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Mother Of Ten (Whisper My Secret Book 2)



Synopsis

What happens to children who are robbed of family? Myrtle's first three children grew up without any knowledge of their mother after Myrtle was forced to give them up when they were still toddlers. Not only were the children deprived of contact with their mother, they also grew up devoid of any knowledge of each other after being placed in separate facilities. In this sequel to *Whisper My Secret*, JB Rowley explores what happened to the three half-siblings she never knew. As one of the children of Myrtle's second family, JB also offers a personal view of a mother making a new life without her first family. Although the devastating loss of her first three children remained with her, Myrtle became a caring and committed mother of seven more children living in near isolation in the Australian bush. This mother's strength of character is matched in her first three children who survived and thrived despite being cheated of the nurturing that should have been their birthright. Their stories are sad, sometimes heartbreaking but ultimately courageous and inspiring.

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Customer Reviews

Immediately after finishing *WHISPER MY SECRET*, I bought the sequel *MOTHER OF TEN*. I

wanted to know more about Myrtle, an Australian woman and her family, especially what happened to her first three children, the ones who were taken from her custody by her uncaring ex-husband and his controlling and meanspirited mother and placed in government childcare facilities. We also learn about the lives of the members of her second family whom June, the narrator, discovered and sought out after her mother's death. . The book was an honest look of the life of a hardworking caring family of little means in Australia starting in the 1940s. We hear about the respectful actions of caring members of the community when her father becomes ill allowing the family to maintain its dignity. One of the funniest sections is when June's grandmother, Nan, teaches her how to make scones. "Making scones is a skill not many people learn. I'll teach you how to do it. First you need a good recipe. Get me that recipe book in the top drawer." With June reading the directions, Nan makes the scones, ignoring almost everything the book says. The two youngest ones grew up in orphanages and received no visitors or love. They had been separated from each other and for a very long time did not know they had siblings. All three had also been told lies about their mother so that they would think she was a terrible woman who abandoned them freely. The story of children raised in that situation is explored honestly. Speaking about sharing family stories, histories, and pictures, Rowley writes "Institutional children are deprived of these precious pieces of the childhood jigsaw that most of us assume as our right.

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