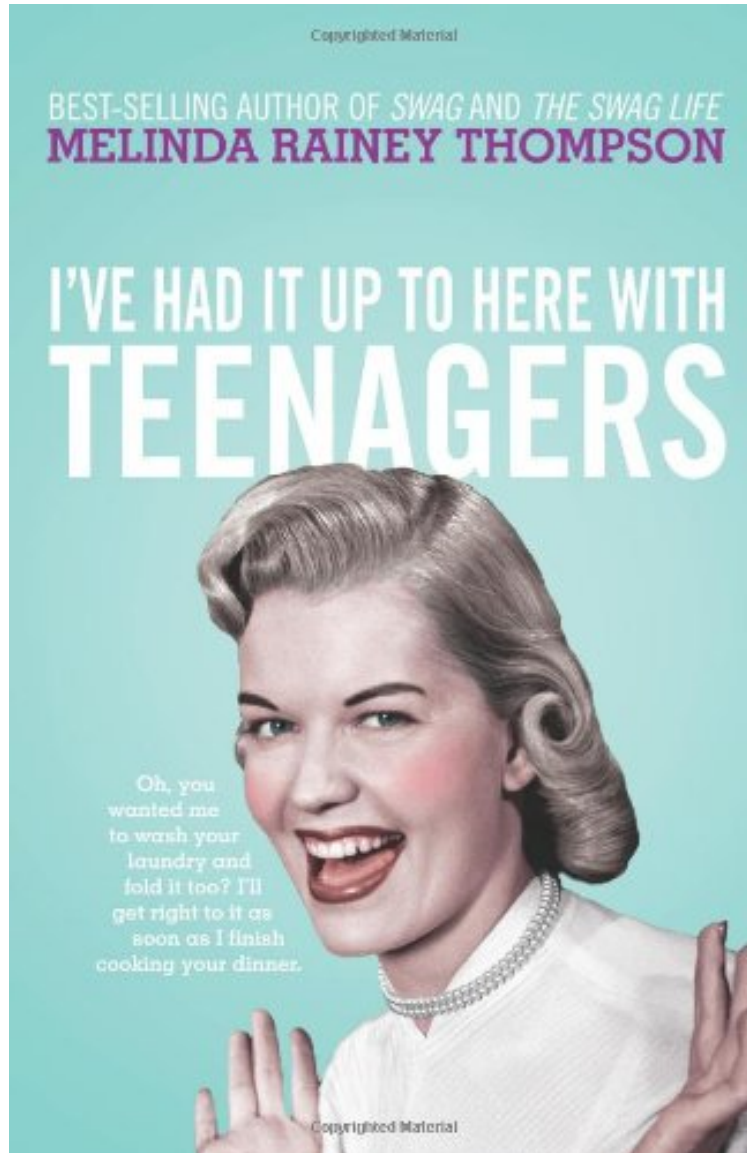


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## I've Had It Up to Here with Teenagers

*Melinda Rainey Thompson*

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**Melinda Rainey Thompson : I've Had It Up to Here with Teenagers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I've Had It Up to Here with Teenagers:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Been there, done that, passing it on By Margie Read This title appealed to me so I ordered it thinking I would pass it on to my daughter who now has three teens. I once had three teens also, and everything in this wonderful book I have seen first hand not once but over and over into two generations. The author is an extremely good writer with an absolutely marvelous sense of humor. And she is a very

keen observer of human nature. I recommend this book to every mother, father, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, grandparent, or any other relative who has a teenager in the family. And hey, teens, you might want to read it yourself to see yourselves as other see you and in preparation for your encounters with teens in the future. A highly recommended volume that tells it like it is. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny and True By Turtle 11 I have two teenage boys and I really enjoyed this book. I can imagine that it is especially difficult to write in a way that is truly funny. Melinda Rainey Thompson, manages to do this just fine. The book was a warm, honest, look at the funny parts (now I know there are funny parts) of raising teens. I have to say my favorite was the chapter written by her son. Hilarious! I could just see my 18 year old making the same kind of comments. If you want to find humor where you normally hear grunting and sarcasm, read this book! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Modern-Day Erma Bombeck: funny, warm, and practical By Jennifer Donovan For some reason, back in my teens and early twenties, I actually read a lot of Erma Bombeck. I didn't personally relate to a lot of her topics (like cooking, cleaning, and raising kids), but one thing that I didn't miss was that she was funny. Hilarious. I am not using hyperbole when I say that Melissa Rainey Thompson is a modern-day Erma Bombeck, and so whether you have teens or not, this book is for you. By the time my daughter was 9 or so, I began reading books that dealt with teens. I think that it was easier to be objective at that time. I was never sure if they were exaggerating, or if my child would indeed display the self-absorbed, spacey, hormonally-fueled characteristics that seem so common to teens, at least those that parenting writers focus on. But being a little removed, I could actually laugh and I could objectively plan how I was going to react and parent. I highly recommend this approach. Now that my daughter is almost 14 years old, I am not objective or rational. I find myself acting like a teenager myself. If you don't have a teen, feel free to read along for pure enjoyment. If you do, you have the privilege of learning a little about one mom's approach to these issues, which will either give you some new ideas, or at least cause you to think about your current approach: \*Attitude\* \*Money-Matters\* \*Curfew Conundrums\* \*Laundry Laments\* \*Care and Feeding\* \*Clothing\* \*Driving\* \*Internet Safety\* \*Dating I highly recommend this funny and also thought-provoking book.

"For years and years of relatively smooth-sailing childhood, my kids followed my directives," writes Melinda Rainey Thompson. "If I said, 'Let's go swimming!' they fled down the hall to pull on their swimsuits, shedding their clothes along the way. If I said, 'So sorry, the mall is closed today,' they didn't doubt my pronouncement for a moment--even if the parking lot was crammed." And now that her kids are mostly grown? "I was good with babies. Teenagers--not so much," Thompson admits. "I don't get many hugs anymore. Any I do get are inevitably instigated by me while they stand there like martyrs tied to a stake. Recently, when I was the rare recipient of a spontaneous hug from my seventeen-year-old, I got so excited I dropped the basket of chocolate-chip muffins in my hands. I was anxious to hug back while it was still on offer. It was totally worth the muffin loss." Thompson's three teenagers bury her under an Everest of laundry. They send her for groceries so often that she once heard a store employee cry, "Incoming!" They leave such a quantity of half-eaten sandwiches around their rooms as to provide a buffet for roaches. They complain for hours about 10-minute chores. They spend their parents' money like it magically regenerates and hoard their own like it's the last dose of the elixir of life. To put it another way, they're typical teens. In her inimitable style, Thompson makes *I've Had It Up to Here with Teenagers* both a humorous rant against teens and a celebration of seeing them rise from the ashes of battle to become well-adjusted, responsible humans. "Parental love is fierce and illogical," she writes. "I think it is the strongest force on earth. It trumps everything, thank God: sleepless nights, hard stadium seats, endless recitals, broken hearts, losing seasons, throw-up viruses, bad grades, poor choices, and everything else life throws at teenagers and their parents."

About the Author Melinda Rainey Thompson is the author of the best-selling *SWAG: Southern Women Aging Gracefully* and *The SWAG Life*. Her most recent book, *I Love You--Now Hush* (cowritten with Morgan Murphy), was a 2010 ForeWord's Book of the Year winner and a 2011 Benjamin Franklin Award finalist, both in the Humor category. She lives in Homewood, Alabama.