



Otherhood: Modern Women Finding A New Kind of Happiness

By Melanie Notkin

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More American women are childless than ever before—nearly half those of childbearing age don't have children. While our society often assumes these women are “childfree by choice,” that's not always true. In reality, many of them expected to marry and have children, but it simply hasn't happened. Wrongly judged as picky or career-obsessed, they make up the “Otherhood,” a growing demographic that has gone without definition or visibility until now.

In *Otherhood*, author Melanie Notkin reveals her own story as well as the honest, poignant, humorous, and occasionally heartbreakng stories of women in her generation—women who expected love, marriage, and parenthood, but instead found themselves facing a different reality. She addresses the reasons for this shift, the social and emotional impact it has on our collective culture, and how the “new normal” will affect our society in the decades to come.

Notkin aims to reassure women that they are not alone and encourages them to find happiness and fulfillment no matter what the future holds. A groundbreaking exploration of an essential contemporary issue, *Otherhood* inspires thought-provoking conversation and gets at the heart of our cultural assumptions about single women and childlessness.

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Editorial Review

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Starred Review Women without children have long confronted disapproval subtle and outright. Whether by choice or circumstance, the inability to accomplish this seemingly most natural of conditions is often neither the default nor desired setting for many women. With statistics now showing that nearly half of all women of child-bearing age are childless, the dearth of informed insight and compassionate support for women in this emotional limbo leaves a huge percentage of the population feeling paradoxically both invisible and conspicuous. Author of the best-seller, *Savvy Auntie* (2011), and founder of the Savvy Auntie brand that celebrates the numerous contributions of nonmothers to the children in their lives, Notkin explores the complex ramifications of being a childless modern woman. If, as the old rhyme predicts, first comes love, then comes marriage, Notkin sagely examines the rocky road a woman wanders on the way to filling (or not) the next-in-sequence baby carriage. Although childlessness is the book's clear focus, Notkin's spot-on appraisal of the pitfalls of the current dating scene provides equally valuable insights for any woman struggling to accept the sobering realities of contemporary romance or reproduction. --Carol Haggas

Review

"Life doesn't always unfold the way we expect. In this thought-provoking, honest, and often hilarious exploration of 'otherhood,' Melanie Notkin describes the pleasures and pain of coming to grips with the life she actually has—a childless life, without children of her own. An essential read for anyone interested in what it's like to be a woman today."

—**Gretchen Rubin**, bestselling author of *Happier at Home* and *The Happiness Project*

"In *Otherhood*, Melanie Notkin gives a fresh voice to a largely unseen, misunderstood part of the population: the unmarried, childless female. After you read this book, you'll discover she isn't who you thought she was."

—**Stacy London**, Style Expert

"In a poignant reported memoir, *Otherhood* gives voice to a growing, but often hidden segment of society: women who are still waiting for love, marriage and children. With honest humor, Notkin gives the beautiful, bright, talented, single women something no one else does: hope."

—**Amy Klein**, *New York Times* Motherlode "Fertility Diary" columnist

"Families aren't what they used to be, but here Melanie Notkin shows that they've recombined, not fallen apart. *Otherhood* is powerful, not only because it charts an important role for modern women in an age of singles and solos, but also because it's sharp, witty, and insightful. A terrific read."

—**Eric Klinenberg**, author of *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*

"Melanie Notkin has tapped into the deep need we all have for a new language of love. *Otherhood* is the perfect book for these times—honest, romping, vulnerable, uplifting. Read it now, because everyone will be talking about it soon."

—**Bruce Feiler**, *New York Times* columnist and bestselling author of *The Secrets of Happy Families*

"Heartbreaking, insightful and ultimately affirming, *Otherhood* is Notkin's anguished but undefeated post-

feminist battle cry on behalf of childless women of a certain age who refuse to settle for a lesser love.”

—**Jonathan Tropper**, bestselling author of *This Is Where I Leave You*

“In *Otherhood*, Melanie Notkin brilliantly reveals feminism’s dirty little secret: the most fabulous women today are not finding love, marriage, or the baby carriage. They are creating—in a way *The Feminine Mystique* did not predict—a new, equally extraordinary kind of happiness.”

—**Karen Lehrman Bloch**, author of *The Lipstick Proviso: Women, Sex & Power in the Real World*

“In *Otherhood*, Melanie Notkin, takes the reader on an intimate and insightful journey of what it’s like to be single, never married and childless when apparently no one thinks you should be. She courageously invites us into her intimate world, experiences, and feelings, in a way most close friends wouldn’t even do. And in doing so, she beautifully highlights the importance of being authentic and true to yourself, even if your dreams and wishes don’t come on cue.”

—**Dr. Robi Ludwig**, psychotherapist and TV commentator

“Melanie Notkin’s *Otherhood* is empowering and enlightening for a generation of modern women who don’t want to settle in order to settle down. This book will resonate not only with single women but also with those who love them.”

—**Andrea Syrtash**, author of *He’s Just Not Your Type (And That’s a Good Thing)* and *Cheat On Your Husband (With Your Husband)*

“*Otherhood* is a timely book offering up valuable guidance on how to feel appreciated and supported while being self-reliant. Melanie Notkin’s genuine love for her reader shines through each page. Notkin is a powerful leader for all women as they enter into ‘otherhood.’”

—**Gabrielle Bernstein**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *May Cause Miracles*

“Any woman who has ever felt bad about not being ‘on track’ will find hope and inspiration in Notkin’s readable, compelling book. The experience is like chatting with an old college friend who hands you a mug of tea and kindly reminds you to stop bitching already and get busy creating and celebrating an authentic awesome life.”

—**Sarah Elizabeth Richards**, author of *Motherhood, Rescheduled: The New Frontier of Egg Freezing and the Women Who Tried It*

About the Author

Melanie Notkin is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, spokesperson, marketer, and the leading voice of the nearly 50 percent of American women who are childless. Notkin is the founder and creator of the popular Savvy Auntie® lifestyle brand—a celebration of modern, cosmopolitan aunthood. Notkin’s book on the subject, *Savvy Auntie: The Ultimate Guide for Cool Aunts, Great-Aunts, Godmothers, and All Women Who Love Kids*, was a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller.

Notkin’s writing has appeared in *The New York Times* and she is a contributor to the *Huffington Post* and PsychologyToday.com. She lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Helen Woodson:

This Otherhood: Modern Women Finding A New Kind of Happiness book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This particular Otherhood: Modern Women Finding A New Kind of Happiness without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Otherhood: Modern Women Finding A New Kind of Happiness can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even telephone. This Otherhood: Modern Women Finding A New Kind of Happiness having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Juan Jensen:

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Richard Strohm:

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Doris Stone:

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