure why I bothered to finish it.

Everyone else loved it, perhaps it got a lower score after a stream of 3* books.

Barbara says

Feeling inadequate seems to be the theme of this woman's life after the abandonment of her father, the death of her mother a year later when she was 13 and then being brought up by her super efficient sister. And now she is facing the fact of infertility after 5 years of obsessively trying to get pregnant. After resisting every mention of adopting, she finally gives in to her loving husband and they manage to bring home an adorable little girl from China. Through the adoption and then facing her sister's battle with the same cancer that killed her mother, she is finally able to work out the feelings she has been overwhelmed with since her teens. I loved the story of the creation of her new definition of family and the growth of confidence, with the ability to accept life as it is as she grows into her new life.

Tanya Eby says

I don't like to review books I'm going to narrate.

What I can say is that this is an emotionally tender story about mothers, daughters, sisters, and the ties that bind us. :) Looking forward to narrating it.

Stacey says

This is an emotional read. It's hard to not connect with the characters and to feel the emotions that are being described. Recommend this book if you are in the mood for a tear-jerker.

Stephanie says

Wow! What a fantastic read. The subject matter is sad, but I should say that it wasn't over the top and it left me feeling uplifted, not morose.

This book spans all sorts of tough subjects, infertility, lose of a loved one, adoptions, child bearing etc etc etc. I could not put it down. I certainly hope Jennifer Handford writes more books! Loved this book.
