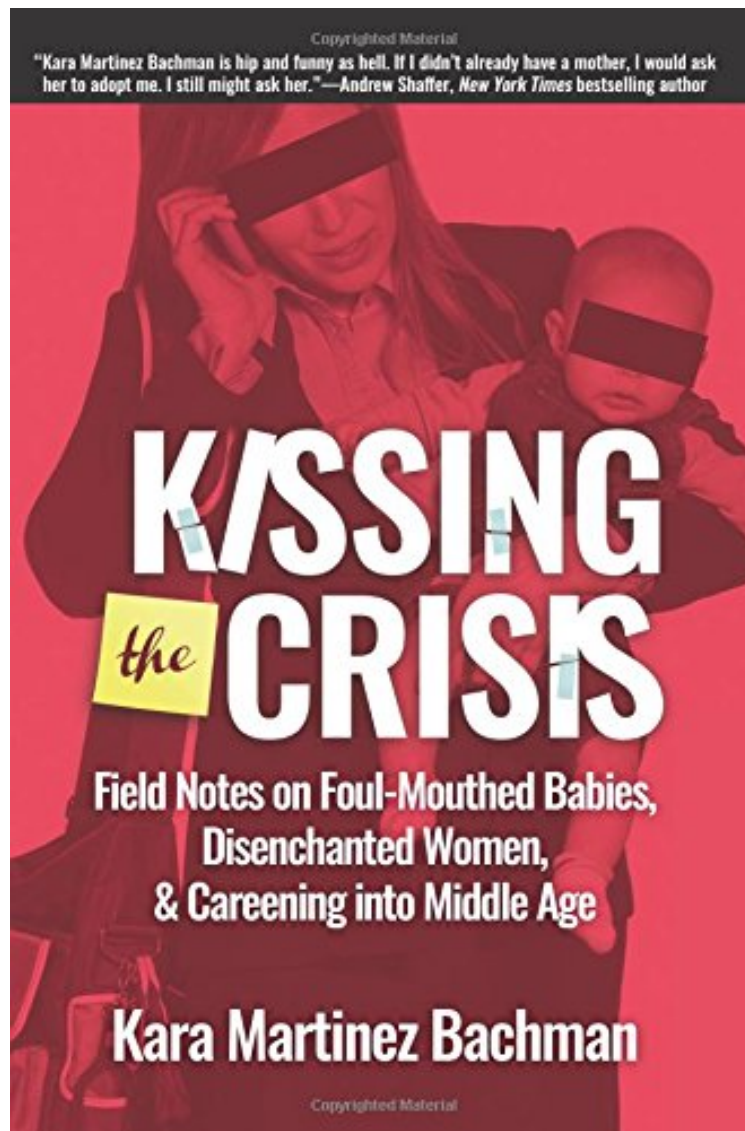


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Kissing the Crisis: Field Notes on Foul-Mouthed Babies, Disenchanted Women, and Careening into Middle Age

Kara Martinez Bachman

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Kara Martinez Bachman : Kissing the Crisis: Field Notes on Foul-Mouthed Babies, Disenchanted Women, and Careening into Middle Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kissing the Crisis: Field Notes on Foul-Mouthed Babies, Disenchanted Women, and Careening into Middle

Age:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. HILARIOUS !!! Bought this for myself, and planning to gift it to my friends !By Rebecca StevensMs. Bachman is a gifted storyteller, and this book had me laughing until tears came --- the unexpectedly foul-mouthed baby chapter is an especially sparkly gem in a book that is full of them. Any parent that has had this happen to them can truly relate!This book is so well crafted, in my opinion, that it is hard to believe that this is her first book. I was provided a digital copy of the publisher's Advance Review Copy in exchange for an honest review. I didn't know what to expect, but the cover sets the tone perfectly!I am a reader of a certain age who has already passed over this particular mid-life hill, but I plan to buy it as gifts for my younger friends and family members, to help them laugh their way through this life-chapter themselves. Not only does it make you smile and laugh out loud, it is also empowering.This is especially evident in the chapter about how she and her family were challenged on so many levels by Hurricane Katrina, and what she realized as she and they embraced those challenges. Her humor in this book is always brilliant, multi-leveled, warm and funny. It is almost always self-deprecating, and always without malice toward anyone mentioned within - even the former Nazi that she accidentally encountered.One of the things I really enjoyed about reading this book is that her writing style makes the reader feel as if she is chatting directly with you one-on-one, over coffee at her home, over a beer in a local bar, or having a glass of wine somewhere in New Orleans. The only thing I didn't like about this book is that it ended too soon! It really is a quick and entertaining read, and I look forward to her next effort. Hope it's sooner rather than later.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Humor and Savory Wit at Its BestBy DrwoKara Bachman writes about her life in ways that funny, aware and often poignant. Her takes on everything from PTA back stabbing, gym memberships and subdivision living are spot on. Not afraid to let her Mom jeans and granny undies show, the author's perceptions and intellect make for "aha" moments amid the humor. Her tale of taking her children to down and out bars where they can dance and scream so she and her husband can have some "together time," is not only funny but advice worth having. Every woman on her way to 45, already there or who's been there will find some familiar territory in this well written and often laugh out loud funny mini-memoir.A great debut from a talented writer. One suspects there is an untapped minefield of satire mixed with sound advice waiting to be told and readers who will be recommending this book and buying it for friends will be anxiously awaiting what comes next!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Book with Unexpected Gifts to the ReaderBy CustomerKissing the Crisis is written in a down-to-earth, personal style that made me want to keep reading about her mid-life exploits way after my bedtime.Kara Bachman is obviously honest about her inner motivations, knows how to laugh at herself (refreshing), and she's funny. She has obviously mastered the skill required to select the right words to describe a situation. Some of these situations are quite memorable, as in "Chicken Soup for the Obsessive-Compulsive Soul." The foul-mouthed baby scenario is, literally, impossible to forget. This story alone makes the book worth buying, but there are others. As a writer, I think she could have backed off a little bit from the humor (am I really saying that?). And I admit that I'm well into mid-life to the point of experiencing the second (third? fourth?) birth in my life, so I am not the best person to read about the feeling of demise that accompanies the beginning of mid-life crisis. (I don't want to think about it.) Kara has no problem with it, and accepts herself as she is, which is another reason it was so good for me to read this book. I'd like to embrace myself as thoroughly as she does. There's a lot written between the lines of "Kissing the Crisis," and given the humorous nature of the book, I'm surprised to find I am still digesting the subliminal messages.

You're going on a journey to a strange new country where you will look different, act different, even feel different. It's like you're becoming a whole new person, and that person is your mother. Your new homeland is middle age, and you need a native guide to teach you how to survive here, or at least to show you where the good bars are. Written for every woman who knows that turning 40 is no reason to become respectable, Kissing the Crisis is the field guide you need to blaze your own unconventional trail through the jungle of middle age. Humorist Kara Martinez Bachman reports from the front lines of the battle to stay awake after 9 p.m., and her adventures will make you scream with laughter, cringe with embarrassment, and vow to tackle your own midlife crisis with a can-do attitude and a tasty cocktail. Whether she's searching for a child-friendly bar for a parents' drinking session, starting the world's best ukelele/harp gothic rock band, coping with a baby cursing like a sailor in the grocery store, or conquering her fear of a terrifying death during Hurricane Katrina, Bachman shows that life doesn't end at 40 ... it just gets weirder.

"Just as I was sinking into the muck and mire of my own age-induced crisis, Kara's book rescued me with a laugh and a renewed hope that I'll never be too old to wear glitter or try something new. Kissing the Crisis is a hilarious and thought-provoking look at what all women face: the turning of the clock as we balance maintaining marriages, raising children and having careers, while trying to not to lose a sense of ourselves." --Sarah Bonnette, Artscape columnist, New Orleans Times-Picayune/NOLA.com"Delightful ... This uproarious collection of essays offers insights and heart along with sharp wit and pure entertainment." --Robin Raven, Huffington Post"Funny, witty and entertaining ... This book will inspire many of us to approach midlife light-heartedly and with sheer optimism, and I strongly recommend

that you add it to your reading list." --Midlife Funk "Middle age is going to hurt, but Bachman tells us that we have the power to make it fabulous! I found myself giggling and nodding in agreement. Grab a glass of wine and some snacks and settle in for the night!" --Tamara Benson, Manhattan Book "This book made me laugh plenty, but it also made me think, something I usually try to avoid. Bachman's hysterical take on approaching middle age will resonate with every mama in the carpool line, but it's her ability to weave profundity into the mix that sets her apart. --Celia Rivenbark, New York Times bestselling author of *You Don't Sweat Much for a Fat Girl* "Kara Bachman has fast become the woman I want living next door to me. With her razor-blade wit, tell-it-like-it-is essays on navigating middle age (while tending children), she is exploring new turf, and the grass is super green and fertile. Readers will love her style, humor and stories that will make you guffaw and snort in public while reading. Middle age never felt so good." --Susan Reinhardt, author of *Chimes from a Cracked Southern Belle* and *Not Tonight Honey, Wait 'til I'm a Size 6* "A hilarious look at middle age for women ... As someone who has passed that milestone, I found the essays full of laugh-out-loud humor and serious reflections that made me think about my own life." --Susan Roberts, *Girl Who Reads* "Bachman's observations set this collection apart and make it a worthy read ... Some experiences are universal, and laughing as we graciously age is definitely one of them." --LEGENDS Magazine "A very enjoyable, hilarious tale in the vein of Jen Lancaster, Jenny Lawson, and David Sedaris. If you like any of those authors, I'd recommend this book." --TDC Books "I recommend this book to any woman wanting to unwind and laugh at the daily grind of being a somewhat sane aging woman." --Laurie Oien, *A Square of Chocolate* "Kara Martinez Bachman is hip and funny as hell. If I didn't already have a mother -- and if I wasn't nearing middle-age myself -- I would ask her to adopt me. I still might ask her." --Andrew Shaffer, New York Times bestselling author

About the Author Kara Martinez Bachman is a New Orleans-based freelance writer. Her work has appeared in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, NOLA.com, The Writer, Funny Times, NPR's State of the Re:Union, Ellipsis, Magnolia Quarterly, the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina retrospective, Katrina Memoirs, and numerous other publications.