

writing an obituary for mom

Writing an Obituary for Mom: A Thoughtful Guide to Honoring Her Life

writing an obituary for mom is a deeply personal and meaningful task that many find both challenging and cathartic. It's a way to celebrate her life, share her story with others, and create a lasting tribute that honors her memory. Whether you're writing for a local newspaper, a funeral program, or an online memorial, crafting an obituary that truly reflects who your mom was requires sensitivity, reflection, and a bit of guidance. In this article, we'll explore how to approach this delicate process with care, highlight important elements to include, and offer tips to make your tribute resonate with family, friends, and the community.

Understanding the Purpose of an Obituary for Mom

An obituary is much more than a simple announcement of death. It's a narrative that captures the essence of a person's life, their relationships, achievements, and the impact they had on everyone around them. When writing an obituary for mom, think of it as telling her story—an opportunity to paint a picture of her unique personality, values, and the legacy she leaves behind.

Many people find comfort in reading obituaries because they connect with the shared experience of loss and remembrance. For the family, it's also a way to inform the community about funeral arrangements and invite those who knew her to pay their respects.

Key Elements to Include in Your Mom's Obituary

While there's no strict formula, most obituaries contain several key components that help readers understand who your mom was and how she lived her life:

- **Full Name and Nicknames:** Start with her full name, including maiden name if relevant, and any nicknames she was known by.
- **Date and Place of Birth:** This grounds her story in time and place.
- **Date and Place of Passing:** Clearly state when and where she passed away.
- **Family Relationships:** Mention close family members like spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings, and sometimes even extended family. This expresses the connections that were most important to her.
- **Life Highlights and Accomplishments:** Include career achievements, volunteer

work, hobbies, passions, or anything that reflects what she valued.

- **Personal Traits and Characteristics:** Share what made her unique—her kindness, humor, strength, or any other qualities.
- **Funeral or Memorial Service Details:** Provide information about the service so readers know how to participate or pay tribute.
- **Charitable Donations or Special Requests:** If the family prefers donations to a cause instead of flowers, mention that here.

Tips for Writing an Engaging and Heartfelt Obituary for Mom

Writing an obituary can feel overwhelming, especially when emotions are raw. Here are some practical tips to guide you through the process and help you create a meaningful tribute.

Start with a Brainstorming Session

Before you begin writing, take some time to jot down memories, stories, and words that capture your mom's spirit. Talk to other family members or close friends to gather different perspectives. This collaborative approach can enrich the obituary with heartfelt anecdotes that showcase her personality.

Keep the Tone Personal and Genuine

Avoid overly formal language or clichés. Instead, write as if you're sharing your mom's story with someone who never met her. Use warm, conversational language that reflects her character. For example, instead of saying "She was a kind woman," you might say "Mom's kindness touched everyone she met, whether through her volunteer work or a simple smile."

Be Concise but Meaningful

While it's tempting to include every detail, try to keep the obituary focused and clear. Most newspapers have word limits, typically between 200 and 500 words. Prioritize the most important aspects of her life and personality, and avoid repetition.

Use Quotes or Favorite Sayings

Including a favorite quote, scripture, or one of your mom's own sayings can add a personal touch. It can also provide comfort to readers who knew her well.

Proofread and Get Feedback

Once you've drafted the obituary, read it aloud to ensure it sounds natural. Share it with close family or friends to get their input and catch any errors or omissions. This step can also help in balancing emotional content with clarity.

Common Challenges When Writing an Obituary for Mom

It's normal to encounter some difficulties during this process. Recognizing these challenges can help you address them more effectively.

Emotional Difficulty

Writing about your mom's passing can bring up strong feelings of grief and loss. It's okay to take breaks and come back to the writing when you feel ready. Sometimes, writing in stages or dictating your thoughts can make it easier.

Deciding What to Include and Exclude

Choosing which life events or traits to highlight can be tough, especially if your mom had a rich and varied life. Focus on what she valued most and what you think her community would want to know.

Handling Sensitive Family Matters

If there are complicated family dynamics or sensitive information, it's usually best to keep the obituary respectful and positive, focusing on the aspects that celebrate her life rather than conflicts.

Examples of Obituary Phrases and Sentences for

Inspiration

Sometimes, seeing examples can spark ideas for your own writing. Here are a few phrases that might resonate when writing an obituary for mom:

- “She was a devoted mother and grandmother who found joy in the simple pleasures of life.”
- “Her laughter was infectious, and her generosity knew no bounds.”
- “Mom’s legacy of kindness and strength will live on through her family and friends.”
- “A passionate gardener, she nurtured both plants and people with equal care.”
- “She touched countless lives through her work as a teacher and volunteer.”

Utilizing Online Tools and Resources

If you’re feeling stuck, there are many online obituary writing guides, templates, and even obituary generators that can provide structure without sacrificing your personal voice. Websites dedicated to memorializing loved ones often offer helpful advice on phrasing and formatting.

Additionally, consider browsing local newspaper obituary archives to see how others have written similar tributes. This can help you get a sense of style and tone that fits your community.

Incorporating LSI Keywords Naturally

When writing an obituary for mom, terms like “memorial tribute,” “funeral announcement,” “celebration of life,” “obituary writing tips,” and “honoring a mother’s legacy” naturally come into play. Using these phrases subtly can improve the reach of your writing if posted online, while still maintaining a heartfelt tone.

Final Thoughts on Writing an Obituary for Mom

Writing an obituary for mom is an emotional endeavor that allows you to honor her memory in your own unique way. It’s a chance to reflect on the love, lessons, and joyful moments she shared with those around her. By focusing on authenticity, including meaningful details, and approaching the task with compassion, you can create a tribute that not only informs but also inspires and comforts.

Remember, there's no perfect way to write an obituary—what matters most is that it comes from the heart and celebrates the life of the remarkable woman you called mom.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the essential elements to include when writing an obituary for mom?

An obituary for mom should include her full name, age, date of birth and death, key family members, a brief biography highlighting significant life events, accomplishments, hobbies, and information about the funeral or memorial service.

How can I write a heartfelt obituary for my mom?

To write a heartfelt obituary, focus on personal stories, her character traits, values, and the impact she had on family and friends. Use warm and sincere language, and consider including memorable quotes or sayings she loved.

What tone is appropriate when writing an obituary for mom?

The tone should be respectful and sincere, reflecting the personality of your mom. It can be solemn yet celebratory, honoring her life and legacy while acknowledging the loss.

How long should an obituary for mom typically be?

An obituary for mom typically ranges from 150 to 300 words, concise enough to fit in newspapers or online, yet detailed enough to honor her life meaningfully.

Can I include my mom's favorite hobbies or interests in the obituary?

Yes, including your mom's hobbies, interests, or passions helps personalize the obituary and gives readers insight into her personality and what she enjoyed during her life.

Should I mention the cause of death in my mom's obituary?

Mentioning the cause of death is optional. Some families choose to include it for transparency or awareness, while others prefer to keep it private. It depends on your comfort level and family wishes.

Where can I publish the obituary for my mom?

Obituaries can be published in local newspapers, funeral home websites, online obituary

platforms, and social media. Choose platforms that will reach the community and friends who knew your mom.

Additional Resources

Writing an Obituary for Mom: A Thoughtful Guide to Honoring Her Legacy

writing an obituary for mom is a deeply personal and often challenging task. It requires balancing factual information with heartfelt tribute, all while capturing the unique essence of a woman whose influence shaped countless lives. An obituary serves not only as a public announcement of her passing but also as a lasting testament to her character, achievements, and the love she shared. In this article, we explore the nuances of crafting a respectful, meaningful obituary that honors a mother's memory in a way that resonates with family, friends, and the broader community.

Understanding the Purpose of an Obituary for Mom

An obituary functions on multiple levels: it informs the public of a death, provides details about funeral services, and commemorates the deceased's life. When writing an obituary for mom, it is crucial to recognize that the piece transcends a simple notice. It is a narrative that reflects her personality, values, and impact. Obituaries can be published in newspapers, online platforms, or funeral home websites, offering diverse audiences a glimpse into who she was.

The obituary's tone typically balances professionalism and sentimentality. While it should avoid overly casual language, it must evoke the warmth and depth of a mother's role. This balance is essential to maintain credibility and emotional resonance.

Key Elements to Include in an Obituary for Mom

When approaching the task of writing an obituary for mom, certain foundational details are necessary to cover:

- **Full Name:** Include maiden and married names to ensure clarity.
- **Date of Birth and Death:** These anchor the obituary in time.
- **Biographical Information:** Summarize major life events such as education, career, and community involvement.
- **Family Details:** List surviving relatives and predeceased family members to acknowledge her familial connections.

- **Achievements and Passions:** Highlight her hobbies, volunteer work, or special accomplishments.
- **Funeral or Memorial Service Information:** Provide dates, times, and locations for attendees.
- **Memorial Contributions:** Suggest charities or causes for donations if applicable.

Including these elements ensures the obituary is both informative and comprehensive, fulfilling its communicative purpose.

Techniques for Writing a Respectful and Impactful Obituary

Writing an obituary for mom requires sensitivity and thoughtful word choice. This process often begins with gathering information from family members and close friends to create a well-rounded portrayal.

Balancing Fact and Emotion

An obituary should accurately represent facts while conveying the emotional significance of a mother's life. Overly clinical descriptions risk sounding impersonal, whereas excessively sentimental language may detract from the obituary's clarity. A professional obituary writer typically employs a tone that is dignified yet warm, allowing readers to connect emotionally without losing sight of essential details.

Using Narrative Structure to Tell Her Story

Rather than merely listing facts, structuring the obituary as a brief narrative can enhance engagement. For example, beginning with a statement about her character or a defining moment in her life can draw readers in. This approach makes the obituary more memorable and honors the complexity of her personal journey.

Optimizing for SEO Without Compromising Sensitivity

In today's digital age, many obituaries are published online, making search engine optimization (SEO) a relevant consideration. Integrating keywords such as "writing an obituary for mom," "mother's obituary sample," or "how to write a mom's obituary" naturally throughout the text can improve visibility for those seeking guidance. However, it is vital to ensure these keywords are woven seamlessly into the narrative to avoid a mechanical or insincere tone.

Challenges and Emotional Considerations

Writing an obituary for mom is often accompanied by intense grief, which can complicate the process. Emotional strain may lead to difficulties in recalling specific dates or achievements, or in finding the right words to express loss and love.

Strategies to Overcome Emotional Barriers

- **Collaborate with Family Members:** Engaging relatives in the writing process can provide support and additional perspectives.
- **Use Templates as Starting Points:** Utilizing obituary templates tailored for mothers can help structure content without stifling personalization.
- **Take Time to Reflect:** Avoid rushing; allowing time for reflection can lead to a more thoughtful and accurate tribute.

Additionally, seeking professional help from obituary writers or grief counselors can be beneficial in managing emotional challenges while producing a polished obituary.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Several pitfalls frequently occur when writing obituaries, including:

- Omitting essential details such as service times, leading to confusion.
- Overloading the obituary with excessive personal anecdotes that obscure key information.
- Using euphemisms that may confuse readers unfamiliar with them.
- Neglecting to proofread, resulting in errors that detract from professionalism.

Awareness of these potential errors can improve the quality and impact of the obituary.

Examples and Formats for Writing an Obituary for

Mom

Obituaries can take various forms depending on cultural norms, publication guidelines, and personal preferences.

Traditional Format

A conventional obituary follows a chronological structure, starting with birth and early life, moving through adulthood and family life, and concluding with death and service information. This format is straightforward and widely accepted.

Personalized Format

Some obituaries adopt a more personalized tone, incorporating quotes, poems, or anecdotes that reflect the mother's personality. This approach is particularly fitting for online memorials, where space and format are more flexible.

Sample Opening Paragraph

"Jane Elizabeth Smith, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2024, at the age of 78. Born in Springfield on July 10, 1945, Jane's life was marked by unwavering kindness, dedication to family, and a passion for community service."

Including such an opening sets the tone for a respectful and engaging obituary.

Leveraging Digital Platforms for Wider Reach

Publishing an obituary online extends its reach beyond local communities, allowing distant relatives and friends to pay their respects. Websites such as Legacy.com and funeral home portals offer user-friendly interfaces for posting obituaries with photos and guestbooks.

Integrating social media announcements can also complement the obituary, facilitating sharing and collective mourning. When writing an obituary for mom, considering these digital avenues ensures her memory is honored broadly and accessibly.

Ultimately, writing an obituary for mom is a solemn responsibility that combines factual reporting with heartfelt remembrance. By carefully considering the content, tone, and distribution methods, writers can create a fitting tribute that preserves a mother's legacy for generations to come.

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writing an obituary for mom: From Eulogy to Joy Cynthia Kuhn Beischel, 2002 A unique and heartfelt anthology of inspirational essays by those grieving over the deaths of parents, partners, friends, children, even enemies and pets, to provide comfort to others facing loss.

writing an obituary for mom: My Mother's Apprentice Gyasi Burks-Abbott, 2022-01-28 The story of the making of an autism self-advocate. A chronicle of Gyasi's journey from an early prognosis that he'd never make it beyond the 6th grade to graduating from college and eventually earning a master's degree. A recounting of Gyasi's struggles growing up without a definitive diagnosis and being black in predominately white schools. And a tribute to Gyasi's mother, Ruth, an academic who instilled in Gyasi a love of learning and always encouraged him to think and advocate for himself. Ruth's lifetime of agency in preparing Gyasi for independent living is put to the ultimate test when she is diagnosed with lung cancer and given only six months to a year to live.

writing an obituary for mom: The Possibility Mom Lisa Canning, 2019-04-02 An interior designer and lifestyle coach helps modern moms design lives they love with less stress, less guilt, and more time to pursue their dreams. Balancing the demands of modern motherhood is a tough job. Between kids, work obligations, social commitments, and household duties, trying to fit in a little me time (let alone a date night) can seem practically impossible. For many moms, doing well at work makes them feel like they're failing at home, and when they focus on their family, they feel like they're falling behind at work. It's a vicious cycle that all too often lead to burnout—but there really is another way. The Possibility Mom provides practical solutions for keeping the balance of a modern mother's life with less stress, less guilt, and more satisfaction. Here, you'll learn smart ways to trim your to-do list, clarify your priorities, get more done in less time, and live the life you love—one that you design.

writing an obituary for mom: Write of Passing Janie Owens, 2024-07-29 Holly Donnelly writes obituaries from her apartment in Daytona Beach, Florida. She loves her job even though it comes with one oddity: as she writes the obituaries, each spirit pays a visit, manifesting in unique ways. The ghosts succeed in creating humorous conditions, annoying pranks and scaring Holly's boyfriends. But one spirit in particular has another reason to visit, and Holly is on a mission to solve the mystery of who the ghost is and why she is visiting this apartment sixty-six years after her death. Whether being a friend to a young woman in an abusive relationship, enduring her drama queen

mother's antics, or dealing with her own commitment issues, Holly's precious Chihuahua is an ever-present comforter and moral support. The perfect escape to humor, excitement and ghostly encounters, *WRITE OF PASSING* is the third book in Janie Owens' Daytona Beach series of cozy mysteries.

writing an obituary for mom: *Why Did I Come into This Room?* Joan Lunden, 2020-03-10 *Why Did I Come into This Room?* is a funny "What to Expect When You're Expecting" for the aging woman. "I'm too old for Snapchat, but too young for Life Alert." In her most candid and revealing book yet, acclaimed broadcast journalist and Baby Boomer Joan Lunden delves into the various phases of aging that leave many feeling uncomfortable, confused, and on edge. In her hilarious book, Lunden takes the dull and depressing out of aging, replacing it with wit and humor. After all, laughing is better than crying—unless it makes you pee! Whether you're in your 40s, 50s, 60s, or more, this book is full of helpful information to embrace—or at least prepare for—the inevitable. Funny, captivating, and raw, no topic is off limits. Lunden goes where others fear to tread, openly talking about wrinkles and age spots (which Lunden insists are sunspots), expanding waistlines (no, you didn't shrink your jeans), diminished energy (my get-up-and-go got up and went), weak pelvic floors (yes, we're talking about leaking), hot flashes (they suck), disrupted sleep (the morning host is an expert on lack of sleep), changes in sex drive (oh yeah, she goes there), ageism (it exists and it pisses us off), and yes, the real reasons we suddenly find ourselves always searching for those car keys! Through her poignant and often laugh out loud funny personal experiences, Lunden candidly shares her anxieties and breakthroughs and how she's coping with the realities of aging. She's talking about the good, the bad and the ugly, elevating the conversation on topics often considered "taboo." *Why Did I Come into This Room?* also explores the science of aging, including how it impacts the body and brain, while dispelling myths and revealing useful options to stave off the aging process as long as possible. Even more importantly, Lunden goes beyond the physical aspects of aging by closely examining the mental and emotional minefields that come with our advancing years. As she explores the value of asking ourselves important questions including, "Am I still relevant?", "Do I have meaningful friendships?", and "Am I leaving an impactful legacy?" Lunden also examines the freedom in "letting go," the importance of managing stress, and how joy and a sense of purpose all play an impactful role in slowing the aging process. In a society where youth is revered and aging feared, *Why Did I Come into This Room?* is the long-awaited tell-it-like-it-is guide for women of all ages. As Lunden says, "Aging ain't for sissies...you better be prepared."

writing an obituary for mom: *Your Name Is Edith* Laurelee Roark MA, 2008-03-02 This is the story of how a daughter and her mother find the truth of the heart and its healing powers. It's a chronicle of the transformative potentials found in simple acts of caring, compassion and love. There's magic in these pages, teaching precious insights to make every day a little richer and more fulfilling. Though a book about death and dying, this is much more than that, giving strength and support for anyone struggling with and ultimately embracing life's greatest challenges.

writing an obituary for mom: *On the Air with Milli Mills* Milli Mills, 2012-06-20 This book depicts the ups and downs, ins and outs of surviving and sustaining a solidplace in the radio broadcasting industry from a female minority perspective. It reflects how a middle aged, old school female radio personality is faced with the reality of the diminishing era of the straight laced, articulate radio announcer-type personality to the dawning of the thriving new surreal type radio air personality and 'celebrities-turned-radio air personalities' that dominate the radio air waves in today's society. See how Milli states her claim in the field of broadcasting in the 21st century where ipods and podcastingshare a prominent place in this industry. Witness the challenges and obstacles Milli is faced with in the early stages of her career as a double minority such as being reared in a poverty stricken community with very little opportunity for achieving goals and dreams. Milli reinvents herself time and time again through determination, strong-will, and self-motivation to discover her strength in the area of teaching and community service!

writing an obituary for mom: *Working in Mysterious Ways* Kathleen A. Heining, 2021-09-10 Life is messy. Coping with cancer, step-parenting, rape, death, and infidelity, Kathy Heining has

been able to use the Rosary to help find a way through. Here, she ties the stories of her life to the mysteries of the Rosary, illuminating the way prayer can help us find a way through both the hard and the joyous times of our lives, but without giving pat or pious answers to life's questions.

writing an obituary for mom: *Bloodlines* Janet Campbell Hale, 1998-01-01 In a collection of autobiographical essays, the author reflects on what it means to be a native American woman, interweaving her own experiences and family history into a study of life on a reservation

writing an obituary for mom: *As God Is My Witness* Carol Ann Conlin, 2013-07-15 A trust is stolen, betrayed. A time of innocence is gone. "How could one say such terrible things to a child, not yet a teen, not yet a woman?" How could one commit to such horrific deeds? One carried a little lamb, a sleep to an evil lair. The little lamb awoke outside the entrance. Her body trembled from within, struggling to awaken from the monster in the night. The monster in the night laid her in his berth. The lamb begged to let her go, her coffin beaconing from afar. The lamb tried to call out, her mouth opened wide. Her voice is frozen in time, not a sound, not a breath, only tears of horror and of shame remain. The lamb, betrayed in body and in trust, screamed silently into the night. No one answered her, no one heard, and no one cared.

writing an obituary for mom: *Finding Your Way Through Grief* Kim Thomas, 2004 Is there a right way for Christians to grieve? Is God truly enough in the valley of the shadow of death? Does time really heal all wounds? In finding her way through her own grief, Kim Thomas asks thought-provoking questions and comes to know the sorrow and compassion of God in a way that is immediate, intimate, and soul-soothing. God has been attentive to my mourning. He has been ever close, close enough to catch my tears in a bottle as they fall from my eyes. I wonder if perhaps the bottle of my tears might sit on the shelf next to the tears Jesus wept... If you are experiencing grief or are close to someone who is, you will find in Kim's story an honest admission about the pain of loss. She also offers 30 days of reflections from Scripture that provide hope based on the tender and powerful love of God for those who have known heartache and are making their way through it.

writing an obituary for mom: *Mac a Book of Hope* John Breed, Bethany Breed Martin, 2007-05 Breed captures the dark journey of losing his wife to cancer and reminds readers that God's grace is sufficient. He says that even the beauty of God's world is a reminder not to give up in the face of adversity. (Christian)

writing an obituary for mom: *You Can't Make This Stuff up Really!* Kenneth McClure, 2019-11-26 Have you ever been in a formal setting and needed to laugh but didn't dare? Have you ever fought back a smile, a silent giggle that produced a tsunami of shaking that became contagious to those seated next to you? Life is full of these surprise moments as presented in *YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP*. This is a must-read if you have had these moments caused by the actions of others that made you want to scream, yell, or run out of the room before you exploded. This book is a collection of these kinds of moments which may remind you of your experiences where it wasn't kosher to find the funny side of life. Although life has its many serious moments, it also has a funny side where many are afraid to advance. Try it, you'll like it!

writing an obituary for mom: *Forever Herself* Kerry L Stevens, 2018-10-09 A strong woman embraces life on her own terms, bringing blessings and tears. Berthella Stevens is a Renaissance woman full of hope and ahead of her time in 1960s Indiana. While some women of her era feel stifled, she is unafraid to express herself, reveling in beauty, writing, and natural living. She relishes the freedom while enduring the loneliness it brings to her rural home. But when she's banished from the family farm, her world is changed forever. Berthella died without achieving her lifetime dream of publishing a book. Kerry L Stevens fulfills the dream of his maverick mother by telling her remarkable and poignant story, sprinkled with her poetry and prose.

writing an obituary for mom: *Fifty Things That Aren't My Fault* Cathy Guisewite, 2019-04-02 From the creator of the iconic Cathy comic strip comes her first collection of funny, wise, poignant, and incredibly honest essays about being a woman in what she lovingly calls the panini generation. As the creator of Cathy, Cathy Guisewite found her way into the hearts of readers more than forty years ago, and has been there ever since. Her hilarious and deeply relatable look at the

challenges of womanhood in a changing world became a cultural touchstone for women everywhere. Now Guisewite returns with her signature wit and warmth in this debut essay collection about another time of big transition, when everything starts changing and disappearing without permission: aging parents, aging children, aging self stuck in the middle. With her uniquely wry and funny admissions and insights, Guisewite unearths the humor and horror of everything from the mundane (trying to introduce her parents to TiVo and facing four decades' worth of unorganized photos) to the profound (finding a purpose post-retirement, helping parents downsize their lives, and declaring freedom from all those things that hold us back). No longer confined to the limits of four comic panels, Guisewite holds out her hand in prose form and becomes a reassuring companion for those on the threshold of what happens next. Heartfelt and humane and always cathartic, *Fifty Things That Aren't My Fault* is ideal reading for mothers, daughters, and anyone who is caught somewhere in between.

writing an obituary for mom: Finding Hope Maria Clark, 2022-04-26 The Bellows family is shattered by a choice a son makes which can't be undone. Now a father, mother, and sister must navigate their tremendous grief to find the other side. Norah Bellows, a Special Education Teacher turned her back on God long ago. She was determined to rely on herself to get through the trials of life, but now in the event of losing her only son, Norah must make a choice which will drastically change the course of her family's life. Charlotte Bellows was in denial of her older brother's choice. She tries to uncover his secrets to discover why on April 5, 2019 her world came crashing down. Charlotte desperately tries to uncover the answers that she hopes will put her heart at rest when she meets a young man who may hold the key to what she didn't know she needed most. A story about God's everlasting faithfulness, the power of hope, and His healing redemption which over comes even the deepest of sorrows.

writing an obituary for mom: These Boys and Their Fathers Don Waters, 2019-10-01 In 2010, Don Waters set out to write a magazine story about a surfing icon who had known his absentee father. It was an attempt to find a way of connecting to a man he never knew. He didn't imagine that the story would become a years-long quest to understand a man who left behind almost nothing except for a self-absorbed autobiography for his abandoned son. *These Boys and Their Fathers* touches on Waters's early life with his single mother—and her string of dysfunctional men—and his later search for and encounters with his father, but it quickly expands into a gripping account of the life of a 1930s pulp writer, also named Don Waters, with whom Waters becomes obsessed. This wildly original book blends memoir, investigative reporting, and fiction to sort out difficult aspects of family, masculinity, and what it means to be a father.

writing an obituary for mom: The Melon Capital of the World Blake Allmendinger, 2015-02-01 In this psychologically gripping memoir, Blake Allmendinger returns to his childhood home after a forty-year absence. His homecoming to the struggling farming community of Rocky Ford, Colorado, formerly known as the Melon Capital of the World, forces the author to confront his own sad and disturbing history, one that parallels his hometown's decline. Allmendinger's family was dominated by his emotionally and mentally unstable mother, who became depressed while living in Rocky Ford as a young woman. For the rest of her life she abused the members of her family, creating tensions that remained unresolved until the end of the author's visit, when his mother died suddenly, a family member committed suicide, and a secret diary was discovered. *The Melon Capital of the World* is a remarkable blend of personal narrative, memoir, and Allmendinger's interviews with people who knew his mother and her family. His story is a gritty but compassionate, and at times humorous, portrait of a family trying to survive in the rapidly disappearing rural American West.

writing an obituary for mom: Hidden Scars Tessa Rey, 2013 Growing up in a small town and barely surviving abuse and teenage drinking, Tessa takes off for the US Air Force to change her life, but poor choices continue to haunt her with betrayals as she searches for that ever-elusive desire to be loved. She starts a family; however, just when life seems to straighten out, drug abuse enters her home, and then physical illnesses start plaguing her. So begins a life of struggling to survive so she can raise her children. Given less than a year to live after a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer,

she turns to the Lord. She is not prepared for the feelings of love and belonging she has missed all her life. After another divorce, she takes her children and moves back close to her hometown so that she can live in peace and raise her children. Tessa struggles with her relationship with her parents, and then after her younger sister commits suicide, her mother's words change her life forever. Tessa starts dealing with the scars she has kept hidden all these years. Hidden Scars is that journey of learning to live with those scars like tattoos on the soul so that she can be set free.

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