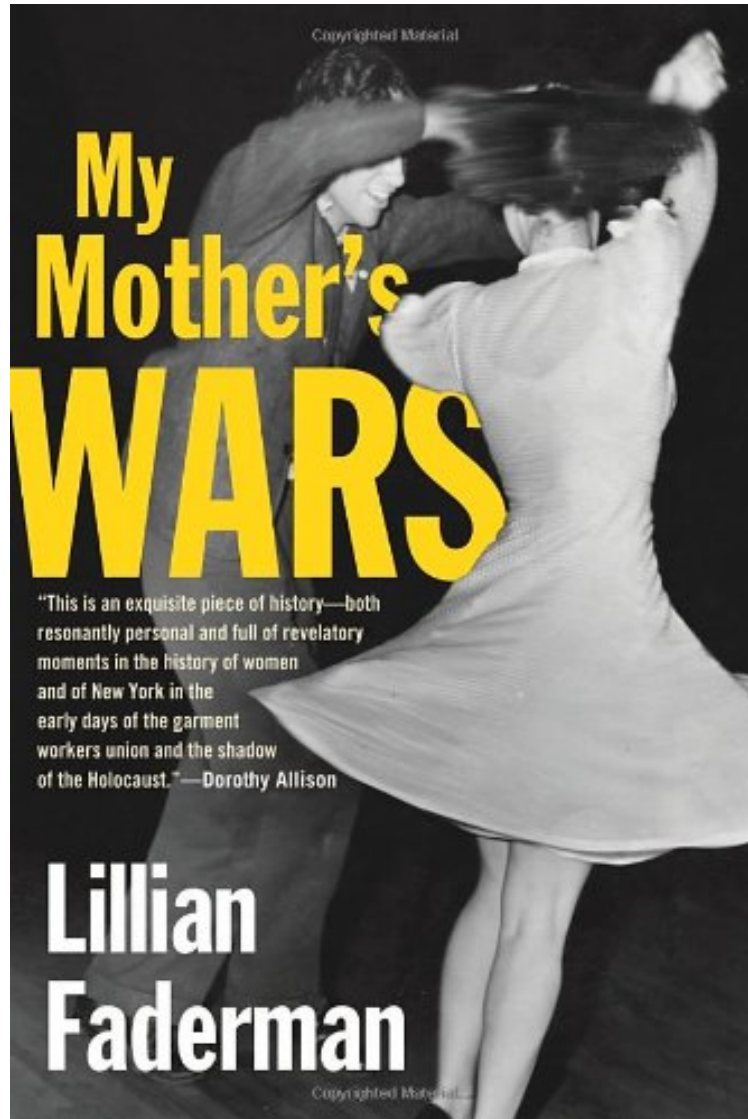


(Free read ebook) My Mother's Wars

## My Mother's Wars

Lillian Faderman

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#2050415 in Books Lillian Faderman 2013-03-05 2013-03-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.29 x 1.04 x 6.221, 1.20 #File Name: 0807050520264 pages My Mother s Wars | File size: 72.Mb

**Lillian Faderman : My Mother's Wars** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Mother's Wars:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. About family, love, obsession and world history By Allison RossetI liked just about everything about the book. The mother is believable. The daughter (the author) makes occasional appearances and adds to the story. The siblings and mother provide insight into the horrible happenings in Europe. You can almost smell this era in NYC and Jewish history, all matters relevant to my own family evolution. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heart wrenching By Gay AbarbanellIt takes a special kind of writer to write

so openly about a difficult life. Faderman does it with clear and totally engaging writing. Much more so than many of her earlier books. Of course, her mother's wars were also hers in so many ways. I highly recommend this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Mother's Strength By no name please The daughter of an immigrant mother is writing the story, often in the voice of the mother. It spans many decades, including WW11. The mother's strength is what gives the story its premise and meaning. The author writes the story with admiration for her mother.

An acclaimed writer on her mother's tumultuous life as a Jewish immigrant in 1930s New York and her life-long guilt when the Holocaust claims the family she left behind in Latvia. A story of love, war, and life as a Jewish immigrant in the squalid factories and lively dance halls of New York's Garment District in the 1930s, *My Mother's Wars* is the memoir Lillian Faderman's mother was never able to write. The daughter delves into her mother's past to tell the story of a Latvian girl who left her village for America with dreams of a life on the stage and encountered the realities of her new world: the battles she was forced to fight as a woman, an immigrant worker, and a Jew with family left behind in Hitler's deadly path. The story begins in 1914: Mary, the girl who will become Lillian Faderman's mother, just seventeen and swept up with vague ambitions to be a dancer, travels alone to America, where her half-sister in Brooklyn takes her in. She finds a job in the garment industry and a shop friend who teaches her the thrills of dance halls and the cheap amusements open to working-class girls. This dazzling life leaves Mary distracted and her half-sister and brother-in-law scandalized that she has become a good-time gal. They kick her out of their home, an event with consequences Mary will regret for the rest of her life. Eighteen years later, still barely scraping by as a garment worker and unmarried at thirty-five, Mary falls madly in love and has a torrid romance with a man who will never marry her, but who will father Lillian Faderman before he disappears from their lives. America is in the midst of the Depression, Hitler is coming to power in Europe, and New York's garment workers are just beginning to unionize. Mary makes tentative steps to join, despite her lover's angry opposition. As National Socialism engulfs Europe, Mary realizes she must find a way to get her family out of Latvia, and she spends frenetic months chasing vague promises and false rumors of hope. Pregnant again, after having submitted to two wrenching back-room abortions, and still unmarried, Mary faces both single motherhood and the devastating possibility of losing her entire Eastern European family. Drawing on family stories and documents, as well as her own tireless research, Lillian Faderman has reconstructed an engrossing and essential chapter in the history of women, of workers, of Jews, and of the Holocaust as immigrants experienced it from American shores.

From Booklist Drawing on the stories told to her when she was a girl, Faderman reconstructs her mother's life, devotions, and tragedies in early 1930s America in a memoiristic tale. At 17, Mary Lifton leaves her shtetl in Latvia for New York City, where she takes up residence with her half-sister. It's a short-lived arrangement, and Mary supports herself by working on and off in the garment industry. Eighteen years later, Mary, now 35 and never married, by chance meets the younger, charismatic Moishe, Faderman's father. The two embark on a passionate, tumultuous affair that lasts for years as Mary participates in a labor-union uprising and has a romance with another man, and, while barely making ends meet, two unplanned pregnancies. An affecting undercurrent is Mary's unending loyalty to her family left behind in Latvia. When the Nazi movement begins to gain ground in Eastern Europe, Mary's affections for Moishe are outweighed by her harrowing desperation to save her family. As Faderman vividly chronicles her mother's intense personality and complex experiences, she also freshly illuminates the Jewish immigrant experience. --Leah Strauss "This is an exquisite piece of history both resonantly personal and full of revelatory moments in the history of women, and of New York in the early days of the garment workers union and the shadow of the Holocaust. The sympathy and understanding Faderman shows for her immigrant mother, and her whole family, reminded me again of what I love about memoir. This is not just a story; these are lives on the page." Dorothy Allison Faderman's story of her immigrant mother is so vividly imagined that you can taste the borscht Mary eats, squirm at the claustrophobia of her tiny rented room, and be swept up in the sensual delight that will betray her. Janice Steinberg, author of *The Tin Horse* This book is a work of originality, written with such imaginative sympathy that I read it with unabating pleasure from beginning to end. Vivian Gornick, author of *Fierce Attachments* Lillian Faderman is an extraordinary storyteller, one of the few who can tell a painful story with a complex ending and imbue it with humor, sensuality, and earthy grace, in every sentence. Amy Bloom, author of *Away* The sympathy and understanding Faderman shows for her immigrant mother and her whole family reminded me again of what I love about memoir. This is not just a story; these are lives on the page. Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* *My Mother's Wars* tells the aching story of immigrant factory workers in the decades preceding World War II, sad lives made sadder by the terrifying knowledge that their families in Europe are being extinguished. The book is part memoir, part reconstruction . . . and all artistry. Edith Pearlman, author of *Binocular Vision* Faderman is a skilled storyteller and a careful documentarian . . . the historical details in the book have been provided by extensive research. It is these historical details and Faderman's lyrical storytelling skill that make this book such an inviting read. Carol Poll, Jewish Book Council A remarkable work of reconstruction . . . As usual, Faderman's seemingly effortless prose is the result of years of patient research. As far as possible, she has made sure that the past will be accurately remembered. The Gay Lesbian To be sure, the Holocaust

figures crucially in [Lillian Fadermans] new memoir . . . but her book is more than a testimony of the Holocaust it is a love story, a family memoir and, above all, an American tale. Jonathan Kirsch, *The Jewish Journal* [A] strikingly intelligent and emotionally wrenching narrative. Philip Jason, *The Washington Independent of Books* A gripping personal testimony. Author Lillian Faderman shares her mother's story of immigrating to America with high hopes of dancing, only to be swept up in the undercurrents of New York, and the struggles of being a worker in the garment industry. . . . A must for history and memoir collections focusing on personal tales. Midwest Book Faderman expertly explores a jarring view into the immigrant life of Jewish Holocaust survivors living in the US. Nick Pachelli, *The Advocate* As Faderman vividly chronicles her mothers intense personality and complex experiences, she also freshly illuminates the Jewish immigrant experience. Booklist Faderman commands her material in this page-turner no small feat with a subject so close to home. Make/shift About the Author Lillian Faderman is an internationally known scholar of ethnic history, and of lesbian history and an acclaimed memoirist. She is the author of many books, including *To Believe in Women*, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*, *Surpassing the Love of Men*, and *I Begin My Life All Over*. Among her many honors are Yale University's James Brudner Award for exemplary scholarship in lesbian and gay studies, the Monette-Horwitz Award, and the American Association of University Women's National Distinguished Scholar Award.