

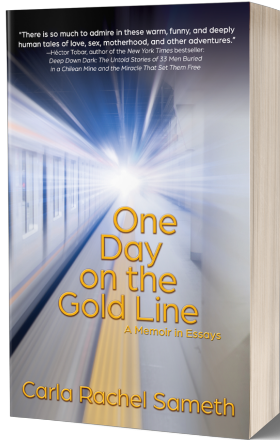


RARE BIRD LIT, *Published by Black Rose Writing*

ONE DAY ON THE GOLD LINE: A MEMOIR IN ESSAYS

CARLA SAMETH

PUB DATE JULY 18 2019



Through meditations on race, culture, and family, *One Day on the Gold Line* tells the story of a lesbian Jewish single mother raising a black son in Los Angeles. A memoir-in-essays, it examines life's surprising changes that come through choice or circumstance, often seemingly out of nowhere, and sometimes darkly humorous—even as the situations are dire. While escaping from a burning boat, Carla realizes that if she died, her one regret would be not having children. She overcomes miscarriages to finally give birth to a son. Motherhood's usual struggles are then complicated by identity, community, and the challenges of creating a blended family. The overarching theme of these loosely woven reflective tales is the storyteller's dream of the "perfect" family, the pursuit of which hurls her from one crisis to the next, ultimately meeting its greatest challenge in the form of her teenage son's struggle with drug addiction.

Writer. Teacher. Mother. As a writer, Carla hopes to help readers feel less alone and more resilient. As a teacher, she strives to help others tell their stories and hone their craft while experimenting with new forms. The journey of motherhood informs much of her writing. Carla's memoir, *One Day on the*

Gold Line, is forthcoming, release date July 18, 2019, with publisher, Black Rose Writing. Carla teaches creative writing at the Los Angeles Writing Project (LAWP) at California State University Los Angeles (CSULA) and with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Carla is also a fellow and scholarship. Recipient of the Vermont College of Fine Arts Postgraduate Writers' Conference. She is a member of the Pasadena Rose Poets who present "poetry within reach and in unexpected places." The Whidbey Writers Workshop MFA Program awarded her a merit scholarship in 2014. Carla became a Los Angeles Writing Project fellow when she attended the 2016 Summer Invitational Writing Institute at CSULA and was selected for a PEN in the Community Teaching Artist Residency in the fall of 2016. Carla holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an MFA in Creative Writing (Latin America) from Queens University of Charlotte. Carla also studied economics and literature at the Universidad Autónoma de México City. Carla's work has been published in several anthologies and has appeared in print and online in publications that include *ePen* (the online publication of PEN Center USA); *Brain, Child*; *Brevity Blog*; *The Nervous Breakdown*; *Anti-Heroine Chic*; *Collateral Journal*; *Full Grown People*; *Narratively*; *Mutha Magazine*; *Tikkun*; *Pasadena Weekly*; *AOL/Patch* (the regular column "Single Moms of South Pasadena"); *Angels Flight Literary West*; and *La Bloga*. Her story "Graduation Day at Addiction High," which originally appeared in *Narratively*, was also selected for *Longread's* "Five Stories About Addiction" Carla has helped others tell their stories through her communications business (iMindsPR). She is the co-founder of the Pasadena Writing Project and a writing instructor and mentor for incarcerated youth through WriteGirl. She played an instrumental role in building a career and education outreach program for Latinas at Women at Work. Carla also worked with the largest urban Indian Clinic, The Seattle Indian Health Board, where she started a program to combat family violence and sexual assault and created a model program for addressing adolescent healthcare, teen pregnancy, and teen parenting. Carla's goals as a writer and teacher are to give a voice to those who might not otherwise have one and to offer hope for change.

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BLURBS

There is so much to admire in these warm, funny, and deeply human tales of love, sex, motherhood, and other adventures. Carla Sameth never gives up on herself, and her readers will never give up on her.

—**Héctor Tobar**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller: *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle That Set Them Free.*

Race, class, drugs, sexuality, otherness... 21st Century American hot-button issues are on full display in this brave, gritty, unflinching memoir. As the single lesbian mother of a Jewish and African American son, Sameth navigates dangerous cultural trends tearing at the fabric of her non-traditional family. Sameth shows that a family is not an abstraction, but a tribe that overcomes threats only when those threats are faced head-on. This is a “feel-good” book not because it’s fuzzy and vague, but cause of its clear-eyed, truth-telling love.

—**Sue William Silverman**, author of *The Pat Boone Fan Club: My Life as a White Anglo-Saxon Jew* and *Fearless Confessions: A Writer’s Guide to Memoir*

A beautifully written memoir-in-essays... notable for clarity and originality. A sharp wit and defiant humor run through this book, giving it an upbeat energy.

—**Kathryn Rhett**, author of *Immortal Village, Souvenir*, and *Survival Stories: Memoirs of Crisis*

*Carla Sameth has seen it all—and she’s the perfect guide to show us the poetry she found. Like motherhood itself, *One Day on the Gold Line* will break your heart in all the right places and put it back together a little differently.*

—**Ariel Gore**, Author, Editor/Publisher of *Hip Mama*

*The well-crafted essays of Carla Sameth’s memoir, *One Day on the Gold Line*, kept me riveted. Sameth tells deeply moving personal stories about overwhelming yearning and love that make you frighteningly vulnerable, finding the courage to face the worst, losing the person you were in your youth and discovering her again. This is a truly beautiful book.*

—**Lillian Faderman**, author of *Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir* and *Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death*

*Set in California in the 1990s, in the context of Black Lives Matter, same sex marriage laws, and publication of *The New Jim Crow*, Sameth’s narrative is a riveting story of resilience—of what happens when what we hope for, and what we get, stand in stark, though sometimes beautiful, contrast.*

—**Marcelle Soviero**, Editor-in-Chief *Brain, Child: The Magazine for Thinking Mothers.*

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