

"Truth and wisdom do such a delightful dance throughout *Me, My Hair, and I* that you finish the essay collection wondering why we don't spend more time, not less, observing our own tresses . . . A deliciously enlightening read, equal part fun and poignant."

—CHICAGO TRIBUNE



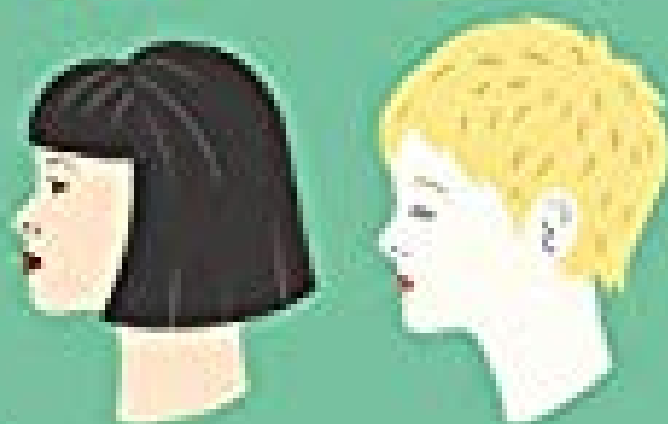
ME, MY HAIR, AND I

*Twenty-seven Women
Untangle an Obsession*



edited by

ELIZABETH
BENEDICT



Editor of the *New York Times*
Nonfiction What My Mother Gave Me

Elizabeth Benedict

Me, My Hair, and I: Twenty-seven Women Untangle an Obsession



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Ask a woman about her locks, and she might just tell you the tale of her existence. Layered into these reminiscences are tributes to influences throughout background: Jackie Kennedy, Lena Horne, Farrah Fawcett, the Grateful Dead, and Botticelli's Venus. Surprising, insightful, regularly funny, and often forthright, the essays in *Me, My Locks, and I* are reflections and revelations about every part of women's lives from family members, race, religious beliefs, and motherhood to tradition, wellness, politics, and sexuality. "A terrific read for those folks who obsess about our hair. The conversation is intimate and global at once. Ask a whole bunch of women about their locks, and you could get a brief history of the globe. The lengthy and the lacking it is that our hair is definitely our glory—and our nemesis, our background, our self-esteem, our joy, our mortality." —Mary Morris, author of *The Jazz Palace* They take place in African American kitchens, at Hindu Bengali weddings, and inside Hasidic Jewish homes. Or those who live with those folks who do. A collection that's, I dare say, a cut above the rest. Every female knows that lots of things in existence matter more than hair, but few provide as very much pleasure as a really great hairdo.



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At school, the popular girls had the locks I coveted. But several of the stories/essays had very little to do with hair and appeared to be the author's attempt at working through some other issue in life but forcing (really forcing! each woman's story about her hair in her life and .. That's, of course, not saying that they weren't beautiful in their own ideal. But I was disappointed that even more of the stories weren't related to this topic of struggling with one's hair and it's the countless meanings we, our cultures, and societies possess imposed on it and our selves. Insightful and very funny. If cash is no object and you also don't care about hair in particular but merely the experience to be female and having to perform your gender and questioning society's rigid allowances for that functionality and other various traits tied to identity then that is a pretty satisfying read.. Most of the kids in the family members have my mother's hair, a sleek brunette version of wavy, bordering on right. A thoughtful compilation, but lacking variety. While there are many essays in this publication that I related to, or moved me, I was surprised at the lack of variety in this compilation. Mostly middle-aged females are represented, and while that's where I fall, it could have been interesting to hear from more younger females. Also, these parts are primarily thoughtful and serious, and it seems like the topic of women's obsession with locks would be fertile floor for humor. I'm questioning if these essays had been written for this publication, previously released, or a mix - and when they were written. These days many young females are coloring their locks green or magenta, and I would like to know WHY. :) Additional essays still left unwritten - "To Scrunchie or Not to Scrunchie," "Why I Hardly ever Wear My Locks Up," and "THE SUMMERTIME My Friends and I Shared A Cowboy Hat." All that said, there are lovely essays here. There is a lot of humor in this book (I found myself laughing a whole lot,) but there is also a lot of insight and profundity. What a fun go through! they never quite fitted in. If you are struggling with your own hair and personal trip and are searching for specific stories to help ease your doubts, something to relate to and discover comfort in, you might just want to go surfing and search free forums and YouTube channels and save your money. Bravae, Ladies!...their hair. Like in every short story collections, there were several stories I enjoyed significantly less than others. I particularly liked Anne Lamott's contribution, "Sister," about her path to dreadlocks, and Jane Smiley's fun piece, "At Last, I Figure out how to Change Heads," about the impact of an excellent cut and color. Ladies have been obsessing and fretting about their locks since forever and there is so much emotional baggage linked to our hair that affects our self-image and confidence. The essays all look at the ways that locks can be so important - both in terms of the way we observe ourselves and our families and just how society see us. Just for an example, in an essay by Jane Green regarding the 1970's: "Right, glossy hair was beautiful. Rampant, frizzy curls weren't. Not so much Hair-story, Quite definitely HERstory. The anthologies of stories here were often touching and insightful, and it had been comforting to read who even across age, class, and race hair is never a simple matter. Silky and blonde meant popularity, likability, achievement. My curls were innovative and shy; I love this book. But I could get rid of myself in books, and in other, less difficult worlds, and persuade myself that easily cut my locks and dyed it blonde, the intimate hero could love me too." The essays are compiled by women with differing backgrounds and ethnicities. Although each person may have their own stories about their anxieties and relationship with their hair, there exists a lot of commonality. And by the time you complete reading all the essays you understand how complex and emotionally-charged this issue really is. I recommend this book. I was at the only real girl in my own ninth-grade class who appeared fifty-three. Not all of the essays resonated with me, but a lot of them did and I often discovered myself shaking my mind in agreement. This was a publication that was good to read, but was by no means a must-read for me personally. The essay by Adriana Trigiani particularly acquired me laughing and reading passages aloud to my children: "I result from a big family members. Again, if you are trying to learn more and don't mind spending the amount of money, give it a try! I acquired my father's hair, tight curls and fine consistency as though B.B. King and Louis Prima acquired a baby. The tight curls were there when I was an infant, and then they sort of shook out until I was a teenager, when they came roaring back just in time to kill any chance I would be asked from a date. Never one to sulk, I shook up my routine and cut my long hair shot, right into a wedge. I was a disaster. I began reading it and could not really put it down. "Suggested, especially for those of us who've a love/hate relationship with their hair. And which includes pretty much every woman I know.. So begins this book. In a series of stories, ladies tell about their hair struggles and glories. They tell about how exactly their mother's reacted with their hair. In some places this book is laugh out loud funny..

Individually, I felt some of these stories deserved 5 stars and a few two or three 3 and the common was a 4... Indeed our locks is ourselves, and stories about it are universal. Add this book to your reading list. Great Read Having a personal have a problem with my hair most my life this book was an eyes opener... Hair: a universal story Tell me the story of your hair, and you may tell me the tale of your life....Honestly I haven't been able to finish this book because I would like to savor it to the very end.. There were a few tales that I felt needed more editing or just a different publication because they were hard to follow or just didn't really appear to have anything regarding hair truthfully. I enjoyed the stories that made me consider women with different hair and history as I really do and how that defines them.It has helped me know that their are others with 'hair problems' and that I am not by yourself. The contributors to this book were exceptional.. Each woman has a relationship making use of their own tresses and through our life time we make changes for different moments inside our lives and they tell a lot about ourselves and individuals we are..I possibly could hardly put it straight down.. BUT there have been some stories that I totally adored... Loved it!.who think such a topic would be so interesting and conjure up so much empathy for all those of us who struggle with this issue. Kritters Ramblings Check out the full review at Kritters Ramblings A publication that focuses on something that mostly affects ladies and each woman has good moments rather than so excellent moments with it - Locks! There are good hair days and bad hair times and perhaps even bad hair weeks or years!. And in case you think that this means this book is usually frivolous or vapid, it isn't..here I thought I was the only person with one of these feelings!. I'd contact it pleasant but unmemorable.Maybe there'll be a "Me, My Hair, And I" Part Two? The stories revive all sorts of memories ... What a fun browse! The stories revive a variety of thoughts of my mom and battles over my locks. Plenty of insight into cultural perceptions of beauty and identity. This book is a assortment of essays compiled by women writers about.) a line of hair-connectivity through the matter so that it will be possible to publish in this collection. I came across these essays on locks - most of them - fascinating.. each woman's story about her hair in her life and her cultural really pointed out just how important our hair is to us. Considering the collection all together, there's definitely much New York City focus. definitely worth the read! It is almost like reading an oral background on the topic of "my . It had been interesting plenty of, and the authors were, by and large, great... I've noticed for a long time that whenever several women collect, invariably the topic of hair comes up. This can help to explain WHY - why it really is such a central theme to our extremely existences. And the spectrum of ladies represented in this book is wide. It really is nearly like reading an oral background on the topic of "my locks" and what it means to me. Five Stars Love Ho-hum This collection of essays examines women's hair issues. Anne Lamott's is an excerpt from one of her books. The essays touch on the sort of problems one might anticipate in that collection: females losing their hair to tumor treatment, arguments with mothers over hair styles, sibling envy when a sibling has "better" hair, going grey. We likewise have essays about women's experiences with their hair in different cultures. Not absolutely all of the essays are originals. The authors in this book all have hair problems: their identities are tangled up in their hair. it's not normally something you would think about as having a lot of an impact on our lives, but as these essays show, it truly does a lot more than we recognize. It was kind of surprising to me how many of the authors spend thousands at super-fancy New York salons. As I said earlier, there are some profound insights found here as well as a large amount of humor.. This wasn't a book that I'd stay up past due to finish. I loved every minute of this read.



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