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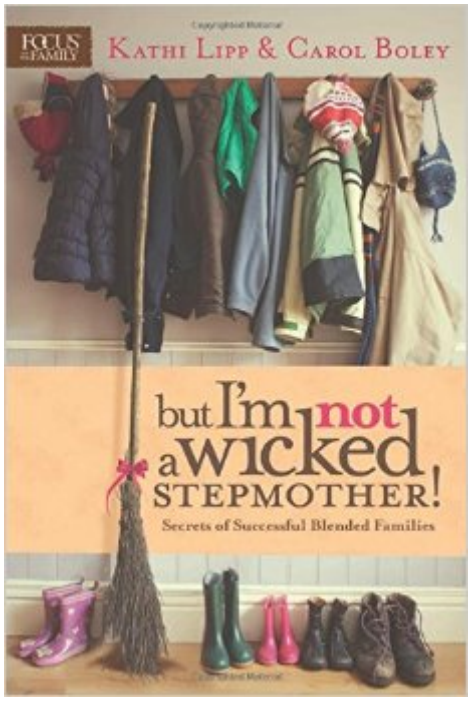
But I'm NOT A Wicked Stepmother!: Secrets Of Successful Blended Families



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Synopsis

Most little girls grow up dreaming of being a mom, but hardly any of them dream of becoming a stepmom. Nevertheless, approximately one million new stepfamilies are created every year.Itâ ™s no secret, being a stepmother can be a living nightmare. But it can also be an enriching and rewarding experienceâ •one that God can use to strengthen you, helping you survive and even thrive in the toughest job you never asked for.Written by two women who are stepmothers themselvesâ •and know the difficulties of helping to raise someone elseâ ™s childrenâ •this book is filled with down-to-earth insights and advice for stepmothers from stepmothers. It also offers expert guidance from pastors and counselors on such issues as roles, expectations, realistic goals, organization, finances, holidays, vacations, relationships with stepchildren, negotiation, forgiveness, healing the past, building a strong marriage with stepchildren on the scene, dealing with in-laws and ex-spouses, sexual tensions in stepfamilies, health, depression, stress, and much more.While there is no magic formula to guarantee stepmother success, encouragement and practical wisdom are available in this much-needed resource.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a stepmother for the last 9 and 1/2 years, who recently experienced a drastic dynamic shift within our family, I was hoping to find encouragement when I ordered this book. And authenticity. Oh, how I find comfort in down-to-earth REAL sharing of experiences, including flops and failures as well as those mountain-top moments. I found what I hoped for- this book is a gem on a subject where there are far more critical and instructional books than there are uplifting and relational ones. The authors

"get" it. Even to the point of acknowledging that they can’t possibly understand our circumstance as a reader since blended families are so vastly unique.What a breath of fresh air. To read someone else has felt the way I feel, thought the things I’ve thought and maybe even tried some of the techniques I’ve tried. Some portions of this book made me laugh out loud, such as the following excerpt regarding things we don’t understand until we’ve been a stepmom for a while:"Your assumption that if you’re nie and respectful to your stepkids, his ex-wife, and her family, they will be nice back is blown out of the water.""Your assumption that you will want to be nice and respectful all the time is also not a reality."Humor is not the only way that authors Kathi Lipp & Carol Boley minister to stepmom’s hearts in their book. They also dole out some much, much needed encouraging truth. I want to caution you from thinking, "This book isn’t for me," if you aren’t a Christian. Though I share quotes here that relate to Christianity, because they touched my heart, the whole of the book is not a giant sermon.

"Blended," formerly a word more associated with recipes than families, today describes ex-mom and dads with children who remarry with the expectation of â œbecoming one big happy family.â • They often don’t understand their new family may be a minefield of disappointments, unmet expectations and jealousy when their unrealistic expectations meet the â œreality of step-familyâ • living."There’s something about these step-situations that makes a sane person act in some not-so-sane ways," writes co-authors Carol Boley and Kathi Lipp in their March 2 release, But I’m NOT a Wicked Stepmother! from Tyndale House PublishersKathi Lipp, step-mom, author and podcast host of So Here’s the Thing with Kathi Lipp joins with former news reporter, feature writer, and stop-mom, Carol Boley to pen an important, much-needed, â œgo-toâ • book that reveals their "secrets of successful blended families." They write with the voice of experience about the challenges of "conflicting parenting styles, threatened ex-spouses, role confusion, power struggles, jealousy, custody battles" and more.In the chapter titled, "It’s Not (All) Abut the Kids," Kathi writes, "It’s not about trying harder...it’s about trusting harder." It’s about believing God has a plan and purpose for your life, your husbands life and the lives of the children in your care. In other words, she writes, "It’s about your (the step-parent’s) relationship with God."Carol focuses on words of encouragement in another chapter, "Say This, Not That" where she endorses Proverbs 18:21â ™s wise words, "the tongue has the power of life and death.

Blending families can be a difficult period of adjustment, to put it lightly. Depending on how many kids, the reason behind the previous marriage ending, any on-going tension, etc can really play a

role in this transition from yours and mine to ours. The book, But Iâ ™m NOT a Wicked Stepmother, by Kathi Lipp & Carol Boley, covers these situations and has great advice for moms who become stepmoms.I was a stepmom myself until I legally adopted my husbandâ ™s children from a previous marriage. It wasnâ ™t easy, especially because in our case we not only got married but then moved from Florida to Ohio! So we were dealing with the whole family blending operation as well as getting the family settled into a totally new area with new schools, friends, and little family near by.Needless to say, it worked out in the end and most of my children live near by to us. But it was tough for a while, and I canâ ™t imagine how some women do it when I hear their tales of drama. But this book seemed to cover most situations that I could think would come up for most of us, from dealing with finances, in-laws, ex-spouses, visitation, and much more!The authors are stepmoms themselves, so they know a lot of the problems that are inherent in the whole step-parenting situation. Itâ ™s filled with loving advice, light humor, examples of possible conversations and what not to say, as well as plenty of suggestions and resources as you continue to adjust to this new relationship of being a stepmother to someone elseâ ™s child.Throughout the book, Kathi & Carol, also help us turn to Scripture and the Lord to rely on for guidance, strength and peace to make it through. After all, thereâ ™s no problem so big that He canâ ™t handle it, right?

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