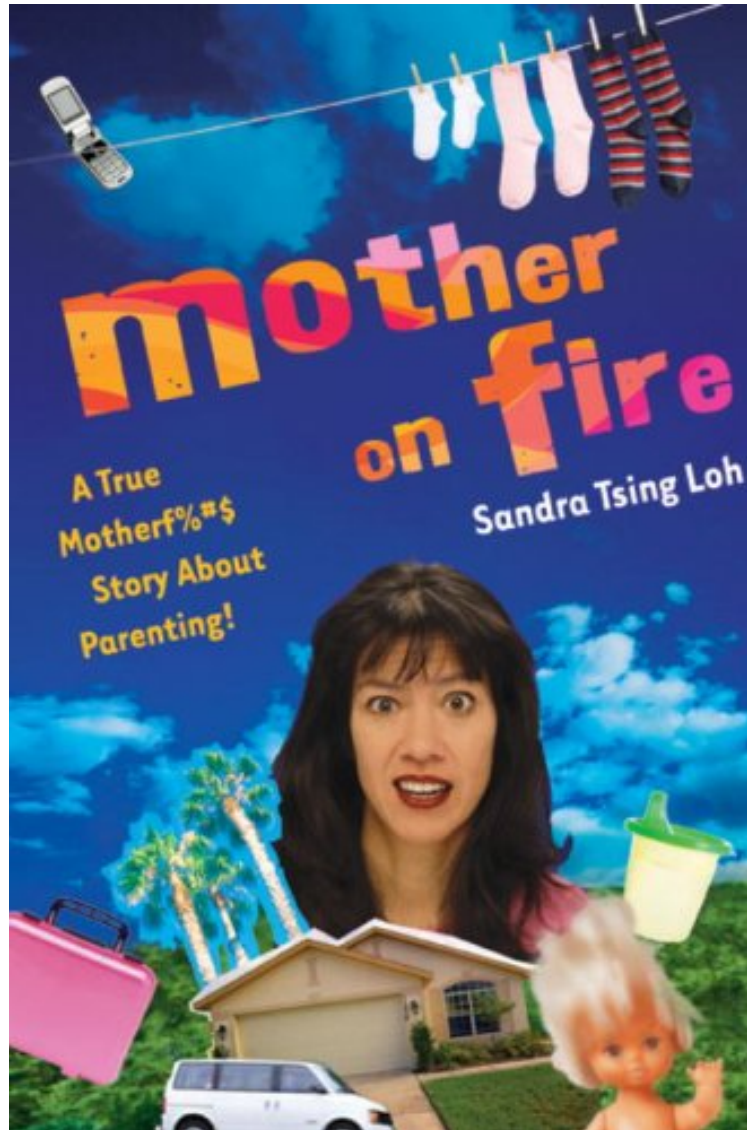


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Mother on Fire: A True Motherf%#\$@ Story About Parenting!

Sandra Tsing Loh

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Sandra Tsing Loh : Mother on Fire: A True Motherf%#\$@ Story About Parenting! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mother on Fire: A True Motherf%#\$@ Story About Parenting!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sassy MommyhoodBy blondewriter99I absolutely love Sandra Tsing-Loh's writing- especially in The Atlantic- which is what make the theme of helicopter motherhood, something I normally wouldn't be able to stomach, tolerable for me. Tsing-Loh is laugh-out-loud funny, though sometimes her anecdotes do reek of fake reality showism. It's clear she is vastly exaggerating her characters and the circumstances of

her life most of the time, however, she is a very engaging writer. Unfortunately, the book ends before the break-down of her marriage and her affair, which she chronicled in "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off" in The Atlantic. Now THAT is the book I want to read! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It has its moments, but borrow it if you can. By jmspx I'm not all that familiar with Ms. Tsing Loh's work. She is capable of being funny, and I found myself nodding in recognition at some of her experiences. But mostly I found this book to be rambling, disjointed, and self-indulgent. Also, I've never seen so many exclamation points used by an adult. Good god, she punctuates like a texting teenager. Does she shout this much on NPR? 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mother on Fire By borgy borgy Do not let the humor mask the importance of what Sandra Tsing Loh is saying here. There is a real distortion of reality developing on the part of many middle and upper class parents these days. She addresses this both from the inside and the outside arriving at a position that seems not that unusual but is indeed important for modern parents. At a seminar for some high powered young people in NYC, the presenter maintained that the qualities that got them where they may not be available to their children because of the decisions they, their cohort, make. When asked how many went to public schools, most raised their hands. When asked how many send their children to public schools, none raised their hands. "That's why your grandkids will not still have what you accumulate in your lives." he said. Maybe current economic times will change the trend. If so, this book is a pretty hopeful way to look at school for your kids. And it's so much more funny than reading Jonathan Kozol, great as he is.

This is a story about the year I exploded into flames. Which turns out to be more common than you'd think, among forty-something humans. Yea, we can hold it together in our thirties, with a raft of hair products and semi-tall nonfat half-caf beverages and much brisk walking to a lot of interesting appointments. Come the forties, though, cracks begin to appear. One staggers suddenly along life's path; gourmet coffee splats; the wig slips askew. In other words, my friends, THE WHEELS COME OFF. Sandra Tsing Loh is the fiercest, funniest, and most incredibly honest and self-deprecating voice to emerge from the "mommy war" debates. In *Mother on Fire*, she fires away with her trademark hilarious satire of societal and personal irks large and small, including limo liberals who preach the virtues of public school but send their children to fashionable private ones, the proliferation of costly skin-care products that just don't cut it, society's obsession with aromatherapy, her Chinese father's disdain for her life as an artist, and \$10 Target pants ("Are they running pants, exercise pants, pajama pants?") that are the ubiquitous Mother of Small Children uniform. Prompted by her own midlife crisis, Loh throws her frantic energy not into illicit affairs, shopping binges, or exotic trips, but into the harrowing heart of contemporary, dysfunctional L.A. life when she realizes that she can't afford private school for her daughter, and her only alternative is her neighborhood's public school, Guavatorina, where most of the kids speak Spanish and qualify for free lunches. In a theater-of-the-absurd-style odyssey, *Mother on Fire* documents Loh's "year of living dangerously" among pompous school admissions officials, lactose-intolerant, Prius-driving parents, mafia dons of public radio, vindictive bosses, and old friends with new money as she first kisses ass—and then kicks it.

From Publishers Weekly Radio commentator and performer Loh (*A Year in Van Nuys*) has penned a hilarious memoir with the same title as her one-woman comedy show, which ran for seven months in Los Angeles. The story begins as a droll little breeze that soon sucks the reader into a frenzied whirlwind as Loh recounts her harrowing quest to find a suitable kindergarten for Hannah, her four-year-old daughter (Loh habitually calls Isabel, her two-year-old, simply The Squid). Spurned by the local Lutheran school (which deems the precocious Hannah not developmentally ready), Loh vaults from pricey and competitive private institutions to public school settings, discovering that the chances of Hannah making it into the desirable public magnet school are minuscule, and only one in 20 is admitted to the idyllic private school, Wonder Canyon, which costs \$22,500 per year. Loh is prone to insomnia, expletives (she's fired from her radio spot for using the F word on air), panic (panic attacks are my booster rockets) and exaggeration as she grapples with rejection, middle age, friendship, a clueless but lovable guitar-playing husband and a brilliant but eccentric Chinese father. All parents who have searched for an ideal school for their youngster (and even those who haven't) will be snared by Loh's crackling prose. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "[Loh has transformed] herself into the foaming mouthpiece of dissent and outrage over the state of public education.... Her language is imaginatively twisted and fearless."—Los Angeles Times "A droll rant... [Loh]'s not afraid to touch on issues of class and race in a way that's both humorous and trenchant.... *Mother on Fire* offers much to entertain the many mothers among us."—Washington Post "Loh's ability to write a book about a year in the life of a mom... all the while eliciting at least one snort of laughter per page, is no less than a feat of genius."—New York Times (Editor's Choice) From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author SANDRA TSING LOH is an NPR commentator, an Atlantic Monthly contributor, and a successful performance artist. She is the author of four previous books.