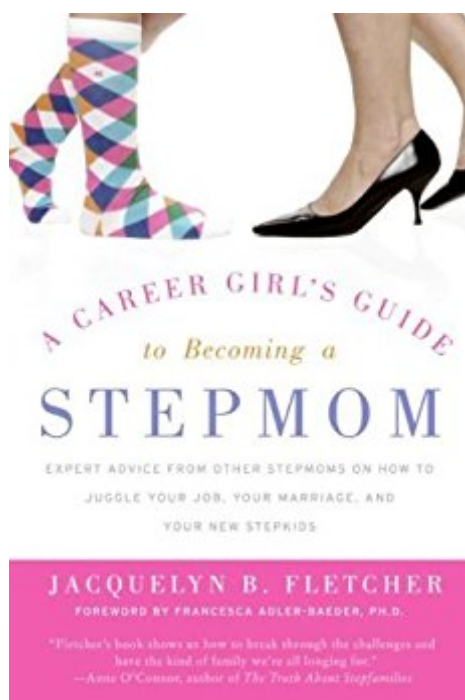


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A Career Girl's Guide To Becoming A Stepmom: Expert Advice From Other Stepmoms On How To Juggle Your Job, Your Marriage, And Your New Stepkids



Synopsis

You have an exciting, fulfilling job. You've fallen in love with the man of your dreams—and met his three kids! Now what? Jacquelyn B. Fletcher shows how any professional woman turned wife and instant stepmother can build on the skills she employs at work—organization, team-building, goal-setting, and planning—to succeed at home in her new role as stepmom. Drawing on the latest research, her own experiences, and those of other real-life stepmothers, Fletcher offers advice, hope, encouragement, and much-needed answers to common conundrums, including: Why don't I have control over my own schedule? What kind of relationship do I want with my stepkids? What if I want to have a baby of my own? How do we create a budget that feels fair if I make more money than my husband does? A Career Girl's Guide to Becoming a Stepmom is essential reading for the professional woman who has it all—and then suddenly has more than she expected.

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Customer Reviews

Really great read and perfect for women coming into a relationship with no children of her own. Most stepmom books seem to focus (at least from what I've read) on generality and many aren't of the perspective specifically if the woman does not have kids of her own. Keep in mind when reading these books that we all have our own experiences so I have to remind myself that just because other examples/scenarios played out a certain way or challenging, that that doesn't indicate that my experience with my step kids will also be 100% that way. Keep your head up, stay positive and if you truly invest in spending time with the kids and getting on their level that you'll build the respect you both want and need.

This past fall I married a man with 2 children from a previous marriage - hence entering the world of stepmotherhood. I never ever thought I'd be here. I had spent the better majority of my life working hard to further my career and continue to find that part of my life both rewarding and very fulfilling. I knew likely I would marry - I had great interest in the companionship and lifelong partnership that would bring. But I have never had quite the same desire to be a mom, let alone a stepmom. Life has a funny way of interjecting an alternate path when you least expect it! Since I met the kids almost 4 years ago, and knowing my relationship with their father was going to be serious, I started searching for support help and doing a lot of reading. But so much out there just never felt like it fit me...negativity, horror stories, or just basic differences - like me not bringing any kids into the equation on my side. I felt like the odd man out, and often felt more alien to stepmotherhood (or the possibility of it) than before I started reading. It is an ongoing "battle" for me. There are some days where I feel very confident in my role as stepmom. There are other days (many more than I would like to admit) where I feel out of sorts and paralyzed almost by the two kids running through my house. But with this book my feelings were very different. I found myself affirming some of the lines with noticeable head nods and even outloud comments like "I'm not the only one" and "I knew it wasn't just me." It was great. It was like finding a positive, comforting and empathetic friend who spoke with candor and honesty but also with heart and passion for making stepmotherhood more welcoming, more understood, and most importantly, more valued than it often is. So many stepmoms, especially those who bring no children of their own into the relationship, struggle to find their place with the children. And also come to terms with what this change means for them - both with their husband and with their career/independent life. My big struggle continues to be how to balance my professional life - which is probably the best it's ever been right now - with a personal life that to some extent, I never imagined myself a part of. But slowly, each day gets better, a little easier, more comfortable. Thanks largely in part to a very strong, supportive husband. Ms. Fletcher's

book was refreshing, positive, and very helpful. Put it at the top of your list if you are going to be involved as a stepmother, now or in the future. Few take on the topic like Jacque does.

For any woman following a successful professional career path, while at the same time approaching the dauntingly complex web of stepmotherhood, this book provides invaluable advise and direction toward a safe, concrete plan of approach to becoming a stepmother. I found many great points in this book even though this is about the third book on stepmothering I have read, My favorite part is at the end of each chapter, she provides questions for both yourself and your partner to discuss together in regards to the topics covered in each section. This book has helped me to solidify my approach to a situation that previously I found to be expectantly negative in general, in a manner that gives me the confidence I usually only reserve for work. I now look forward to finding my place in my new family. Highly recommended!

I've found this book to be a great introduction to step parenting for someone who doesn't have kids, doesn't plan on having kids, and never planned on them in the first place. Jacquelyn incorporates anecdotal situations from a variety of step parenting families that she's interviewed which covers the spectrum of situations (on good terms with bio-mom, not on good terms with bio-mom, young kids, old kids, etc.) She uses business terminology to introduce concepts of step parenting, but you don't have to be a corporate type to understand or appreciate them. The book also includes lists and examples of things you need to talk to your partner about, and I found them to be helpful conversation starters.

Witty and honest, this book truly helped me navigate becoming a step mom.

Such a fantastic insight for new and soon to be step moms! I am dating a man with 2 little girls and found this book to be extremely helpful even prior to meeting the kids! Really great thoughts and perspectives on life as a step mom and how to start preparing for that big step! I am 26 and so focused on my career and this helped related and mesh the two worlds. There are helpful "to consider" questions at the end of each chapter that my boyfriend and I have started tackling together. We both love that we are able to communicate on topics that are happening now and ones that could come up in the future! Would absolutely recommend this to ANY women (career orientated or not!)

Honestly, very helpful and calming. Being or becoming a step-mom is a very emotional and difficult thing to do. I strongly believe that educating yourself will help heal some of the pain you experience. Fletcher does a great job at giving personal examples that show she understand the challenge, but she has a positive outlook and very practical advice. Truth be told, sometimes it just helps to read that "No, you are not crazy. What you feel right now - that is normal".

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