


RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS

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Just Like Mum Says  
Rosemarie Jarski

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## About the Book

Motherhood is a tough job and a serious business. Which means there's all the more reason to step back and see the funny side of it, and *Just Like Mum Says* is packed with humorous insights and wry observations on all matters maternal.

Tracing the course of mothering through pregnancy, the terrible twos, the teenage years and the empty nest, *Just Like Mum Says* includes wise and witty words from celebrated matriarchs from Marge Simpson to Sharon Osbourne, and Victoria Beckham to Victoria Wood.

In short, *Just Like Mum Says* amuses, delights, enlightens and touches the heart - just like Mum.

## About the Author

Rosemarie Jarski has compiled many humour collections, but given the subject, this one was truly a labour of love. She tested the funniness of each quote by reading it aloud to her dad. If he laughed, she threw it out. If he looked blank - or, better yet, aghast - she included it. So, if any line failed to raise a smile, just do what we all do: blame Dad.

JUST  
Like  
MUM  
Says

*A Book of Mum's Wit*

Rosemarie JarSKI



*To the Best Mum in the World*



This is our mother. Pray for us.  
*Tagline, Mermaids*

## *What is a mother?*

Piles are a Jewish man's affliction. Piles and mothers. What causes them?

*Stephen Fry, The Hippopotamus*

We really have no definition of 'mother' in our law books. 'Mother' was believed to have been so basic that no definition was deemed necessary.

*Marianne O. Battani, US Judge*

Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth.

*Erich Fromm*

A mother is a nutritionist, a child psychologist, an engineer, a production manager, an expert buyer, all in one.

*Margaret Mead*

Women who miscalculate are called 'mother'.

*Abigail Van Buren*

The maternal stereotypes: the martyr, the boardroom zombie and the Chelsea tractor Boudicca, fighting to the death to get her children into the right clarinet class.

*Mary Riddell*

I never had a mother. I suppose a mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled.

*Emily Dickinson*

My son, Kyle, 4, was unsuccessfully trying to open a bottle of children's vitamins. After watching several vain attempts, I explained: 'It's made so only mummies and

daddies can open it.' After tiring of his struggle, Kyle relinquished the bottle. As I easily opened it for him, Kyle stared in amazement and asked in a breathless voice, 'How does it know you're a mommy?'

*Angela Mitchell*

You're not a mother until you've had nits.

*Coleen Nolan, Loose Women*

You know you're a mother when... you make a cup of coffee and drink it cold; you sign a cheque with a crayon; you wipe other kids' noses.

*Anon*

You know you really are a mother when: you use your own saliva to clean your child's face; your child throws up and you catch it.

*Erma Bombeck*

A mother is someone who maintains the impression that she truly prefers the heel of the bread, the crust of the pie, the cookies with burned bottoms, and the chair with the wobbly leg.

*Patrick Regan*

A mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take.

*Cardinal Mermillod*

A mother! What are we really? They all grow up whether we look after them or not.

*Christina Stead*

## *The second oldest profession: Motherhood*

Motherhood - the second oldest profession and the biggest on-the-job training programme.

*Erma Bombeck*

The common fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother, which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.

*Sydney J. Harris*

Fallopian tubes and ovaries do not a mother make.

*Oprah Winfrey*

You can't qualify in the subject, but you're expected to have a vast number of qualifications: chauffeur, diplomat, vet, clown, *Blue Peter* presenter, chef, paramedic, critic, referee, weapons inspector, therapist, computer expert, liar.

*Imogen Stubbs*

Motherhood is the state of coping with an infinite series of demands, most of which are invisible to everyone except the mother.

*Kate Clanchy*

You go to work when you're sick, maybe even clinically depressed, because motherhood is perhaps the only unpaid position where failure to show up can result in arrest.

*Mary Kay Blakely*

Motherhood... It's the willing acceptance that you will never again - for the next twenty years or so at least - enjoy a leisurely meal, pass two consecutive days without doing laundry, or speak uninterrupted on the phone.

*Patrick Regan*

It's the best all round job. No other career would allow you to be plumber, drill sergeant, nurse, chef, umpire, banker, telephonist and international diplomat - all before 9.30am.

*Anonymous mother*

Pregnancy doubled her, birth halved her, and motherhood turned her into Everywoman.

*Erica Jong*

Motherhood is the most emotional experience of one's life. One joins a kind of woman's mafia.

*Janet Suzman*

Most days I feel like an acrobat high above a crowd out of which my own parents, my in-laws, potential employers, phantoms of 'other women who do it' and a thousand faceless eyes stare up.

*Anonymous mother*

It's a dead-end job. You've no sooner learned the skills than you are redundant.

*Claire Rayner*

Motherhood - an incident, an occupation, or a career, according to the mettle of the women.

*Mary C. Beasley*

## *Maybe baby: Family planning*

Having a child is surely the most beautiful irrational act that two people in love can commit.

*Bill Cosby*

You wake up one day and say, 'You know what, I don't think I ever need to sleep or have sex again.' Congratulations, you're ready to have children.

*Ray Romano*

My mother wants grandchildren, so I said, 'Mom, go for it!'

*Sue Murphy*

I can't decide if I want a baby. My friends are like, 'Oh you learn all this great stuff, like how to survive on two hours' sleep.' If I want to learn that I'll just become a political prisoner.

*Cathryn Michon*

I met this guy who said he loved children, then I found out he was on parole for it.

*Monica Piper*

—Dorothy, what's so great about having children anyway?  
—I just want them. It's like you and pints of lager.

*Gary and Dorothy, Men Behaving Badly*

I want to have children and I know time is running out. I want to have them while my parents are still young enough to take care of them.

*Rita Rudner*

I'll be a real good mother. I've been called one.

*Wendy Liebman*

I was asking my friend who has children, 'What if I have a baby and I dedicate my life to it and it grows up to hate me, and it blames everything wrong with its life on me.' And she said, 'What do you mean, if?'

*Rita Rudner*

My wife and I don't have any kids. We don't want any kids. We're happy the way we are. If we have a sudden urge to spank someone, we'll spank each other.

*Daniel Liebert*

I can't have children because I have white couches.

*Carrie Snow*

*Parenting may not be for you if ... you consider a Happy Meal to be any meal that includes a dry Martini; you think PTA stands for Pizza Take-Out Association; refrigerator art leaves you cold.*

*Ellen Metter*

Oh, kids ruin everything. I mean look at the stitching on this jacket. You can't trust a ten-year-old to do a good hidden button.

*Karen Walker, Will and Grace*

I'll never have a baby because I'm afraid I'll leave it on top of my car.

*Lizz Winstead*

If your parents never had children, chances are you won't either.

*Dick Cavett*

The greatest advantage of not having children must be that you can go on believing that you are a nice person: once you have children, you realise how wars start.

*Fay Weldon*

The only way my wife and I could afford to have kids is if she breastfed them for 18 years.

*Paul Alexander*

What is a home without children? Paid for!

*Anon*



## *I want that one! Paths to parenthood*

My husband and I have decided to give the advantage of our home to one of your foundlings. Of course, we wouldn't want one that cries.

*Mrs Marcus Gilworth, Blossoms in the Dust*

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, they never stop adopting kids. I think she has a factory in her basement and when the kids get to be 7 they're put in there to make clothes.

*Joan Rivers*

Adopting black babies is the latest thing for celebrities because it's really slimming and it goes with everything.

*Graham Norton*

What I may do is pop over to Rumania or Brazil and bring back something small and disadvantaged. Brazilian babies in particular interest me, as we would be able to keep the kitchen door locked and have them limbo through the cat flap.

*Victoria Wood, spoof interview for Ooh! Hello magazine*

If you have adopted children it is kinder to tell them they are adopted. In fact, someone suggested it would be kinder for me to tell my children they're adopted even though they're not.

*Phyllis Diller*

I asked my mother if I was adopted. She said, 'Not yet, but we placed an ad.'

*Dana Snow*

There was once a kindly she-elephant who accidentally stood upon a hen. The elephant was greatly distressed, especially when she looked down and saw all the little chickens running about, cheeping. 'Poor little motherless creatures!' she exclaimed. 'I will be a mother to them!' And gathering the chickens tenderly underneath her, she sat down upon them.

Dictionary of British Folk Tales

When I got my foster son, he was the cutest little guy I'd ever seen, but there was always that little voice at the back of my mind going, 'Remember, the saxophone was in the closet after a month.'

*Paula Poundstone*

When is the right time to ask someone if you can borrow their uterus? Probably not right after you realise you didn't return their lawn mower.

*Cyndi Stiles*

They're borrowing one tiny little egg and some space.

*Donna Regan, surrogate mother*

—Our surrogacy fee is \$100,000.

—It costs more to have someone born than to have someone killed!

—It takes longer.

*Chaffee Bicknell and Angie Ostrowiski, Baby Mama*

The Vatican came down with a new ruling: no surrogate mothers. Good thing they didn't make this rule before Jesus was born.

*Elayne Boosler*

An anonymous woman is offering \$15,000 for the sperm of a Stanford student. Boy, when I was in college I couldn't