



The Power of Beauty

Nancy Friday

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"You've got to love Nancy Friday. She successfully explored mother-daughter envy in *My Mother/My Self* [and] female sexual fantasy in *My Secret Garden*" (*People* magazine). Now, in *The Power of Beauty*, she explores a provocative subject: how looks affect our lives, and life affects our looks.

Friday traces the past 25 years of changes in women's attitudes about self-esteem, appearance and sexuality. Using her own life as a springboard, she then takes us through the Patriarchal '50s, Revolutionary '60s, Supersexual '70s, Narcissistic '80s, and Empty Package '90s as she explores the possibility of a future free from the twin obsessions of the power of beauty and the beauty of power and offers sparkling commentary on a dazzling array of subjects. From the runways of Paris to the two-parent nursery, from current movies and watershed media events to the timeless wisdom of some of literature's and psychology's most perceptive thinkers, Friday writes large, creating a canvas as complex and richly colored as her subject.

The Power of Beauty Details

Date : Published May 1st 1997 by HarperCollins 1996 Second Printing (first published 1996)

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Author : Nancy Friday

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From Reader Review The Power of Beauty for online ebook

K.E. Page says

It was a struggle to finish this. Friday has a whiney tone throughout - her mother didn't think her beautiful, her father abandoned her, she was an awkward adolescent and so on. This informs her theory of beauty and of feminism. She largely lets men off the hook, blaming other women instead. She also sees all women as being like her - affluent, white, straight, American - which is obviously not the case. Full of personal observations which she extrapolates from as if they were scientific. Very annoying.

Allison says

I just couldn't bring myself to finish this. I was looking for something more science-y, I guess, rather than Friday's personal observations... And I got tired of hearing about her mother.

Ashley Baskin says

I love this book and the way it helped me understand certain relationships in my life. There were points where I threw this book across the room because of what it brought to light. It also helped me understand, therefore move forward. It also talks about a positive way that women can use their beauty. Great read especially for young women.

Mariam Kayali says

So disappointed. I thought this would be full of intelligent, well supported arguments about beauty and shifts in gender relations, but was met instead with a book of Friday's personal reflections and so much anecdotal evidence I couldn't finish.

Niall519 says

While I quibble with Nancy Friday's conclusions and assumptions sometimes, I love her writing and exploration of themes in other people's experiences. This one contains a lot of autobiographical reflection as well. An author with a big, sexy brain.

Gato says

Nancy writes about "the ambivalence of mother love, jealousy and envy". All good stuff. Recommended.

Alan Kelly says

I found the stories very clearly written, and intriguing the extensive writing regarding relationship between and among any three women. It's been almost 20 years since I read this.

Mike says

Nancy Friday explores the statistics and mostly anecdotal evidence of how male-female relationships have changed since the Feminist Agenda. It is well thought out, but like her other books relies too much on people's testimonies rather than

Peter Tillman says

Probably not for me. Free copy from Palo Alto library.

Skimmed & abandoned. In the recycle pile.

Charity Coffman says

Here is a proper look at competition between women and envy amongst friends. This is a really taboo and confronting topic to discuss amongst friends.
