

## Chicken Soup for the Single Parent's Soul: Stories of Hope, Healing and Humor (Chicken Soup for the Soul)

By Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Laurie Hartman, Nancy Vogl

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**Every single parent has a different story to tell, but a common thread of hope and comfort unites them all.**

Being a single parent can sometimes seem overwhelming. But the joys and triumphs of this **special** responsibility are incalculable.

Whether you are a single parent because of divorce or widowhood, by choice or by surprise, you are part of an extraordinary club, shouldering the many obligations and responsibilities of parenting alone.

*Chicken Soup for the Single Parent's Soul* shares the joys, challenges and humorous moments of single moms and dads, who cope daily with the unique pressures, constraints and sacrifices this important role brings. From daily struggles to amazing triumphs, this book captures the breadth of experiences that define single parenting.

Within these pages you will find inspiration and advice for getting through the difficult times, reassurance for those days when you worry you're not living up to expectations and reminders of the unique influence you have on your children's lives.

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## **Editorial Review**

### About the Author

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen are the #1 New York Times and USA Today best-selling authors of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series.

Laurie Hartman has been a single parent for nine years, raising one terrific son who is now 15. Laurie lives in Southern California.

Nancy Vogl is the single mother of three teenage daughters. Formerly a real estate professional, Nancy created a career for herself in the speaking industry, working with many of America's top speakers, authors and celebrities.

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### **Come Back Home**

All of us, at certain moments of our lives, need to take advice and receive help from other people.

~ Alexis Carrel

Finally, I had to admit to myself that I wasn't making it on my own as a single parent with a four-year-old son and a thirteen-month-old daughter. Reluctantly, I had written my parents asking if I could move in with them until I could find a teaching position and manage on my own. I knew it would not be an easy decision for them to make. Living in a small town, my mother had always worried about "what people would think."

Her response came more quickly than I had expected. As I held her unopened letter, I wondered if the rapid reply was good news or bad. With careful concern, I tore open the end of the envelope. Her typewritten letter was folded in the formal standard she had learned as a secretary after graduating from high school. It read:

Dear Linda,

You must quit beating up on yourself and feeling so ashamed over needing to move back home with the children because of your divorce. I want you to know that you are not the first woman in our family to be a single parent and fall on hard times. I hope you will find courage and take pride in the woman I am going to tell you about.

Your great-great-grandmother, Hannah Lappin, headed west in a prairie schooner with her farmer husband and three small children: a boy, six; a girl, two, and an infant son. They settled in a secluded section of Missouri. After five years of her husband's tremendous effort clearing timber, rumors circulated that land, including their claim, was in litigation. Days of anxiety followed, and her husband's health began to fail. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and his strength diminished steadily. They lost their farm. They made the difficult decision to make the four-hundred-mile trip back to southern Illinois to her family. There was nothing about this trip that held any attraction for a woman with three children and an invalid husband in the

early spring of 1876. On many days, he was too sick to travel. At night, he would sleep outside under the wagon.

Inevitably he died, and left his family among strangers in the hill country of Missouri.

He was buried along the trail under a pile of stones. Their eleven-year-old son took the reins of the wagon and skillfully drove the team through the ten-mile-wide city of St. Louis and across the big river, still a hundred miles from their family.

Hannah's problems were further complicated by her failing eyesight and the awareness that she was several months pregnant. Shortly after arriving at her Uncle David's home, she gave birth to twin boys. Refusing charity from the state, she took in washing. Making light of her blindness, she promised people, "The stains may still be in the clothes, but I will get the stink out." Her great poverty and lack of comfort was felt by her orphaned children, but it was no match for her unwavering faith in God and her ability to give thanks in all things. The three youngest sons became ministers. The oldest son returned to the West to build railroads across Kansas to Denver. Ida, her daughter, after ten years of wedded life, was left a widow with four small children. The example of her mother's faith and determination inspired her, knowing her mother's burden had been a hundred times heavier.

Linda, did you not realize that World War II made me a single parent while Daddy was overseas for two years? I had to go back to live with my parents on their farm, miles from town and friends. But it was such a blessing in disguise because Grandma was willing to rock you when you had constant earaches, and I was able to help her with her household chores. Your daddy sent us ration books, so I could get sugar and shoes and gasoline to supplement my folks' needs.

Now that you understand that you were not the first woman in our family to be a single parent, please come back home knowing that your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters and cousins are here to be family for you. With the rich heritage of women who have found a way to give their children a wonderful future, in spite of hardships, you will be in very good company.

Come back home as soon as possible.

Love always,

Mother

**Linda H. Puckett**

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Diane Dean:**

Reading a book for being new life style in this season; every people loves to study a book. When you read a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, along with soon. The Chicken Soup for the Single Parent's Soul: Stories of Hope, Healing and Humor (Chicken Soup for the Soul) offer you a new experience in studying a book.

**Bob Pratt:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list will be Chicken Soup for the Single Parent's Soul: Stories of Hope, Healing and Humor (Chicken Soup for the Soul). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

**Jerome Chisolm:**

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**Colleen Williams:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got learners? We believe that that query was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person like reading or as examining become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is actually Chicken Soup for the Single Parent's Soul: Stories of Hope, Healing and Humor (Chicken Soup for the Soul).

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