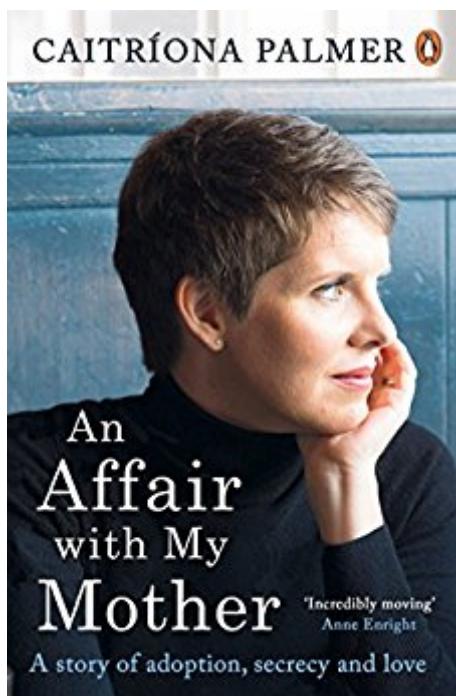


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An Affair With My Mother: A Story Of Adoption, Secrecy And Love



Synopsis

'Incredibly moving' --Anne Enright, winner of the Man Booker Prize

An Affair with My Mother by Caitriona Palmer: a moving and gripping story of love, denial and a daughter's quest for the truth. Caitriona Palmer had a happy childhood in Dublin, raised by loving adoptive parents. But when she was in her late twenties, she realized that she had a strong need to know the woman who had given birth to her. She was able to locate her birth mother, Sarah, and they developed a strong attachment. But Sarah set one painful condition to this joyous new relationship: she wished to keep it - to keep Caitriona - secret from her family, from her friends, from everyone. Who was Sarah, and why did she want to preserve a decades-old secret? An Affair with My Mother tells the story of Caitriona's quest to answer these questions, and of the intense, furtive 'affair' she and her mother conducted in carefully chosen locations around Dublin. By turns heartwarming and heartbreaking, An Affair with My Mother is a searing portrait of the social and familial forces that left Sarah - and so many other unwed Irish mothers of her generation - frightened, traumatized and bereft. It is also a beautifully written account of a remarkable relationship.'Caitriona Palmer has called out the false shame of her origins, with a kind of anguished courage that is incredibly moving. An Affair With My Mother is a forensic account of how it feels to be - in the interests of Catholic "respectability" - excluded from the facts of your own life. In its commitment to family love, to joy and truth, it is a gift.'

Anne Enright, winner of the Man Booker Prize

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Customer Reviews

My grandmother, raised by her Irish aunt after the death of both of my great-grandparents in the States, told me she often felt like an adopted daughter growing up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Reading Caitriona Palmer's story provides some of the context that explains how "Nana" felt growing up without parents in her family home. But Caitriona Palmer's story goes deeper than the feelings of an adopted daughter. I started reading the moment I got the book and finished a day later because Caitriona's story offers a glimpse into the Ireland of the 70s that formed perspectives of many of my work colleagues. *An Affair with My Mother* is compelling because it is such an authentic personal story wrapped inside the changing mores of Ireland.

Having Irish Catholic grandparents and a mother who was raised by them this book hit home in so many ways. More than that, this is a very human story with a triumphant ending. Extremely well written, and so much so, that I could not put it down. Caitriona has weaved her life's history and leaves you with a huge box of kleenex used up and tears still streaming, even after you closed the book. You have inspired me Caitriona and you have given such an incredible gift to birth mothers, adopted parents and those who find themselves desperately seeking to reconnect their tree to their roots. BRAVO to your adopted parents. Their love and unselfishness cannot be applauded enough! "Sarah" was finally rewarded after so much heartache and sacrifice to live freely and peaceably because you lived and loved. I HIGHLY recommend anything this author has penned.

Awesome. I heard Caitriona on Diane Rehm, NPR. Ordered and read in a few days. I am 100 % Irish. Such an amazing story. Rules in Ireland were so outlandish. I appreciated the fact that her adopted parents were so supportive and also her husband. Her struggle since age 6, was draining. So glad her half/siblings accepted her. An amazing story. I could so relate, as I have a granddaughter who is adopted. Her parents told her from very early on.

Interesting exploration of the author's search for the details of her birth in Ireland. It also serves as an indictment of the harsh, repressive Irish society that turned unwed mothers into virtual criminals.

The best section was the in-depth investigation of the Church's influence on the laws surrounding adoption and contraception. Amazing that birth control was not fully legal until the 1990's. A negative for me was the overblown descriptive style and an abundance of cliches.

Interesting story. So sad that her mother could never publicly recognize her as her daughter.

At times it seemed like a self-absorbed autobiography. Stay with the narrative. This book is a heart wrenching story of how a persistent young woman finds herself and exhibits compassion for her parents

Although the beginning of the story is interesting, it's not what I wanted to read about. Once you get past that and more into her adoption story it's a wonderfully written detailed account of what an unmarried pregnant Irish girl went through- and the child they gave up for adoption.

A truly touching story of love and loss rejection and the need in us all to know our roots.

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