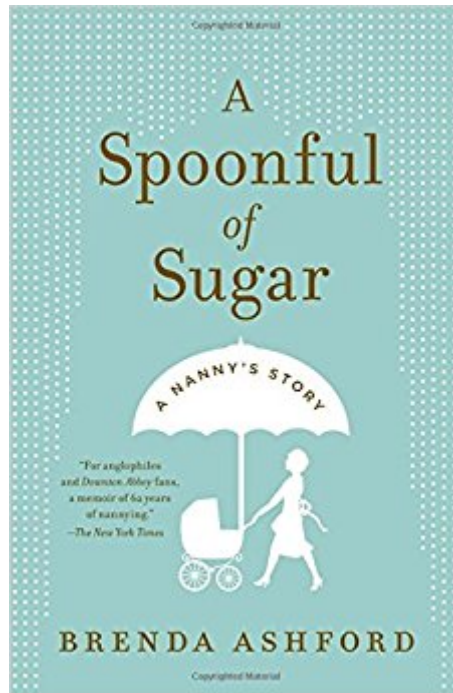




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A Spoonful Of Sugar: A Nanny's Story



Synopsis

Brenda Ashford was a real-life Mary Poppins. Caring for over one hundred children during her lifetime as a nanny, her charges ranged from the pampered sons and daughters of grand estates or the tough offspring of WWII evacuees in London's East End. Now, in *A Spoonful of Sugar*, Britain's longest-serving nanny shares her endearing, amusing, and sometimes downright bizarre experiences turning generations of children into successful adults. Nanny Brenda says: "All mothers are quite brilliant in my eyes and nine times out of ten don't realize the sacrifices they undertake or the powerful contributions they make. Little folk deserve a childhood that's full of fun. It's the single most valuable lesson in my eyes. Everyone knows you simply can't retire from love. Children leave you; you don't leave children. That's the natural order of things. I've puzzled many times over the ingredients for a perfect recipe for a happy home. It needs to be a place with parents who worship their offspring. Throw in some stability, a dash of routine, and respect."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For readers accustomed to nanny exposés filled with snark, gossip, and bad behavior, Ashford's memoir will indeed go down like a spoonful of sugar. The reference to Mary Poppins is apt, as Ashford, who trained as a nanny in the 1930s, is very much a character from another era. During 62 years of service to scores of British families, Ashford, now in her nineties, maintained an unflagging belief in establishing routine, setting a good example, and teaching proper

manners. Though she chronicles the major social upheavals of her time—WWII, the sexual revolution, women's liberation—Ashford is more witness than participant; everything else changes, but she remains the same. Outside of a failed romance or two, her world is confined to the nursery: babies and toddlers, changing nappies and giving cuddles. It's a solitary and frequently lonely life, but in typical "stiff-upper-lip" fashion, she continually assures readers she's happy with her lot. Ashford doesn't offer much self-reflection, instead presenting a fascinating look at the evolution of child-rearing practices, for better or worse. --Patty Wetli --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"For anglophiles and Downton Abbey fans, a memoir of 62 years of nannying."-The New York Times "Ashford presents a delightful compilation of memories, child care tips and insights from a radically different time and place. . . . A snapping good story by a true British treasure." -Kirkus Reviews

I found this memoir to be engaging and entertaining; it was interesting to follow Brenda's experiences through all the changing circumstances she found herself in, such as the special challenges during WWII, quirky employers, and family tragedy. I liked the format she used of listing her daily duties and their timeframes at the beginning of each chapter, and also including employers' testimonies as well as a few family photos. She did a good job of taking the reader into her world without being overly sentimental. A unique profile of traditional English nannying.

nice to know that there are caregivers who actually love their jobs. this is a charming story full of love ,kindness and recipes. gave it to my friend who is quite familiar with the British nanny and she absolutely loved it.

I thoroughly enjoyed this candid memoir of the life of a British nanny. She speaks with confidence and dignity without being arrogant. Gives a great view of life in England over most of the past century.

Simply wonderful. It was like listening to the sweet, old, British grandmother you never had as she told you stories and taught you about life. I wrote down so many quotes from this book as I read it! Many lessons on parenting, without being a parenting book.

Every mom-to-be should read this book. What a wonderful lady Brenda was with her new "kids". Her tips are a definite must read.

I'm a nanny and this is my new favorite book! It was an inspiring read that renewed my desire to be the best nanny I can be.

I recommend this read because the story is engaging, realistic, historical, and full of helpful tips for keeping families together with happy bellies. I bought a copy for my grandma and she loves it also. Well written and with gratitude for life.

This is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Growing up during WW II and in the 1950s there is so much I can relate to.

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