



Mom, the Wolf Man, and Me

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An eleven-year-old girl describes her life and relationship with her mother who has never married.

Mom, the Wolf Man, and Me Details

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Author : Norma Klein

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From Reader Review Mom, the Wolf Man, and Me for online ebook

Mary says

After all of these years, I still really like this book. It was weird how it seemed so familiar even though I haven't read it in probably 30+ years. Strangely, though, the parts when Brett is talking about "the Wolf Man" spending the night with her mom and talking to her mom about "sexual intercourse" was not familiar which makes me think I blocked that out of my mind as a tween! It was interesting to see the different issues that were brought up in a kids' book written in the early '70's: single parent families, divorce, spousal abuse, war protests, attempted suicide... Anyway, after all this time, I still think Brett's mom and the Wolf Man were a cool couple (and steak tartar is still gross).

Sharon says

Young adult fiction. Fast read. Cute story. Note to self: bring lots of books when visiting Bella Coola OR make sure to visit their Red Bookshelf!!

Susann says

Growing up, Klein's teen novels were a little too much for me, but sensible, going-on-12 Brett always felt like a friend. Her mom and Theo are a great Free to Be...You and Me couple.

Klein isn't preachy but she matter-of-factly shows girls the dangers of aspiring to be like Evelyn's mother.

With this reading, I wondered how all the kids in the story would turn out, and I thought a lot more about Brett's mom situation, back when she was single and pregnant circa 1960.

Love that the wolfhound is named Norma, and most interesting of all (seriously - I stayed awake thinking about it) is Klein's choice to end the story with Wally.

Shannon Knight says

Revisited this favorite from my childhood and it's still as wonderful as ever. Norma Klein's characters have always been beautifully relatable to me.

Melissa says

I honestly can't remember if I liked this book or not. I read it as a kid but I've never re-read it. I probably thought it was okay.

Ariel says

Well, as many of you know, I was all excited to find this old favorite of mine in the Friends of the Library book sale last month. It's about the daughter of a zany, unconventional single mother who eventually remarries without losing her zany, unconventional ways. I remembered it as wonderful and groundbreaking. It now seems a bit dated and optimistically "Free to Be You and Me," especially the fact that the main character is altogether unmoved by the fact that she has no father and totally tolerant of her mother's unconventional sleeping, eating and dressing habits. All the kids I know want their moms to be cartoon moms. (My own daughter would probably be ecstatic to come home and find me vacuuming in pearls like June Cleaver.) And they REALLY want dads. The narrator does have a best friend who is also in a single mother household but who does long for her father and is a neurotic mess; this character almost seems designed to make ordinary girls who want dads feel bad about themselves. The narrator is also pretty childish and clueless about sex for an 11-year-old these days; the mom's new boyfriend sleeps over and she doesn't realize they've had sex until her friend, the neurotic mess, says that's what happened. . Then she asks her mother, "Did you have sexual intercourse?" And the mother says "Yes." (!!) Let's leave aside the fact that the mother answers her child flatly, as if it's the child's business whether or not she's having sex. Because that was the '70s. But even in the 1970s an 11-year-old would know what it meant if an adult man slept in her mother's bedroom. And can you imagine any 11-year-old girl asking that question with a straight face? Most of them are so disgusted by sex, they're 2 steps from a nunnery. Then I didn't understand why the free-spirited mother would get married right away once she found a guy. You'd think they'd live together for a while or something. But maybe she wasn't so free spirited after all.

HeavyReader says

This is a book that I read many, many years ago when I was a young adult. Now I am an old adult and I don't remember it very clearly, just that I enjoyed it and may have read it more than once.

Kara says

Great story of pre teen divorce angst by Norma Klein. Likable, precocious protagonist

Spider the Doof Warrior says

I finished this ages ago. It took only 10 seconds. It's an interesting insight into the 70s. We don't even blink when it comes to single mothers.

Rebecca McNutt says

This book is definitely a relic of a bygone era with a 1970's style, but the story is generally a timeless one

about one girl's rather peculiar albeit common idea of family.

elissa says

This is a Norma Klein book that I don't own, but that I remember reading very clearly. Focuses on the relationship between a girl and her divorced mom.

Leslie says

This book tells the story of Brett, an eleven-year-old girl with a feisty unwed-and-single-by-choice mother who's brought her up on all varieties of granola liberal hogwash. The Wolf Man is her mother's new beau. He has a wolfhound, a pock-marked face and a great red beard. A pleasurable aspect of this book was that I kept imagining characters from the Mary Tyler Moore show while reading, probably because it was written in 1972 and takes place in various shag-rugged apartments. I imagined Brett's mother as a raunchier Rhoda, the misguided mantrap of a neighbor as Phyllis, Brett as Bess, etc. I even imagined the Grandfather as a smarter Ted Baxter!

This book is a fine exploration of marriage in the seventies and it's all the more interesting from a preteen's vantage point. Klein is able to really get into the preteen spirit; Brett's thoughts and observations of the "grown-up world" seem absolutely spot on. I will say (SPOILER ALERT) that it bummed me out when the mother sold out and married the Wolf Man in the end. I would've preferred a non-connubial set-up with lots of macrame and sacred crystals instead.

Norma Klein is every bit as PG-13 as Judy Blume, but a lot more forgotten. I loved her novels Sunshine and Breaking Up as a tween and I want to read more of her whenever I next feel the urge for a feel-good scandal of yesteryear.

Danielle says

Even Norma Klein's books for middle grade readers have depth and honesty. I would have loved this story when I was 10, 11, 12, and I appreciate it now as an adult as well. Even beyond its fun and frank protagonist, it's fun to read about NYC in 1972.

20/60 tbr box.

Vanessa says

I remember buying this book from the Scholastic catalog (remember those?) thinking it was about a werewolf. I was maybe 9 years old at the time so cut me some slack on this. When I got over being put out that it wasn't about lycanthropy in any way, I loved it. The idea of a girl with an unwed mother and a boyfriend that slept over was so shocking, exotic and cool to me that Brett was my idol-and I felt for her having to share her Mom all of a sudden with this new hirsute boyfriend even as I delighted in the

aforementioned shocking exotic coolness. Were all of Klein's books so provocative for the YA crowd? Must investigate....

Theresa says

I read this when I was a kid, and was thinking that my daughter might like it. I wanted to read it again because I remembered that it was kind of clandestine and controversial when I was a kid. Well, things have certainly changed, nothing in this book would surprise my 9 year old. BUT...I was so deeply sucked in by Norma Klein's writing, once again. I read everything she ever wrote when I was younger and all I can say is that she died waaaaaaay too soon, she was a tremendously gifted writer and wrote, at the time, books that kids wanted to read and could relate to; she didn't talk down to kids, she respected them and realized that they were able to handle more than most people gave them credit for. If you have never read anything by her, do yourself a favor and pick up one of her books...this one or "It OK IF YOu Don't Love Me" or "You Just Don't Understand Me" or "Tomboy" or any of her books.
