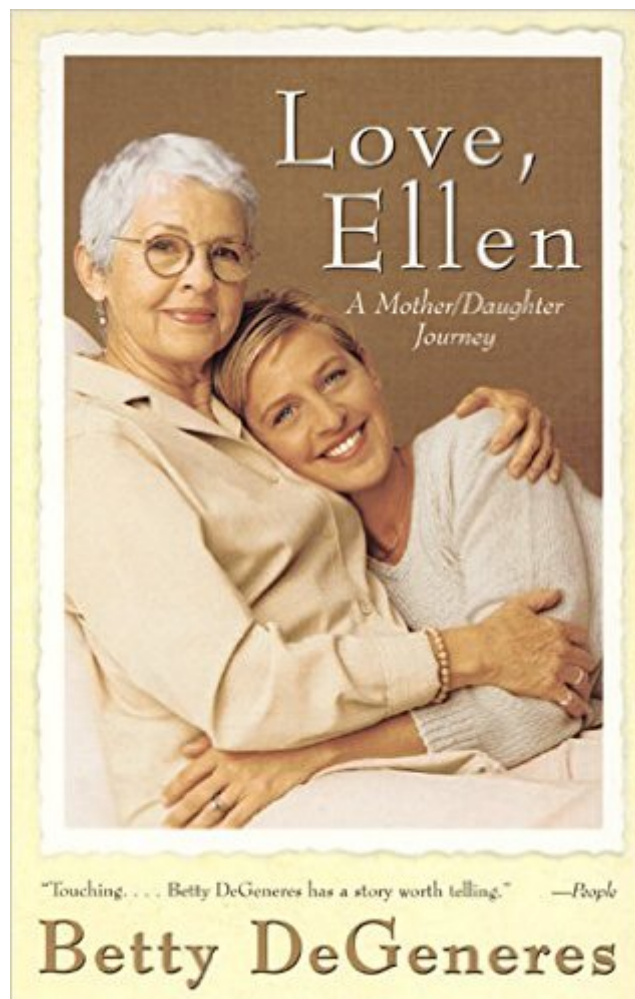




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Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey



Synopsis

"Mom, I'm gay." With three little words, gay sons and daughters can change their parents' lives forever. Twenty years ago, during a walk on a Mississippi beach, Ellen DeGeneres spoke those simple, powerful words to her mother. That emotional moment eventually brought mother and daughter closer than ever, but it was not without a struggle. In *Love, Ellen*, Betty DeGeneres tells her story: the complicated path to acceptance and the deepening of her friendship with her daughter, the media's scrutiny of their family life, and the painful and often inspiring stories she's heard on the road as the first nongay spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project. Insightful, universally touching, and uncommonly wise, *Love, Ellen* is a story of friendship between mother and daughter and a lesson in understanding for all parents and their children.

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Customer Reviews

More than 20 years have passed since Ellen DeGeneres came out to her mother on a beach in Mississippi. Stunned, Betty DeGeneres could only think of her own disappointed expectations. As she put her arms around her daughter, she was struck by the realization that she would never see Ellen's picture on the engagements page of the Times-Picayune, her local paper. That Ellen would eventually appear on the front page of the Picayune and countless newspapers and magazines around the world is an irony not lost on her mother: "If I had known she was going to grow up to be Ellen DeGeneres," Betty quips, "I would have taken more pictures." Now the spokesperson for the

Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project, Betty DeGeneres travels the country explaining how she came to terms with her daughter's sexuality, and how love and acceptance can transform a family. Love, Ellen is an extension of her warm and much-admired public speaking, providing insight into her own life as well as Ellen's and arguing for further education, compassion, and the passage of antidiscrimination laws. --Regina Marler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

DeGeneres spent most of her life as a hard-working, middle-class woman consumed with her marriages, raising her kids and making a living. That changed in 1997 when her actress/comedian daughter, Ellen DeGeneres, "came out" as a lesbian, both personally and as "Ellen Morgan," her character on the nationally televised sitcom Ellen. The first TV show to feature a major gay character, it precipitated extreme scrutiny of its star's life, prompting Betty to make a series of television appearances in support of her daughter. In this autobiography, DeGeneres details her own life, Ellen's childhood and how she came to terms with her daughter's lesbianism. She writes clearly and honestly about her innocence as a young adult, the problems of her second and third marriages, her breast cancer and her eventual ability to accept herself as "her own person." The only "shocking" revelation is that, allegedly, her third husband made advances on her daughter when Ellen was 17. The elder DeGeneres is now a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights lobbying group, and continues today as an "everymom" helping parents understand and accept their gay children. Little here is particularly unique or interesting, which is, in part, DeGeneres's point: her family and her daughter are average Americans, and homosexuality is a normal variation of sexual identity and activity. While DeGeneres's intentions are good and she's clearly motivated by her love for her daughter, her book is far too long and uninvolved. The most important parts of her message probably would have been better conveyed in a 45-minute speech. Eight-page photo insert not seen by PW. Major ad/promo; 10-city author tour; 22 city satellite tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Betty DeGeneres is candid about having to adjust to her daughter's coming out as gay, in this easy-to-read, revealing memoir. Once she gets used to the idea, it would be an understatement to say that she became one of the most supportive moms ever. Her activism in LGBT rights is now well-known, but this book takes you back to a time when it was not easy for her to openly discuss the subject, much less accept that her own child was gay. Betty's unconditional love and support for

her daughter, as well as her efforts in educating others who are going through this issue are an inspiration.

As the mother of a gay son I was drawn to this book. Ellen is a beautiful and tremendously gifted and generous person. I wanted to learn more about how other parents feel and develop their relationship when they learn this about their children. Surprise they do not feel any different! Like all parents she only wished for Ellen to find and share love in her life. Despite setbacks in her own life she strives to continue to be loving and open with others. Thank you Betty for sharing.

I enjoyed the honesty and love that poured out of this book. I have had gay friends since college and have seen some of their struggles. I have also known them as loving and caring people, fun to joke with and committed to their partners. The book seemed a little too long for me anyway, so I gave it the rating I did. But I think anyone with gay family members or gay friends needs to read this book, among others, to fully understand the struggles that go on.

Very well written. Honest, humorous, poignant, thought provoking. This book is the full meal deal. As the step mom to a gay daughter I really appreciate your work. People need to understand they are still the same son/daughter/friend you have loved, just people's perception of them has changed. Your journey with Ellen is heart warming. (She is the greatest!!!) Highly recommend this book to everyone.

This book should be read by people who do not understand homosexuality. Yes, when I was in Catholic elementary school, I was afraid of homosexuals that's what I was thought. Nevertheless, when I grew up and went to college I changed my mind. After all, I realized that we are all creatures of God. Most important at all is the fact that homosexuals are not made, they are born that way.

I will soon be 80 years of age, so I can definitely relate to the changes that have transpired regarding homo sexuality. I admit I still have some prejudices but completely embrace and love my gay grandson.

We've watched Ellen for so long, heard her story till we think we know all about her. Read this tenderly told story from her Mom. Both strong women, they bring their hearts out in public for explaining some things we wonder about. Brave!

An excellent book by Ellen's Mom describing the beautiful love that exists between a Mother and her two children. Betty is a human being to emulate as she is an example of us all how to be a true Christian in every sense of the word. She has, I have no doubt, influenced hundreds, if not thousands, of people as she has proceeded to advocate for the entire LGBT community. Her work with the Human Rights Campaign has been nothing short of heroic. The mere fact that she has helped so many youngsters (and their families) be able to accept them as they are is nothing short of doing God's work. I applaud her as a Mother and for wrestling against her own personal demons and coming out on top in the end!!

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