

Stepmonster

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Stepmonster

A New Look
at Why Real Stepmothers
Think, Feel, and Act
the Way We Do

WEDNESDAY MARTIN, PH.D.

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A groundbreaking and truly stepmother-centered way of understanding the tensions that seem to define relations between women and their stepchildren Half of all women in the United States will live with or marry a man with children. And what woman with stepchildren has not--in order to defuse the often overwhelming challenges of the role--referred to herself as a "stepmonster"? As Hope Edelman does in her book for motherless daughters, Wednesday Martin's empowering and original "Stepmonster" unlocks the emotional mysteries of why stepmothers think and feel and act the way they do. Martin draws upon her own experience as a stepmother, interviews with other stepmothers and stepchildren, and fascinating insights from literature, anthropology, psychology, and evolutionary biology to reveal the little-understood realities of this most demanding role. "Stepmonster" illuminates the harrowing process of becoming a stepmother, considers the myths and realities of being married to a man with children, counteracts the cultural notion that stepmothers are solely responsible for the challenges they encounter, identifies the "Five Step-Dilemmas That Create Conflict," and considers the emotional and social challenges men with children face when they remarry. Finally, in an unexpected twist, Martin shows why the myth of the Wicked Stepmother is our single best tool for understanding who real stepmothers are and how they feel.

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informative regarding step mothers' experiences and lives..

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