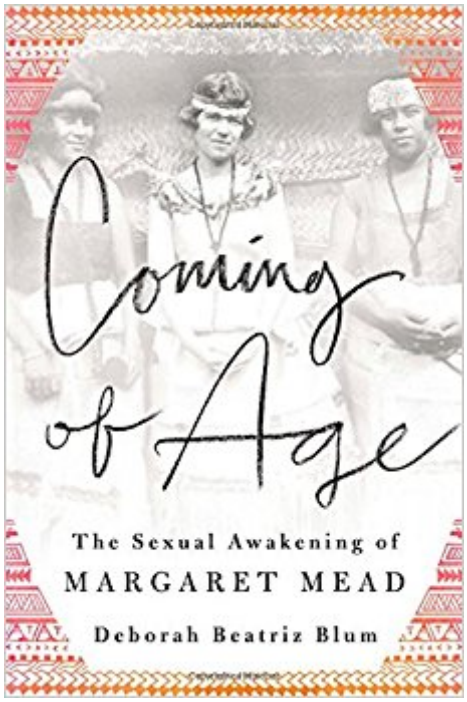
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# Coming Of Age: The Sexual Awakening Of Margaret Mead




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## Synopsis

The startling coming-of-age story of famed anthropologist Margaret Mead whose radical ideas challenged the social and sexual norms of her time. The story begins in 1923, when twenty-two year old Margaret Mead is living in New York City, engaged to her childhood sweetheart and on the verge of graduating from college. Seemingly a conventional young lady, she marries, but shocks friends when she decides to keep her maiden name. After starting graduate school at Columbia University, she does the unthinkable: she first enters into a forbidden relationship with a female colleague, then gets caught up in an all-consuming and secret affair with a brilliant older man. As her sexual awakening continues, she discovers it is possible to be in love with more than one person at the same time. While MargaretÃ¢â ¬â„¢s personal explorations are just beginning, her interest in distant cultures propels her into the new field of anthropology. Ignoring the constraints put on women, she travels alone to a tiny speck of land in the South Pacific called Samoa to study the sexual behavior of adolescent girls. Returning home on an ocean liner nine months later, a chance encounter changes the course of her life forever. Now, drawing on letters, diaries, and memoirs, Deborah Beatriz Blum reconstructs these five transformative years of Margaret MeadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life, before she became famous, revealing the story that she hid from the world Ã¢â ¬â œ during her lifetime and beyond.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Elegantly weaving existing memoir and letters into a beautifully constructed narrative, Blum

brings to convincing and exciting life the early years of Margaret Mead. Mead's Ã¢â ¬Ëœcoming of ageÃ¢â ¬â„¢, both intellectually and sexually, turns out to have been no less fascinating than that of the Samoan girls she famously studied. Blum's story is absorbing, surprising, and eminently satisfying.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Marisa Silver, author of Little Nothing and Mary Coin"Deborah Beatriz Blum is a splendid storyteller, and what a terrific story she tells: the adventurous early life and loves of the strangely alluring Margaret Mead. With deep research and narrative energy, Blum presents a revelatory, intimate portrait of the young Mead, before, and during her nine months in Samoa, when her passionate secret life was wakening." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jeffrey Frank, author of national bestseller Ike and Dick: Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage"Coming of Age is nearly impossible to stop reading. While we think of Margaret Mead as a trailblazing anthropologist, until now we have known nothing of the workings of her heart, and how the turmoil and ecstasy in her private life illuminated the culture-changing work she performed in the South Pacific. NowÃ¢â ¬â ¢at lastÃ¢â ¬â ¢Deborah Beatriz Blum reveals the truth about one of the 20th centuryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s great heroines, in prose that's wise and luminous. As Blum makes clear, MeadÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest research subject may have been the enigma of her own desire.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jennifer Finney Boylan, author of She's Not There and Long Black Veil"Through Blum's narrative, Mead becomes more than a quotable female pioneer and transforms into a three-dimensional woman." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Library Journal (starred review)Ã¢â ¬Å“BlumÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vivid and personal reimagining is an entertaining addition to the constellation of work on this important figure, giving insight into the vulnerable girlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heart behind the groundbreaking work.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly"[An] absorbing...breathless page-turner." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus

DEBORAH BEATRIZ BLUM is the author of Bad Karma: A True Story of Obsession and Murder. She has been a writer, producer and director working in the film business for most of her adult life. For the last twenty years sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s written and directed documentaries for National Geographic, Discovery, and the History Channel.

A thoughtful and compelling story perfectly mined by the author from, among other artifacts, actual letters by three of MeadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s closest confidants and Mead herself. Growing up in the culture of 1920s America where women were expected to marry (and marry well) at a relatively early age, bear numerous offspring, and certainly never to travel unaccompanied, the post-college 22-year-old Mead sets off on a journey by herself to another continent where she will explore adolescent sexuality and conduct research which will ultimately affect mores worldwide forever.

Through carefully curated research and Blum’s discerning talent for storytelling, the reader experiences the adventurous and previously untold coming of age of Margaret Mead, one of western civilization’s most beguiling female characters/heroines of all time.

This book tackles the task of telling Margaret Mead’s drive to be her own person in a world that frowned upon such drive and individualism from its women. She did not want to be a lost soul during the "Lost Generation." Instead, she wanted to live her life on her own terms. Her contributions to society are legendary. However, in this work, Deborah Blum does a beautiful job of weaving the remarkable story of this young woman’s drive for personal fulfillment and all of the struggles it brought for her. In the process, Margaret Mead turns the academic world on its head - totally changing the metrics by which researchers were viewed, and most certainly left an indelible mark on the generations of women who followed. These very short number of years were packed with with success, failure, ecstasy, and disappointment. They were also a turning point in her own self-perception and they allowed her to fly to her own heights. One learns of her frailties and her strengths as she tackles those enormous challenges that adults face forging their own way in this world. The author’s diligence to research and details is a credit to the high value she places on her own craft and is reflected in the excellence of this work. I highly recommend this book. It is a fantastic read.

Coming of Age: The Sexual Awakening of Margaret Mead is a wonderful epistolary novel, built on the amazingly evocative letters of young Margaret Mead with her friends and academic peers. Author Deborah Beatriz Blum weaves this rich correspondence seamlessly with her own graceful and sharp edged prose to create a taut page turning drama. Margaret MeadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s fearless exploration of her own personal relationships compared with those of young Samoan women, helps Mead develop new ideas of sexuality that have become bedrock concepts of anthropology today. MeadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s aspirations and accomplishments are brought to life in this inspiring read.

This book is a universal coming of age story. I couldn’t put the book down - I’m the same age as Margaret Mead was when the story took place and I could really relate. Highly recommend!

This intimate, fast reading, wonderfully researched work will delight and capture your attention from the first page. The history is remarkably detailed and insightful, based on actual first hand research

and archival review.I trust readers will enjoy this wonderful book as much as I!!

Coming of Age: The Sexual Awakening of Margaret Mead, is a great read that is alive in its retelling of history. By contextualizing Margaret Meads personal journey, one is initiated into a new level of understanding integrating the personal lives of the anthropologists themselves. We are lead forward in a manner which deepens and creates yet another echo as to how we are all connected by our humanness. Without sensationalizing or diminishing the personal lives of any of these great minds, Deborah Blum has facilitated a deeper connection that any reader, anthropologist or otherwise will love.

This book was a little slow at first but then it read more as a fiction novel than a biography. Well researched and interesting perspective on Margaret Mead’s early life.

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