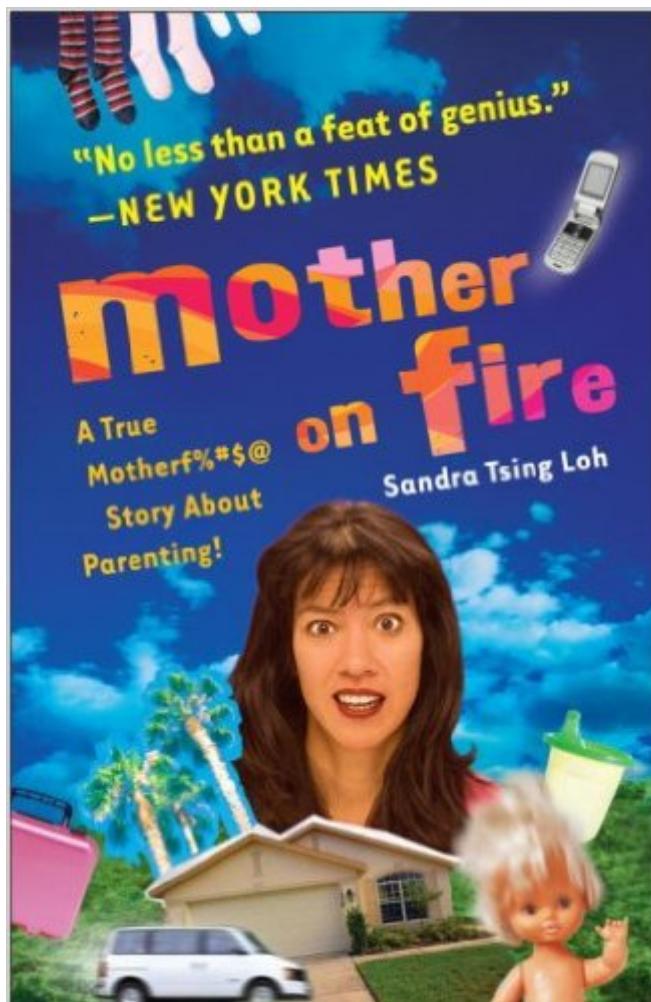


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# Mother On Fire: A True Motherf%#\$@ Story About Parenting!



## **Synopsis**

This is a story about the year I exploded into flames...which turns out to be more common than you'd think among forty-something humans. Yeah, we can hold it together in our thirties, with a raft of hair products and semi-tall nonfat half-caf beverages....Come the forties, though, cracks begin to appear....Gourmet coffee splats; the wig slips askew. In other words, my friends, THE WHEELS COME OFF. Sandra Tsing Loh is the fiercest, funniest, and most incredibly honest voice to emerge from the "mommy war" debates. Here she fires away with her trademark satire of societal and personal irks, prompted by her own midlife crisis, when she realizes she can't afford private school for her daughter "and her only alternative is her neighborhood's beyond-repair public school. Mother on Fire documents Loh's "year of living dangerously" among pompous school admissions officials, Prius-driving parents, vindictive bosses, and old friends with new money as she first kisses ass "and then kicks it.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Three Rivers Press; Reprint edition (August 4, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307450414

ISBN-13: 978-0307450418

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #997,690 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #271 in Books > Self-Help > Mid-Life #1824 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Motherhood #3437 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Humor

## **Customer Reviews**

Once again, Sandra Tsing Loh has massaged her very specific life into themes that touch the heart, providing plenty of laughs but also a lot to think about. With witty side trips, the author takes us on an invigorating journey from the sweet exhaustion of keeping up with small children through the frantic exhaustion of trying to find a decent school, and ends up with a new sense of purpose and community. Buy it; read it aloud if you can stop laughing; buy more for your friends! Favorite theme: "It seems there's no rite of female passage that can't be marked, in some vague way, by a little hay-strewn basket of bath items. As if to say 'Happy Graduation! Have a bath.' 'So you're

thirty-seven! Have a bath.' 'Wishing you a fabulous divorce, and menopause! Rock on, sister, and ... try a bath.'" Watch how deftly this becomes a manifesto against Women as Mere Consumers.

I read all the "motherhood" books, and they're usually so serious and dry. This one is hilarious! It's like the books my mom used to read about the subject - really funny, and (I know this sounds kind of sappy) uplifting. I'm going to suggest it at my next book group meeting - we need a laugh!

I really wanted to like this book. A friend told me about the Target pants, so I picked it up. And I \*did\* laugh---sometimes. The couples without children who whip out photos of their dogs at dinner parties ring true. But, as the author should have recognized, mothers with small children have very limited time, and there is just too much "filler" here---too many sentences that have purposefully been crafted to be clever. Even skimming through this one was tough going, and I abandoned it in the end. See if your library can find you a copy before you lay your money down.

Very, very funny and well-written. Ms. Tsing-Loh does satire, irony and self-deprecation much better than she does anger. The book is hilarious up to the last two chapters which fall flat and should have been omitted and one does sense in them more than a faint whiff of sour grapes. The NPR ending is in retrospect inevitable, but buy the book and enjoy it!

I'm not all that familiar with Ms. Tsing Loh's work. She is capable of being funny, and I found myself nodding in recognition at some of her experiences. But mostly I found this book to be rambling, disjointed, and self-indulgent. Also, I've never seen so many exclamation points used by an adult. Good god, she punctuates like a texting teenager. Does she shout this much on NPR?

I absolutely love Sandra Tsing-Loh's writing- especially in The Atlantic- which is what make the theme of helicopter motherhood, something I normally wouldn't be able to stomach, tolerable for me. Tsing-Loh is laugh-out-loud funny, though sometimes her anecdotes do reek of fake reality showism. It's clear she is vastly exaggerating her characters and the circumstances of her life most of the time, however, she is a very engaging writer. Unfortunately, the book ends before the break-down of her marriage and her affair, which she chronicled in "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off" in The Atlantic. Now THAT is the book I want to read!

The author has taken her comedy routine on motherhood and fleshed it out into a book length

memoir (a la Lily Tomlin). Her humorous observations on the desire to be the perfect parent for fear of failing her infants forever is so American, for those parents who can afford \$20,000+ for kindergarten. She fearlessly exposes her neurotic tendencies upon the reader and one wonders how her children will make out when they are teenagers. The book flows in a stream of consciousness conversational style that the reader needs to buy into or the reader will be annoyed. Overall "Mother on Fire" is a funny book.

The author is VERY funny and right on target when taking apart LAUSD and the LA scene which is extremely plastic and power focussed. Sandra not only thinks she has to solve her family's problems but lies awake at night trying to solve the whole world's problems while her husband, who grew up in So. Dakota peacefully sleeps. That is the angst one can have after growing up in Malibu and then living in Van Nuys. It is a laugh out loud book that needs to be savored in small doses because Sandra has so much to say that is thought provoking, especially about her generation's overly involved "parenting." That is my opinion as a person who brought up her children in the 70's when we stressed independence and self-reliance with lots of love. Actually, I was doing that while living across the street from Sandra and her family in Malibu. Buy the book, you will love reading it!

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