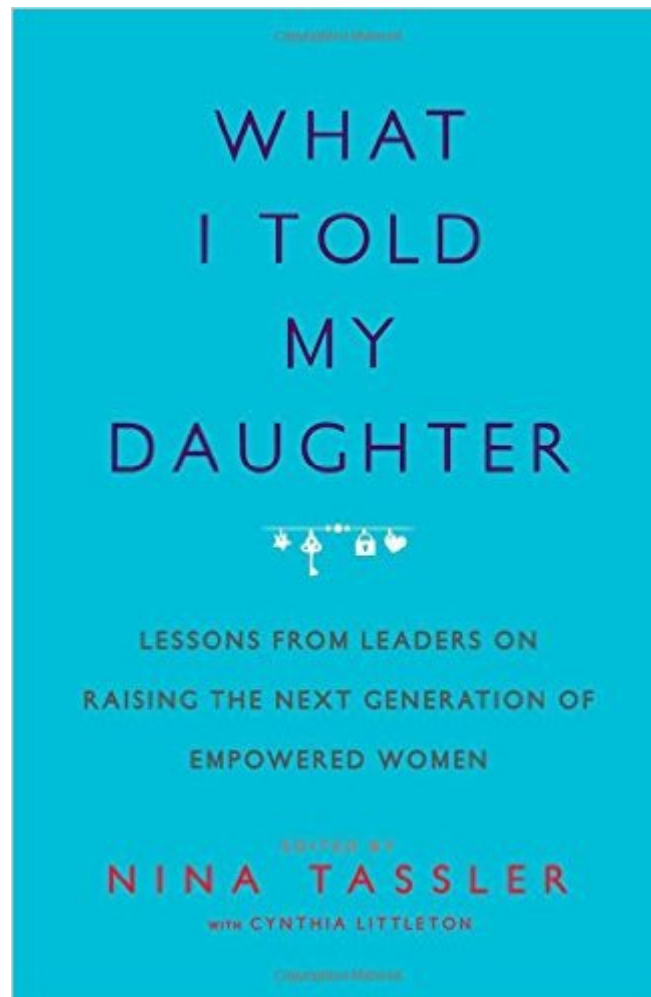


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# What I Told My Daughter: Lessons From Leaders On Raising The Next Generation Of Empowered Women



## Synopsis

In *What I Told My Daughter*, entertainment executive Nina Tassler has brought together a powerful, diverse group of women—from Madeleine Albright to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, from Dr. Susan Love to Whoopi Goldberg—to reflect on the best advice and counsel they have given their daughters either by example, throughout their lives, or in character-building, teachable moments between parent and child. A college president teaches her daughter, by example, the importance of being a leader who connects with everyone—from the ground up, literally—in an organization. A popular entertainer and former child star urges her daughter to walk in her own truth, to not break glass ceilings if she yearns to nurture a family as a stay-at-home mother or to abandon a career if that’s her calling. One of the country’s only female police chiefs teaches her daughter the meaning of courage, how to respond to danger but more importantly how not to let fear stop her from experiencing all that life has to offer. A bestselling writer who has deliberated for years on empowering girls, wonders if we’re unintentionally leading them to believe they can never make mistakes, when resilience is more important than perfection.

• Contributors include: Geena Davis, Cecile Richards, Dolores Huerta, Rabbi Sharon Brous, Peggy Orenstein, Debora Black, Ayelet Waldman, Pat Benatar, Whoopi Goldberg, Dr. Susan Love, Nancy Pelosi, Alexandra Pelosi, Marie Osmond, Dr. Juliet Garcia, Jehan Sadat, Ph.D, Joanna Kerns, Madeleine Albright, Gloria Estefan, Nannerl O. Keohane, Jennifer Dulski, Dr. Marcia McNutt, Pamela Fryman, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Brooke Shields, Laura Bush, Mona Sinha, Gloria Allred, Joy Marcus, Judy Vredenburg, Sharon Osbourne, Beverly Johnson, Michelle King, Dr. Karen Antman, MD, Dr. Amy Antman Gelfand, MD, Mary Steenburgen, Kimberley Hatchett, Cheryl Saban, C. Noel Bairey Merz, Alex Guarneschelli, Dana Walden, Mia Hamm, Margaret Abe-Koga, Roma Downey, Chirlane McCray, Blythe Danner, Sheila Bair, Ruth W. Messinger, Norah O’Donnell, Donna de Varona, Nancy Josephson, Sukhinder Singh Cassidy, Jeanne Newman, and Christine Baranski. In a time when childhood seems at once more fraught and more precious than ever, *What I Told My Daughter* is a book no one concerned with connecting with a young girl can afford to miss.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What I Told My Daughter by Nina Tassler is a collection of essays written from empowered and wise women from around the world. These stories include lessons in leadership, bravery, confidence, creativity, and the importance of family. I savored this book. It was inspiring to me to read so many different stories from successful women who all define success differently. The advice on work/life balance and teaching our daughters to understand why mothers make a difference inside and outside the home was well stated. My other favorite theme was about encouraging your children to grow into their personalities and not away from them. Some of the essays read a bit like resumes versus stories, but the majority are letters from mothers to daughters using their professional and personal accomplishments to inspire and guide the next generation. I will be buying this book for many of the women in my "village". This book would be so valuable for those women that struggle sometimes with whether they are telling their daughters the right things and also for the women that are encouraging the creativity and intelligence and compassion in their daughters every day. This is a book that you pull out and read when you need a reminder that you are your daughter's compass in this crazy world. It also helps you give yourself a pat on the back that you, like these amazing women, have a leader and/or artist and/or entrepreneur right in front of you and you are doing your part in helping them grow into their own champions! I was asked by many when reading this if it was a book on Feminism. This book does talk a fair amount about the individual contributor's experiences with it out in the world.

When you have only sons to raise, I feel the pressure is on for the mother to make sure that her child grows up to understand the importance of the women in their lives. Each of us must own the responsibility to allow everyone the right to be what he or she chose and has fair and equal pay for that job. We are all committed from the moment we first hold our baby that the bond between us is something no time or distance can take away. Mothers are an inspiration and I am sure a total

source of irritation to our children but we are always part of their lives and proving that every day with action and example is what helps create the future. Women must show how strong we are and empower our children to blaze trails that may have held us back by reflecting on the history of those that walked the path before us making it possible to take on challenges no one ever expected them to go forth. Doing it all does not mean you have to literally experience everything; it simply defines itself as taking on what you like and perhaps find others you can walk away from with minimal regrets. While we cannot and should not protect our children from everything there is no parent that will not try and that is as it will always be. Learning to navigate friendships, form new relationships, and begin a life on their own scares the parent more than the child but sometimes you row the boat, sometimes you just navigate. What is important from every angle is knowing it is our unique obligation to help our child get through the difficult times and help them understand that life is not always fair but it is always an adventure.

Even though I have no daughter, I found the women and the subject matter in this book to be highly relatable. It was nice to see that the women who wrote the essays were from different religious, political, and economic backgrounds. Some of the women came from privilege and some from poverty. They have different racial, religious, ethnic backgrounds, and work histories. This book presented a well-utilized opportunity to read about the common core of beliefs that all successful women share instead of the differences. Yet even though the differences among them in their lives were many, the common denominator was comprised of certain truths. The first truth is that equality doesn't happen overnight. Each generation advances towards it. Be persistent, but patient. The second truth is that to succeed, women must tap into the sisterhood. It's the best resource that you have. Stand by your sisters and help them whenever you can. Giving strength to one woman helps all women advance. The third truth is that even more important than training daughters to be feminists, it is equally important to train sons to be feminists as well. All of the women in this book had male figures in their lives that provided an environment that fostered self-confidence and personal growth. The fourth truth is that failure is not an end; it's the beginning of growth. We don't have to be perfect. The only ones who make us feel as if we must be perfect at all times are those who are not feminists. Learn from mistakes, take personal responsibility for mistakes, don't repeat them, and consider them to be a gift. As the book notes, it's important to destigmatize the word "feminist" and instead imbue it with the positive connotations of strength, stability, and wisdom for a better society.

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