



Real Moms: Making It Up As We Go

Lisa Valentine Clark

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I didn't have gold shoes, and I didn't have time to go shopping, but I thought I could just spray-paint some heels I owned that I never really wore. I spray-painted them and tried them out for three hours at church where they held up perfectly. I felt pretty good about myself. "Suckers who buy gold shoes when they could just spray-paint them," I thought, congratulating myself for my frugality and my foresight for testing them out.

As moms, we improvise. We get along. We make things work. And we make a lot of things up as we go along because, let's face it, no manual is ever going to cover all the bases a real mom needs to touch. But if laughter and perspective and a renewed energy to face the day are what you're after—if you too are a "real mom"—this is the book for you!

Real Moms: Making It Up As We Go Details

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From Reader Review Real Moms: Making It Up As We Go for online ebook

Apzmarshl says

She's funny and that's never a negative. Toss in being a smidge sentimental and it was a great read.

Quote: BUSY isn't a virtue. It's not in the Young Women Value rainbow of colors, but if it did have a color, I imagine it would be black, signifying a black hole of nothingness.

Quote: At the end of the day, that's what I do, exactly: I prepare my kids to run on ahead without me.

See, funny and sentimental.

M says

Like sitting down to lunch with a good, fun friend. I laughed, nodded my head with some "amen!"s, and even teared up a bit at the end.

Marie says

It felt like a lot of rambling and I wasn't sure quite what the point was. I guess there was some advice thrown in amidst the rambling. I still enjoyed reading it.

Carolyn says

Fun book with lots of wisdom and calling the facts out. :-D

Cinnapatty says

I didn't quite know what to expect from this book. Not my usual genre but when a very good friend whom I trust very much loaned it to me, I read it. The author has a refreshingly candid and humorous voice. A refreshing perspective. I admit that I skimmed a few of the earlier chapters (this isn't really light reading, you need to read to absorb and ponder, but not heavy reading either) but by about 1/2 way through I was slowing down and thinking more. She hit upon some of the very things I think myself as a mother. Questions I ask myself and present to my husband. Questions about motherhood and what the heck am I doing and what am I trying to accomplish vs what should I be trying to accomplish? Things I never thought anyone else would ask themselves but obviously the author has. It was validating to say the least.

Lots of chuckles, lots of laughs, lots of rolling of the eyes, lots of head nodding "uh huh, yep, been there done that" and by the end of the last chapter, tears. Yes. I admit. I cried. Cried for the wisdom and candor of

this mother and cried for the joy I experienced that she had shared her insights in this book.

The final chapter is entitled "What Is My Job, Exactly?" That chapter hit home. Hard. And the way she wraps the Atonement into motherhood is enlightening.

I should have made notes of the different things I learned and where they were in the book, but I didn't. Because I'm a real mom, and I'm making it up as I go ;)

I would recommend this book to any mother, young or old.

Chanel says

I loved it. I'm not "technically" a mom - but I love funny things so this book is a giant winner. And yes, I was crying at the end of this book.

Jennifer says

Fun, entertaining, and a quick read--Real Moms was exactly what I needed the other day as I sat, defeated, in the car with two napping demon-children and a pile of things to do. As I read in the garage in the dark (because: naps) Lisa Valentine Clark reminded me that I had chosen to make these monsters, and that it was just fine to take a break from my to-do list--OR NOT. Basically that it would all work out in the end, no matter what I chose to do in the trenches.

Real Moms is filled with funny, inspiring, and sweet stories that reminded me just WHY I have chosen to be a mother, and that all of us are making it up as we go. I needed that break in the dark car with the snoring to remind me to just continue being the mom, and that I, indeed, really like those guys.

PS: If you are related to me you are getting this book for Mother's Day.

Sanz says

I was very pleasantly surprised by this book and ended up loving it!

I've loved Lisa Valentine Clark in her web series "Pretty Darn Funny" and figured her book would be fun (and funny) as well. What I didn't expect was to cry. Those last two pages really got me.

I loved her ramblings, advice, and thoughts. I loved her sentiments on being you and contributing what you are good at in the world. There is not one right way to be a mother and we should rejoice and celebrate our individual talents and do what we ENJOY! It's all about being authentic guys.

Here are a few highlights I marked.

I LOVED this paragraph! Let's talk about real things that matter and learn the stories of others:
"We've created a culture of people who really think you're dying to know which Muppet the online Buzzfeed

survey says they are or how they really feel about religion and politics and parenthood. Dying to know. This is the situation and the climate in which we live. Do we really think we're going to change anyone's mind? Do we really think that people come to the Facebook table ready and anxious to read viewpoints contrary to their own. Or do we read "the other side" of the issue and get mad and think of how we will respond and cleverly put down that idea, or worse, the individual personally? Are we trying to show how enlightened we are? Or right? Or educated? Or whatever? How is this an exchange of ideas. What if we all cut each other some slack in this area and got more of the information we crave: How do you live a Christlike life amid morally ambiguous, judgment-call situations? How have you been successful? Do you have any regrets? How do you decide? Why do you feel passionate about this? What is your experience? These are more interesting questions anyway."

Another great quotation where she quotes Brigham Young, "There are some Latter-day Saints who say 'If it is all right with the brethren, it is all right with me.' But that, he says, is not enough. 'We must decide what is virtuous and what is not because we can't ride into the kingdom on someone else's coattails.'"

On being busy:

"Being busy seems to have become a virtue, so much that we brag about it. "Oh, I'd love to sit down and read a book, but I am SO BUSY with the PTA Extravaganza I just don't have a moment to spare!" "Oh, I WISH I could volunteer at the school. I'm launching my new website for underprivileged owls today and I'm so swamped!" And so on. We don't have After School Specials on TV Anymore, but if we did, there wouldn't be any episodes about how to help kids to become busier. This is not something that we consciously aspire to, although it is something that we have unknowingly created. "BUSY" isn't a virtue. It's not in the Young Women Value rainbow of colors, but if it did have to have a color, I imagine it would be black, signifying a black hole of nothingness." (Her whole chapter on busyness is awesome!)

"It doesn't really matter what I do or say because, at the end of the day, my kids' choices are their own and not mine. It is just disconcerting to know that no matter what I teach my kids--the gospel, the scriptures, the good literature, the prayers, the good habits, the example, the music, everything I want my kids to know and internalize--it doesn't matter because they get to make the final decision and most of the little decisions before that. It's on them.

Book #51 of 52 in 2015

Toni says

This author has a hilarious way with words. I laughed. I (almost) cried. She's so real about everything mom-related. Which made me feel like I could really relate to her, and her experiences. Such a fun, light read!

Joshua says

I loved this book. Funny, charming, lovely and full of great advice. Lisa has great, realistic parenting advice and witty stories from her own life. She's not painting a picture of how awesome she is; she is real and honest and upfront about what parenting is really like. And the last chapter made me sob ugly tears. Buy this for all the mom's in your life for Mother's day.

Shauna says

If you have seen Lisa in Pretty Darn Funny you know that she is DYNAMIC!

Now Lisa shares with us her take on REAL MOMS.

I LOVE how she states in the Introduction:

"Every mom should write a book on motherhood, and every mom could. We all have those special moments when the ridiculous happens and we look around wondering, why aren't there cameras recording all of this? We all find ourselves in situations no one could prepare us for--or, if they tried, we wouldn't have believed such things could happen to us."

We as mother's tend to compare our worst weakness to another mother's strength.

Lisa suggests that we "lower the bar so all moms can be awesome."

We need to let go of perfectionism and understand that we do a lot of "improvising" as Lisa so wonderfully writes...

"I didn't have gold shoes, and I didn't have time to go shopping, but I thought I could just spray-paint some heels I owned that I never really wore. I spray-painted them and tried them out for three hours at church where they held up perfectly. I felt pretty good about myself...congratulating myself for my frugality and my foresight for testing them out"...and then the gold started to peel off, in big chunks, leaving big splotches of pink during her very important red-carpet premier--(see picture on cover of book :)

Lisa shares fun stories of her love of improvisation and shows that there are a lot of parallels between that and of being a mother.

Filled with humors "acting stories," and "mom stories" and "side rants" this book is PERFECT for mothers everywhere.

Stop trying to be a perfect mom and rejoice in being a REAL MOM

Let us celebrate the uniqueness!

Let us embrace the differences!

Let us encourage the sharing of triumphs...and tragedies!

The best things we can do... is to do the best that we can do...and laugh along the way!

Read the entire book or just a few chapters.

There are stories in here that you will smile at, relate to, and most of all will want to share.

I LOVE THIS BOOK!

Grab a copy for a MOM that you love, including yourself!

Jennybug says

I am loving this book. I love the little side rants. Sometimes I will call up my sister or daughter and say, "I need to vent". Sometimes life is hard and frustrating and we are not able to change another persons behavior but we can always "vent to someone we love" it really helps.

I liked Pg 48 rant on "Mommy Wars"

Pg 52 "what to say to a pregnant woman"

Pg 53 I loved the whole minivan chapter. I guess it is because I could really relate. I'm actually wish I could have chatted with the author and given her some more material. My minivan and I went through a lot together 14 years of good times and bad. We got the little mini shortly after I had my fourth and realized we didn't want to take two cars to church all the time and we were toying with idea of venturing out on a family outing. Four children under the age of five, ahh good times. I really need to take some time and write down some of the memories. Ok enough of that. (maybe this is why I relate to the side rants.)

Pg 85 I love how she learns to cope with what sometimes feels like a thankless job.

Pg 100 I love this little snippet about Oprah changing her sheets every three days. Although I clearly remember this episode and I am pretty sure she said 2 days. Regardless that was when I quit watching Oprah. I just couldn't relate.

Pg 153 I loves how she talks about the importance of friends and relatives to talk to.

The ending of this book was so tender with her and her son running the half marathon. It just made me cry. I know pretty cheesy. The funny thing was I was getting a pedicure. I kind of wish I would have been at home because then I would have just let it all out and had a good cry. Sometimes it feels good to just get it out.

I just loved this book and wish I could have had it as a resource when I had little babies. This would be a great gift for a young mother.

Kelsi Flint says

I was given this book as a Mother's Day gift, and as a first time mom, I'm so glad I read it. Sometimes as mothers (especially newbies like me) we get caught up in everything we thin we are expected by others to be and to do. I bought her perspective in this book was refreshing. It brought to me clarity and helped me evaluate expectations of others and myself. There were times I felt the organization was a bit random and sometimes it was hard to follow her train of thoughts, but overall it was fun and insightful.

Serity says

Lisa is refreshingly honest and fun to read. I'm a big fan of being "real" as well. She's got some great tips on being a mom too. My favorite was the last chapter, where she talks about the circular nature of mother love and reminds us that our kids make their own choices so it's okay to let go and rely on Christ's atonement.

Side note: Lisa was one of my babysitters when I was a kid, so it was also fun for me to see little insights about her neat parents and how they parented their kids.

Linn says

I wish I knew how to convey how much I loved this book. I wish every mom would read it because it somehow has this incredible balance of what a privilege it is to be a mom, coupled with the idea of stop being so hard on yourself because you are doing great and are just fine however you are choosing to be a mom. I don't even know how to explain it. But I sure loved it a lot. I think knowing the background of this particular mom and following her for a while helped me to love it even more. And the fact that their family is going through such a hard, hard struggle right now (she doesn't share in the book about that) makes me admire her all the more. I definitely plan to read this again soon.
