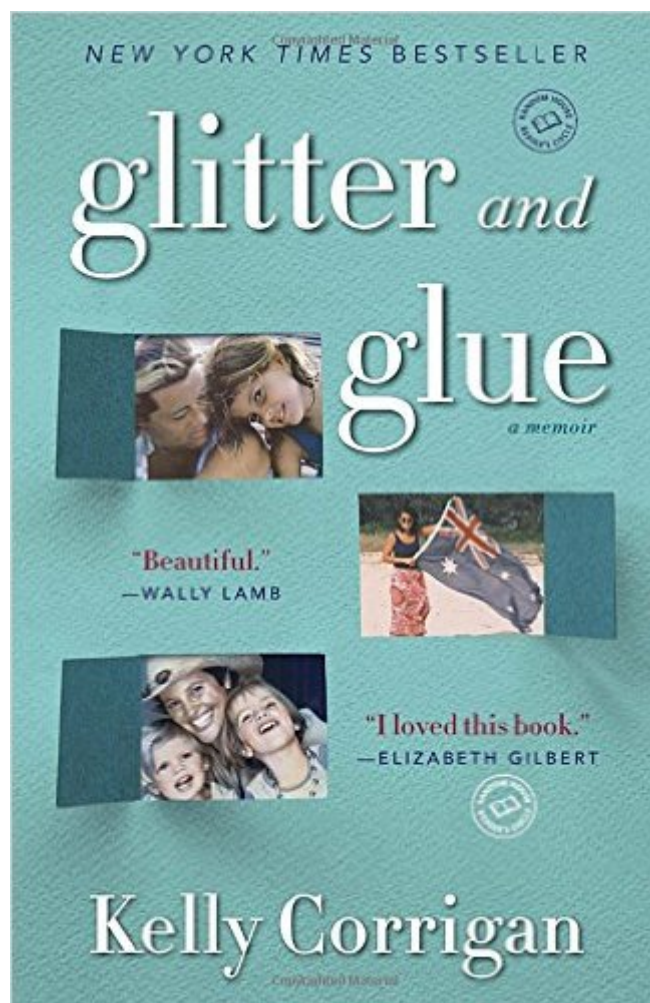


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# Glitter And Glue: A Memoir



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. From the author of *The Middle Place* comes a new memoir that examines the bond "sometimes nourishing, sometimes exasperating, occasionally divine" between mothers and daughters. When Kelly Corrigan was in high school, her mother neatly summarized the family dynamic as "Your father's the glitter but I'm the glue." This meant nothing to Kelly, who left childhood sure that her mom "with her inviolable commandments and proud stoicism" would be nothing more than background chatter for the rest of Kelly's life, which she was carefully orienting toward adventure. After college, armed with a backpack, her personal mission statement, and a wad of traveler's checks, she took off for Australia to see things and do things and Become Interesting. But it didn't turn out the way she pictured it. In a matter of months, her savings shot, she had a choice: get a job or go home. That's how Kelly met John Tanner, a newly widowed father of two looking for a live-in nanny. They chatted for an hour, discussed timing and pay, and a week later, Kelly moved in. And there, in that house in a suburb north of Sydney, 10,000 miles from the house where she was raised, her mother's voice was suddenly everywhere, nudging and advising, cautioning and directing, escorting her through a terrain as foreign as any she had ever trekked. Every day she spent with the Tanner kids was a day spent reconsidering her relationship with her mother, turning it over in her hands like a shell, straining to hear whatever messages might be trapped in its spiral. This is a book about the difference between travel and life experience, stepping out and stepping up, fathers and mothers. But mostly it's about who you admire and why, and how that changes over time. Praise for *Glitter and Glue* • "I loved this book, I was moved by this book, and now I will share this book with my own mother" along with my renewed appreciation for certain debts of love that can never be repaid. • "Elizabeth Gilbert, New York Times bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love* • Kelly Corrigan's thoughtful and beautifully rendered meditation invites readers to reflect on their own launchings and homecomings. I accepted the invitation and learned things about myself. You will, too. Isn't that why we read?" • "Wally Lamb, New York Times bestselling author of *We Are Water* • Kelly Corrigan is no stranger to mining the depths of her heart. . . . [In] *Glitter and Glue*, Corrigan turns the microscope on her relationship with her own mother. . . . Through her own experience of caring for children, she begins, for the first time, to appreciate the complex woman who raised her. • "O: The Oprah Magazine • Corrigan [is] a lively, nimble cheerleader for the joys of family. • "People • [A] funny, sparkling memoir. • "More • Corrigan writes with warmth and delicate humor. • "The Washington Post • [An] irresistible cocktail of lyrical writing and solid,

useful insight.â •â "San Francisco Chronicleâ œIn this endearing, funny, and thought-provoking memoir, Kelly Corriganâ ™s memories of long-ago adventures illuminate the changing relationships between mothers and childrenâ "as well as everything else that really matters.â •â "Gretchen Rubin, New York Times bestselling author of The Happiness Project

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kelly Corrigan is a new author for me, but I will be seeking out her other works, as I was very impressed with "Glitter and Glue." This memoir was nothing like I was expecting from what I understood of the book when it picked it up -- I thought it was going to be a typical memoir of the author's childhood, with many stories of the differences between the author's mother and father. Corrigan's father is the "glitter" of the family and the title, but he hardly appears at all in the book -- he is the perpetual cheerleader for his daughter, always supportive and never critical. Corrigan's mother, on the other hand, described herself as the "glue" of the family, the practical, and generally critical, mother who rarely seemed to support any plan or scheme of her daughter. But, the book is not much as I thought it would be -- rather the contrast of the mother and father are explored primarily in Corrigan's story of her 1992 summer in Australia when she was a young nanny to a family whose wife and mother had recently died of cancer. Corrigan had always assumed that when she married and had children she would be their glitter, and instead she found herself in a complex situation where there were no easy answers. The Australian family consisted of the father (older and an airline pilot), two young children (the names are not the same as the real life family), the father's stepson, and his father-in-law. In attempting to bond with the children, Corrigan finds that it was not

simply a matter of indulging youngsters who missed their mother -- in fact there is very little discussion between Corrigan and the children about the mother related in the book, as most of that information comes from Evan, the stepson.

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