



Blueprints

Barbara Delinsky

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Blueprints, the new novel from bestselling author Barbara Delinsky, is the story of two strong women, Caroline MacAfee, a skilled carpenter, and her daughter Jamie, a talented architect. The day after her 56th birthday, Caroline is told the network wants Jamie to replace her as the host on *Gut It!*, their family-based home construction TV show. The resulting rift couldn't come at a worse time.

For Jamie, life changes overnight when, soon after learning of the host shift, her father and his new wife die in a car accident that orphans their two-year-old son. Accustomed to organization and planning, she is now grappling with a toddler who misses his parents, a fiancé who doesn't want the child, a staggering new attraction, and a work challenge that, if botched, could undermine the future of both MacAfee Homes and *Gut It!*

For Caroline, hosting *Gut It!* is part of her identity. Facing its loss, she feels betrayed by her daughter and old in the eyes of the world. When her ex-husband dies, she is thrust into the role of caregiver to his aging father. And then there's Dean, a long-time friend, whose efforts to seduce her awaken desires that have been dormant for so long that she feels foreign to herself.

Who am I? Both women ask, as the blueprints they've built their lives around suddenly need revising. While loyalties shift, decisions hover, and new relationships tempt, their challenge comes not only in remaking themselves, but in rebuilding their relationship with each other.

Blueprints Details

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From Reader Review Blueprints for online ebook

Laurel-Rain says

As a mother and daughter team, Caroline and Jamie MacAfee are best friends as well, and each of them is impeccable in their roles within the family company, MacAfee Homes. Their reality show, *Gut it!*, is all about renovating and bringing attention to the company's work.

As the host of the show, Caroline has hit her stride. Confident and proud, she enjoys basking in all of it. And Jamie's role as the architect brings her unique talents to the mix.

So when the network producers decide that a major change is in order, all hell is about to break loose. They want 56-year-old Caroline to step down from hosting, replaced by her daughter Jamie. And Jamie is told first, tasked with giving the news to her mother.

But she hesitates. And then too much time has passed, and major drama is unleashed. Compounded by the secrecy, as well as by a few other issues, the fallout has the potential to damage the relationships between mother and daughter, as well as the company.

On the heels of this stunning reveal, the accidental death of Roy MacAfee and his wife Jessica, will change everything. As Jamie's father, and company CEO, these deaths will turn what might have been a mildly disastrous event into total chaos. What will happen to the company now? Will positions of power be toppled? And how will Jamie's new role as guardian of her two-year-old half-brother Tad change not only her work life but her personal life?

Her fiancé, Brad, has been distant and aloof lately, but adding a baby to the mix seems to have brought out his worst qualities. Were those problems there all along?

Just when she needs it most, Jamie discovers an unexpected friend and resource, a single dad raising a three-year-old, and suddenly, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. As if to fill in the void left by the rift with her mother, Jamie quickly falls in love and behaves impulsively for her.

Meanwhile, Caroline, stunned by how being marginalized because of age tears at her confidence, turns to an old friend for romantic comfort.

My favorite parts were the descriptions of the homes as they were renovated and redesigned, a guilty pleasure of mine that felt as good as watching an HGTV special. The mother-daughter issues felt real as well. Competition between them is exacerbated by the reminder that older is not necessarily valued, not even in a family company. A painful awakening.

Themes of family dynamics, competition, power, and severed bonds bring just the right amount of drama to this otherwise feel-good story. Somewhat predictable, but thoroughly engaging, "Blueprints: A Novel" was a captivating read that deserves 4.5 stars.

Kathryn says

Blueprints by Barbara Delinksy was a thoroughly enjoyable read, and as soon as I read the opening pages I was hooked. Both Caroline and Jamie are smart, competent women, each very talented at what they do.

Caroline is thrown by her possible axing of being the host of the home makeover show Gut It. She senses it's because of her age that Claire the snarky director is wanting to replace her with the younger Jamie. This creates tension for Claire, she is very good at what she does, yet it would be her daughter who would replace her. She loves Jamie and they have always been there for each other. Suddenly their relationship is strained and Caroline finds herself at odds with her daughter.

Jamie loves her mother, has been thrown by the sudden responsibility of caring for her step baby brother when he loses both his parents in a fatal car accident. She then finds Brad, the man she is about to marry, isn't keen on having a ready made son in the mix. She meets a local at the park, a Dad with a son just a year older than Tad. He seems to offer support and a whole lot more that Jamie soon appreciates.

Life becomes very busy for both women, it seems like their relationship is strained for ages, although in actual time it is not really that long. Each one finds herself in a new situation, dealing with issues that are so important for them. With the support of the men who love them, each one finds her way through the maze to something new and satisfying.

Love for family, the bond between a mother and daughter, the enjoyment of passionate love with a strong partner, strong women competent at what they do, all combine in this book to make it a downright pleasurable read.

Elvan says

Caroline and Jamie MacAfee are mother and daughter, carpenter and architect and integral members of the cast of a reality fix it show called "Gut It!"

The home renovation series showcases the women of MacAfee Homes and has become popular with the do-it-yourself crowd. When the director decides the program needs a facelift to attract a younger demographic, family allegiances are put to the test.

I love it when an author puts in the research hours needed to add authenticity to her novel. Delinsky writes stories which feel very current and in the case of Blueprints, she brings the home reno business to life. Her knowledge of home construction, contracting and the quirks and challenges of an architect's life feel very honest and real. Not only does she include the currently popular reality programs but she slips in asides about the current erotica novel readers as she explores one of her main themes, love.

There are other themes running throughout the novel such as ageism and loyalty but love in its many forms grounds the book. The secondary characters are so well developed they become essential to exploring this theme. The leading men, Dean and Chip might be too good to be true and push the novel almost into a straight romance genre but there are enough not so great guys and side plots to keep any reader interested.

If you are looking for a book that explores the challenges faced by women at various stages in their working lives along with a feel good read, Blueprints is a winner.

* ARC received from publisher via NetGalley for review*

Amanda says

Listened to the audio book which is probably the only reason I got through this. I have enjoyed some of her other books like 'While my sister sleeps,' but this book was seriously terrible. It was so cheesy and the men were so unrealistic and besides the tragedy that occurs in the beginning of the book nothing else happens. Skip this one. I wish I had.

Amy says

On Caroline MacAfee's 56th birthday, she is told that she is too old to continue hosting the home improvement show, "Gut It!" that she has been a part of for years. Her replacement doesn't want to tell her about the switch. I mean, how do you break it to your own mother that her replacement is...well, her very own daughter? There is, of course, conflict knowing that the job that Caroline loves and knows so well is being taken from her and there is sadness as Jamie finds the relationship she has with her mom is slipping away from her in this new role. When a traumatic death happens in their family, not only do these two realize that they will have to work together to pick up the pieces of their loss, but their entire life has went into a different direction than either of them expect.

Since this book tells the story of Caroline, at the age of 56, and Jamie, in her thirties, it is a book that you could share with your own mother and will appeal to women of all ages. The story of friendship between this mother & daughter duo made for a beautiful read and would be a great beach read escape this summer. The story particularly shines as Jamie learns to find herself and finds love for the unexpected family she has been shouldered with. Caroline's blossoming relationship between her and her longtime pal also builds into a beautiful love story in the golden years of life. I would recommend this book for fans of Kristen Hannah and Diane Chamberlain, two of my favorite authors for a fun escape from the heavier books.

At the heart of it all, this story is all about how the blueprints of our life change over time. We all have plans, but let's face it... they rarely work out the way we expect them to.

Kindra says

I received this book (Blueprints - Advanced Readers' Edition) free via first reads in exchange for an unbiased review I enjoyed the storyline! Mother and daughter work together for the family business and are also best friends. They are both going through their own seasons of life when a double disaster strikes. Who will be the next host of their TV show?! What direction will the family business go?! And when will they each discover true love apart from each other?!

The story was a touching one with some happy endings. I enjoyed reading this book. Although it was 400ish pages, it was a quick read.

Roxanne says

So frustrated by this author. She has really great ideas, but they are ruined by over melodramatic, soap opera-esque bad writing. The grief parts of this book were good, and the concept behind a young career woman who needs to balance a very busy career with having motherhood thrust at her very unexpectedly while dealing with grief was intriguing to me. Unfortunately, this strong woman's problems are all solved by her mom and her man. The fact that these women were "independent, strong women" was shoved down the reader's throat, but their actions, including having their men (unnecessarily) at important business meetings, actually illustrated the opposite. The male characters were caricatures/ stereotypes and so easy to predict. This is the third Delinsky book I've read and they all frustrate me to no end because I want her to use her good ideas and rise above bodice-ripper chick-lit, but alas, I was disappointed yet again. I won this in a Goodreads First-Reads giveaway.

Paula Branch says

This was a Goodreads giveaway. The book is an advance readers' edition. I am assuming that the issues with typos (fiance instead of fiance, shouts instead of shorts, etc.), grammar, and continuity will be resolved before the book is released. This is the first book that I have read by this author.

The marketing description of the book is about a mother and daughter who work on the same television show, "Gut It". On the mother's 56th birthday, the network decides to replace her as host with her daughter. To add to this drama, the father/ex-husband of the two main characters dies in a car accident and his daughter was named as the guardian to his young son.

The characters are likeable and the main theme is fine, but the story just did not work for me. Part of the problem is that the book seems to add one drama after another. I don't think that some of these mini dramas added much to the story and in fact made it more like a soap opera. Some events were not realistic. The dialogue was choppy in parts and cliched in others.

I really wanted to like the book more than I did. I love receiving a book through the Goodreads giveaway. The short description provided in the giveaway sounded interesting.

Gina says

I'm usually a fan of Delinsky's work, but this was a big departure from her usual subject matter and it showed. Instead of her usual family sagas, this book was about a New England family that owned a home construction business and also produced a reality DIY type show on home remodeling. I got the feeling that Delinsky was way out of her league in this one. It felt repetitious and like the author didn't really have a plan for where the book was really going to go. It felt like it wandered a little bit here and then a little bit there. Yes there was her usual family drama but when she wrote about the construction business her writing felt forced. This was by far my least favorite of all of Delinsky's novels. 2 stars.

Connie says

Delinsky never lets me down for a quick, enjoyable get away read. I seem to turn to her for something less heavy though no less entertaining. Once again she delivers.

Characters that are well developed and a storyline that is often heart tugging as well as heart warming. She writes of everyday people who face the trials and tribulations that many of us do, or have. This story was especially thoughtful as it focused on the relationship of Mothers and Daughters, how they develop and how they change. Both of the women in this story were facing life changing events and in the end they were both stronger alone as well as together.

For a light and quick read I recommend.

Kelley says

ARC received courtesy of Goodreads.com giveaway

I must disclose right away that I am a HUGE fan of Barbara Delinsky. I've loved nearly everything of hers that I've ever had the pleasure to read. "Blueprints" is at a whole new level, even for Delinsky.

A novel centered around a family-owned construction business with a television remodeling show to boot. This book delves into what it really means to be a woman "of a certain age". Her daughter struggles with her own engagement when all hell breaks loose when her father and his wife are killed in an accident.

This novel needs to be a movie! I can tell you that I was able to "watch" while read! This would also make a great book for book clubs to read this winter.

Barbara Delinsky tops all of her other novels with this one!

sue says

I have always loved **Barbara Delinsky's** novels from years ago up to this very date and this book was good. I can't say its the 'best ever' book I have read by her, it was OK and enjoyable.

It seems the TV show is hosted by a family, its called Gut It. Its a '**MAKE OVER**' show. But of course like any family we have all ages from young to old and because of ratings, and new younger people watching its thought to attract even more younger viewing they should have younger people doing the show.

Claire is excellent in what she does but fears the producer wants to axe her and bring in the "newer Model" Jamie.

Of course this causes tension.

Jamie is her daughter!

Well like any family all doesn't go to well at times, family loyalty, moving ahead, family trust, business. Which would you choose?

Its a very well thought up to date book from this author and pretty well will bring in newer readers I would think.

I didn't rave about this book, but it was a pleasant read.

**Thank you to St. Martin's Press via Net Galley for this read for review copy **

Pamela Barrett says

What caught my attention about Blueprints was the premise of the story: a mother and daughter who are stars of a home improvement TV show named Gut It. Okay, I admit I'm a HGTV, DIY, This Old House fan, and I think there are more of us out there that would find this story interesting too just from that angle, but there is more to it as I found out. The mother, Caroline is a master carpenter and the host of Gut It, her daughter Jamie is a talented architect whom the network wants to have host the show full time, and they let her know they want a more youthful face to represent the program. As much as Jamie wants this for her future, she doesn't feel ready, and doesn't want to hurt her mom. Caroline is not old, still attractive and has a huge fan base, but the implication that she's beyond her prime is devastating, and because Jamie knows about it, but didn't talk to her sets up a division between them. They have always been a team in the families' construction business, which is the backbone of the show, and Jamie's grandfather and father run the business. Jamie's parents have been divorced for ages, and her dad has a new wife and baby son. As Caroline, who never remarried, and Jamie try to repair their relationship a tragedy happens and their lives are change forever. Just like a house being remodeled, it's never about surface changes, there is always something hidden that you uncover that needs attention before the house can be rebuilt; and this is what happens to this family.

I liked this book, the characters were very real, and the author is a skillful storyteller. One warning, there is some sexual content in the middle of the book. I personally found the one thing I would have liked to have changed was the ending: it felt rushed and even though it had an epilogue to tie up loose ends it could have been another chapter longer. 4 stars.

Mom2nine says

I have read numerous Delinsky books, but this one was not one of my favorites, too many feelings and not enough story. The mother in the story is accomplished and attractive, but she has not been "with" a man for over a decade as her philandering ex-husband made her believe that she was not young or attractive. From there are discussions about the value of sex, okay, but must we read continually about how she knew that he wanted her, or the physical details of how her body responds? Of course the men are all super hot, with great bodies, book strayed too far into bodice ripper for my tastes and lacked the characterization that is usually in Delinsky's stories. The daughter spends a day with a two yr. old and states that she now has so much respect

for stay-at-home moms. Is she being patronizing? as she quickly finds an all day nanny, who handles her day so easily. Glimmers of possibility as both the daughter and the mother learn to live the life that they have chosen, just not on the level that I would expect from this author. Book received from goodreads contest, thank you.

Maggie says

Loved this mother and daughter tale. I became totally engrossed in Caroline and Jamie's lives and didn't want it to end.
