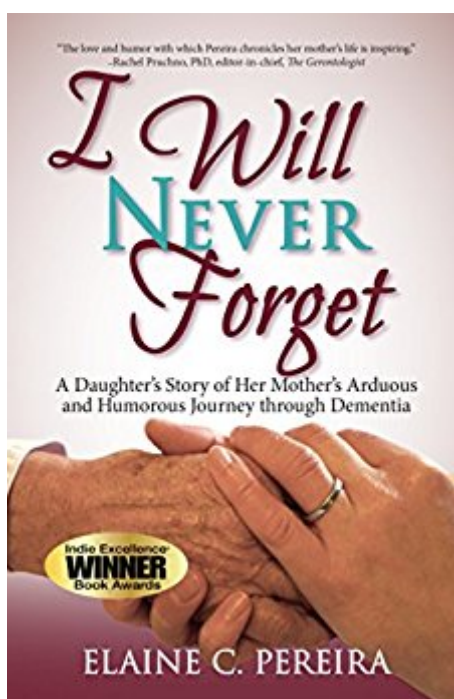


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I Will Never Forget: A Daughter's Story Of Her Mother's Arduous And Humorous Journey Through Dementia



Synopsis

It is painfully difficult to watch loved ones decline as dementia ravages their mind, destroying memories, rational thinking, and judgment. In her touching memoir, *I Will Never Forget*, Elaine Pereira shares the heartbreaking and humorous story of her mother's incredible journey through dementia. Pereira begins with entertaining glimpses into her own childhood and feisty teenage years, demonstrating her mother's strength of character. Years later, as Betty Ward started to exhibit bizarre behaviors and paranoia, Pereira was mystified by her mom's amazing ability to mask the truth. Not until a revealing incident over an innocuous drapery rod did Pereira recognize the extent of her mother's Alzheimer's. As their roles shifted and a new paradigm emerged, Pereira transformed into a caregiver, blindly navigating dementia's unpredictable haze. But before Betty's passing, she orchestrated a stunning rally to control her own destiny via a masterful, Houdini-like escape. *I Will Never Forget* is a powerful heartwarming story that helps others know that they are not alone in their journey. Poignant, shocking, and honest | far more than just words on paper. If you or someone you know is living through the hell of dementia, you need this book!

— Ionia Martin, developer of Readful Things Reviews and Alzheimer's caregiver

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Customer Reviews

I recently traveled home to visit my family, and to my great dismay, it was during this trip that I realized that my 85-year-old mother Nancy, frail and thin, but trying her best to hide her mistakes and poor memory, has so sadly begun her quick fade into dementia. In short, it hit me like a ton of bricks. This lovely and loving woman, my confidant and guide at times when I was most confused and helpless, my greatest source wisdom support for so many years was quite obviously in the midst of her own painful, descent into deep dementia. When my trip was over and I was leaving for the airport, I said a tearful goodbye to my mother; perhaps for the final time. And just like that, I felt like I would never see her again quite the same, as a fully-realized adult who I could turn to explain the world to me, and to answer my most basic questions. In fact, I was completely at a loss as to how my mother would seem when I next saw her. How rapid would her decline be? As my plane lifted off the ground, I felt like something crucial and essential was being ripped from my heart. And I was as alone and heartbroken, not just for me but for her also, and I cried as I had not in a very long time. I found great fortune after I had been home less than a week to discover and read, late into the night to a point where I was seriously sleep deprived and completely out of synch emotionally and physically, experiencing a steady stream of bittersweet emotions and great empathy, Elaine Pereira's love letter to her own mother, Betty Ward; the memoir, "I Will Never Forget." It is an exquisite and incredibly sad collection of memories and recollections, told in opposing and alternating episodes in flashback form, the author's lifelong love affair and relationship with her mother.

There is nothing like the pain from losing a loved one especially a parent but to bear witness to the slow destructive affliction of Dementia is more than painful it is agonizing. *I Will Never Forget* by Elaine C. Pereira is a memoir of her mother's long-suffering through the disease. This book is a beautiful and lovingly written tribute to the author's mother, Betty Ward. This book documents the slow debilitation of her mother because of the onset of Dementia. Described as a beautiful, independent, organized, and meticulous woman, Betty Ward left her family and friends with many warm memories, which are very well portrayed in this book. She lovingly cared for her family, was full of life, generous and very creative. However, because of the onset of Dementia, those qualities became distant memories as she spiraled downward further into the disease. This was not a

disease that struck quickly it happened slowly progressing over time. Betty struggled with the symptoms and at times became almost unrecognizable to her family as it affected both her personality and physical appearance. Over the years her bouts of sporadic loss of memory, faulty judgment, and off kilter remarks, bursts of anger, paranoia, and inability to care for herself became increasingly noticeable by her family especially her daughter. Early on, the signs of her disease were noticeable but did not occur to those around her that something was wrong with her. This memoir well written, it is written in a comfortable tone that makes it an easy read, it is filled with endearing stories and anecdotes from friends and family much of it told from Elaine's perspective.

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