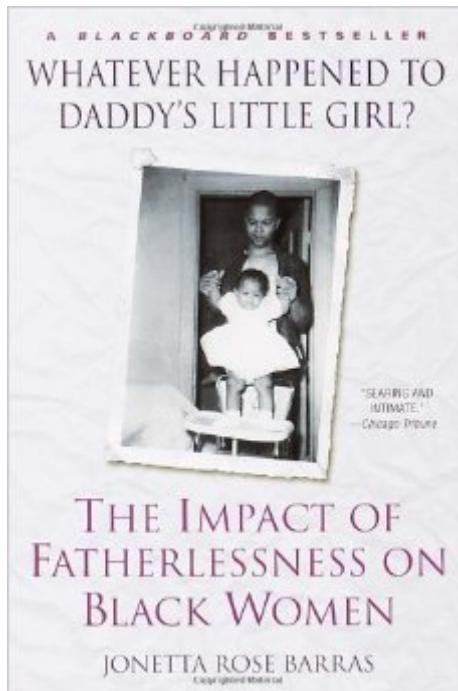


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# Whatever Happened To Daddy's Little Girl?: The Impact Of Fatherlessness On Black Women



## **Synopsis**

What happens to a little girl who grows up without a father? Can she ever feel truly loved and fully alive? Does she ever heal--or is she doomed to live a wounded, fragmented life and to pass her wounds down to her own children? Fatherlessness afflicts nearly half the households in America, and it has reached epidemic proportions in the African-American community, with especially devastating consequences for black women. In this powerful book, accomplished journalist Jonetta Rose Barras breaks the code of silence and gives voice to the experiences of America's fatherless women--starting with herself. Passionate and shockingly frank, *Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl?* is the first book to explore the plight of America's fatherless daughters from the unique perspective of the African-American community. This brilliant volume gives all fatherless daughters the knowledge that they are not alone and the courage to overcome the hidden pain they have suffered for so long.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I didn't expect this from Rose Barras. I didn't expect this weave of raw honesty, courage, and insight. From the opening passage I was caught up in the grip of a masterful story-telling style that she couples with an honesty that invites the reader to open the closets of their troubled existence and tear out the tattered garments. It's mind opening. It's inspiring. It answers questions that I've asked for decades as a troubled mate and a separated father embroiled in perplexing relationships with women and my own daughter. It poses new, troubling questions about the impact on the social process of paternal absence from the lives of future mothers and wives. I suspect that WHATEVER

HAPPENED TO DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL will become a must read in psychology classes and book clubs all over. I'm sending copies to some of the women whom I love, and to some whom I have tried to love.D. Edward Dyer

I didn't give as much thought as I should have about growing up without a father or reliable father figure. Yet while reading this book, I saw many of my realities on the pages. Regardless of a societies cultural practices, every adult and child has a role to play and when it is compromised or ignored, the social structure falters. That's what Barras was talking about. Every fatherless woman won't have the same experiences, but most must admit that their view of the world is markedly different from women who grew up with positive influences from both parents regardless of their marital status. Clearly some of us adapt better than others, but Barras's theory has merit.

What happens when a Father is missing from the home? The son grows up without understanding what it takes to be a man and how a man must respect a woman. The daughter grows up void of self-esteem and often without an understanding of how to choose and treat a good black man. Thus you have what we see our young people going through today. An inability to relate to each other in a loving and respectful manner that would foster a strong black family and thus a strong black community. Much praise and respect to Barras for tackling a problem unidentified by most African Americans, male and female. As a 30 year old single black male, I first encountered the problem of Fatherless Woman Syndrome (FWS) 6 years ago. I was just as shocked then as I am now at the number of brothers and sisters who don't recognize and understand FWS until it's too late (if at all). This book needs to be required reading for many of our children who are in high school and college. Mothers and Fathers would also get an understanding of the effect their daughter's relationship with the Father (or lack of) might be having on her self-esteem and general psychological well being. We need to recognize the damaging effects a missing Father has on the Black family and realize that the Black family (and thus the Black race) is indeed endangered.I've sent this book out to a few of my beautiful Black Sisters who I see battling with FWS on a daily basis but unknowingly mask it behind material, educational, and professional achievements.

I was moved to seek out this book when, during a black male discussion group session, it dawned on me that nearly every woman in my immediate family had either poor or non-existent relationships with their biological fathers, whether due to divorce, premature death, substance abuse, lack of marital connection to the mother or other causes. This includes my mother, two sisters, two

sisters-in-law, three maternal aunts, former wife, current wife and two of my three daughters. Nearly all of them have exhibited the life-choices and behavior patterns identified in Barras' book. As Barras' book illustrates, the implications of this echo beyond isolated, individual women and are clearly multigenerational, affecting black men as well. I found Barras' book to be eyeopening and extremely helpful to me as a son, brother, husband and father seeking to better understand and relate to the women in my life. With all due respect to Mr. Mingo's less-than-glowing review (I, too, am a journalist; the last time I checked, it was a professional, not amateur, pursuit), Barras' insights, observations and personal experiences combine to make an eminently credible and thought-provoking book, with practical, realistic solutions for our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. I bought copies for several women in my family. All did not choose to read them; those who did benefitted immensely and recommended the book to others. A great companion book to this is "More Than Sex: Reinventing the Black Male Image" by Dr. George Edmond Smith.

This book was given to me by a friend and prior to starting it, I had uttered a few words to a good friend about myself. Then I read this book and the introduction echoed what I had described and I was able to give it a name, The Fatherless Woman Syndrome. I am the product of a divorce and it was uplifting, yet sad to see that this had an impact on my life. My incorrect choices in men, my fears, and my bringing a child into this world alone and my successes. Every factor they described I fell into, from the successful woman who can do it alone, to the woman who made sure she ran from every relationship she was in. I saw myself in this book. (I admit I drove myself hard just so I could prove to my father that I was worth his love and that he lost out on a good deal.) This book has given me insight into myself, and I trust, every woman, that had been abandoned, in some way by her father, will learn to understand her plight and work toward healing. I encourage all women to read this book and look inside themselves and discover who they are. Jonneta's book had starting the healing process. Thank you for showing me, why I am me.

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