

ABSTRACT

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This thesis seeks to explore how familial relationships and generational behaviors result in both positive and negative outcomes. There have been significant events throughout my life that have shaped me both for the better and in some cases for the worse. The stories within the thesis are not simply retold but accompanied by moments of self-reflection while examining culture norms. The shared experiences between my mother, grandmother, and myself form the overall narrative highlighting similarities between three generations of women. The chapters in my memoir fluctuate between stories of my past as well as the past of my mother and grandmother. The events are not in chronological order, rather they are placed next to stories that are similar to show generational patterns and learned behavior. The stories are told from my memory as well as things that I have discovered about my family history over the years through third parties. There are also three chapters that are dedicated to friends that have impacted my journey in some fashion. The themes explored in my memoir are the relationship of sex and power, looking at the negative impact that it has on a person and the people surrounding that person. There are also themes that explore cultural norms and how it may be used to silence a person and prohibit growth. Lastly, the evolution of learned behavior from one generation to the next is the narrative thread that ties all the themes within the story together.