

Comments from readers and reviewers about the book:

## **When One Door Closes**

### ***Reflections from Women on Life's Turning Points***

Sugati Publications, 2010

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"I found "When One Door Closes" powerful. **I think it should be required reading for all men.** The complexity and depth of the experiences, emotions and wisdom captured in these essays is amazing."

**–Greg Flannery, Editor, Street Vibes**

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**"This book is incredibly inspiring and I have never read anything like it..."**

I see "When One Door Closes" as a platform for women to empower themselves by taking ownership of their voice and their experiences. There are many voices in this book and while I personally have not been in a relationship with a transsexual, gone through a divorce, faced difficult decisions during pregnancy or had to escape from a seriously abusive relationship (although my boyfriend in high school was pretty psycho) I do not feel so disconnected from these women. They make me think about and further appreciate the women in my life.

I think that this would be wonderful book club reading which is why I recommended it to my book club (shout out to the Ladies who Brunch book club!) The reflection points at the end of each chapter are helpful for starting a good discussion.

**–Maggie Bertke**

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### **An inspirational collection of women's stories, May 11, 2010**

What a fabulous collection of stories highlighting the diverse voices and experiences of women. I received this book from a friend in the mail, opened the book and was instantly engaged and inspired. I laughed, I cried, I marveled at the writing talents of the authors and I appreciated the wide range of women's voices and the stories told. I also immediately began thinking, "Who could I give this book to as a gift?" It would make a great book for a book club (I wish I belonged to one!) The editor has even put together a collection of reflection points for each section with questions that would be great catalysts for a discussion. The editor also notes at the end of the book that she is planning a second edition and most impressively, that 35% of the profits are going to non-profit agencies that provide assistance to women. When One Door Closes is supportive of women in so many ways - but it is also a collection of stories of the ways that life shapes who we are and who we become - and as such causes us to think about our own life stories and those experiences that have shaped us - and how to make sense of our own lives and turning points. I loved it and would highly recommend it to both women and men.

**–Deborah, Mt. Vernon, WA**

This wide-ranging collection of stories surveys a broad spectrum of women's experiences, from stories of abuse and divorce to moments of joy and inspiration. While the stories are all of women's life experiences told from their own perspectives, it is well worth reading for men as well.

Overall the book is an emotional rollercoaster that gives great insight into what it means to be a woman both now and in recent history. **Stories like this can tug at our hearts (and they certainly do), but more importantly, they can provide insight into our own lives.** By learning from and identifying with these women's stories we are able to better understand similar experiences we've had, as well as our reactions to them. **This must-read collection of women's stories...**

--Josh, Washington DC

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**I literally could not put the book down. It was that good.**

--Debbie, Ohio

### **Perfect Women's Book Club Book**

The first sentence of each of these essays is a jewel. How can you not be hooked with opening lines such as, "I got the call on a Friday afternoon from a Washington D.C. detective, telling me in a very gentle way that David's body had been found;" "When you get married at 46, you can wear whatever you want;" "Once you've been a mom to six children, there's not a whole lot else;" "I think I have developed feelings for another man;" "A monster is living inside of me;" "She recognized him at once and stilled, mid-sentence, to consider this stranger who exuded a glow of inevitability;" or "By the time news came that Mom had died, she had been dead for years"?

Share with good friends and the women you love!

--Monte Penney (Fireplace) from Amazon.com

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## **A sample of readers' comments about some of the essays in "When One Door Closes"**

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**The Teen Years:** I laughed myself silly. What a great visual this writer offered. I also really appreciated the inner dialog about what the parent wanted to do vs. what course of action they actually chose. Great parenting lesson and a good lesson for everyone to be reminded of.

**Paula:** Absolutely amazing! You are incredible and your story about your mom and your step mom brought me to tears. Thank you for sharing this very personal story with us and for helping others to understand more about mental illness and the power love.

**Misery Optional:** I can tell from the essay that the author is at peace with her faith now and it is a guiding light for her. Great essay about faith transformed and affirmed.

**Black Rock:** Wow. Just WOW! It beautifully covers the incident and the writer's reaction then and now. Also really liked how she tied in her own mother and daughter. So much in so few pages.

**I'm Here:** This writer could make anyone feel the emotions that were swirling through her during these events. I thought how she described the process of someone dying juxtaposed to her internal thoughts was great. What a wonderful understanding of grief and loss.

**A New Challenge:** To the author: This is such a wonderful story of you and your family's commitment to find a better life. It must have been a very difficult journey to leave your family and friends from your home country. Thank you for sharing your story of courage in coming to America.

**Decision Point:** Really well written. It's so rare in life that we can pinpoint a moment that changed us. I love that this writer could and still thinks about it and recognizes the importance of someone else's influence.

**Letter to My Mother:** Great visuals. I just loved how her garden mirrored her life lessons. This writer captured how she had to let go of her mother's views and beliefs (her meticulous garden representing this hyper order view), take time off to find herself (as she let the garden go wild) and then came to understand it's the wildness of the garden itself that is so amazing and so is she.

**Extra Baggage:** So many women will identify with her story as I did in my own life. I saw me in this story. The author did a great job describing how truly difficult it is for women to juggle so many roles as spouse, mother, head of household, student, employee and so much more. More importantly, was the recognition about how important it is not to lose yourself in all of these roles!

**Oops!** It made me laugh. Also an excellent counterpoint to the other stories.

**Biology:** Loved it! Laughed out loud until the end when I felt the emotional pitter patter in my own heart. Sweet story.

**Class Questions:** Unexpected, but a beautiful story of love and acceptance. I'm glad it was included in this book to offer another perspective about love and relationships.

**David and Mom:** Any mother could relate to this story. My heart ached for this mom and for her son.

**Transformation:** A tragic experience turned into a life transformed. What an insightful and loving story about addiction and recovery. This should be required reading for anyone in alcohol treatment or for their loved ones.

## More comments about the book: [When One Door Closes](#)

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If I had to absolutely choose my favorite, I'd go with **Black Rock**. Not so much for the event that was described but for the way the writer spanned the years. Talking about her experience and how she coped, how it affected her in her life as she grew, how she eventually told her mother and her mother's reaction, and finally how it helped her be a better parent to her daughter. The generational messages here were subtle but also wonderfully apparent.

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I really appreciated the intros to each chapter and the questions at the end. The book itself would be great for a women's group...

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The span of a lifetime that it covered was great. I liked the breakdown of developmental events/times in a woman's life and the various shades that can take.

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All of the stories got me to do two things...the first was while reading it I joined in and felt what the writer was expressing or telling. Some I laughed out loud while reading and others had me close to tears. It also got me to think afterwards. Some of these stories I would chew on for days. I cannot wait to read the others in the series!

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## Readers' comments from the [Reflections from Women blog](#) about some of the essays in "[When One Door Closes](#)"

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This was a beautiful story about forgiveness and acceptance. I felt so much emotion that tears started flowing down my cheeks as I read it. I felt like I was right there with you as you came to this realization. Beautiful and inspiring story. It will certainly touch others who were not raised by their mothers or who were adopted.

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So many women will identify with your story as I did in my own life. I saw me in your story. You did a great job describing how truly difficult it is for women to juggle so many roles as spouse, mother, head of household, student, employee and so much more. More importantly, was your recognition about how important it is not to lose yourself in all of these roles!

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Absolutely amazing! You are incredible and your story about your mom and your step mom brought me to tears. I know how painful it can be to see a loved one with mental illness turn into someone who is unresponsive or unable to connect because of their illness. I hope you found peace in knowing that your mom's illness was not indicative of her feelings for you. I have come to that in my own life with family members who have serious mental illness. Thank you for sharing this very personal story with us and for helping others to understand more about mental illness and the power love.

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What a touching and telling story of the relationship this author shared with her mother. It was a fun story to read, with much wit and humor, but more importantly, the author touched on some subjects that women rarely want to talk about.

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This is such a wonderful story of you and your family's commitment to find a better life. It must have been a very difficult journey to leave your family and friends from your home country. Thank you for sharing your story of courage in coming to America.

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I can tell from your essay that you are at peace with your faith now and that it is a guiding light for you.

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What a beautiful story of healing and love! It is truly an inspiration to me.

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Beautiful, beautiful piece. I felt like I was in the room with you.

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This piece was intensely personal for me, but so important. I felt like Kelly's story needed to be shared. Compliments from writers like you is the highest form of praise for me. I am honored to be among such esteemed women. -Alice Coggin Bailey

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I understand that moment very well.  
It was the dividing line that we now refer to as  
"before the diagnosis and after we knew."  
That's when life changed for us.

*"A lifetime unraveling"*

How very true as we stand with our loved ones in their last days.

*See more comments (and excerpts from the authors' works) at:*  
[www.ReflectionsFromWomen.com](http://www.ReflectionsFromWomen.com) and [www.SugatiPublications.com](http://www.SugatiPublications.com)

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