

BEYOND
Mere Motherhood

Moms Are People Too

Cindy Rollins



Wichita, Kansas

Beyond Mere Motherhood: Moms Are People Too

© *Cindy Rollins 2023*

Published by Blue Sky Daisies
blueskydaisies.net
Wichita, Kansas

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated into any other language.

Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover and interior images (floral pattern and bird): olga.korneeva via Creative Market

Website URLs referenced in these pages were current at the time of publication but may change over time.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by an information storage and retrieval system—except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in a magazine or newspaper—without permission in writing from the publisher. For information, email info@blueskydaisies.net.

Cover Design Blue Sky Daisies © 2023

ISBN: 978-1-944435-41-7

Contents

FOREWORD vii

INTRODUCTION 1

1. The Thinking Mother 5
2. The Contemplative Mother 25
3. The Reading Mother 51
4. The Natural Mother 83
5. The Active Mother 105
6. The Studious Mother 125
7. The Creative Mother 153
8. The Beautiful Mother 179
9. The Suffering Mother 199
10. The Wise Mother 223

ENDNOTES 249

ABOUT THE AUTHOR 255



Foreword

The Habit of Being a Mother

I was a homeschooling mother. This is somewhat like being a teenage werewolf. It is weird. While I wrote this book based on my own experiences of motherhood, which included homeschooling, I hope the scope of the book is helpful to all mothers and daughters. Many homeschooling mothers work outside their homes or have paying gigs at home. I wrote this for all of you. This is not some sort of how-to-be-a-homemaker book, although I hope it will help you make your home beautiful from the inside out. This is a book about the women I know and the things they face and feel. Some have jobs and some don't. Elisabeth Elliot encouraged women to find Titus 2 mentors, and even worse, she encouraged women to be Titus 2 mentors. Most older women I know feel too inadequate for that title. That is why I wrote this book—to illustrate that they are not.

Cindy Rollins

2023



Introduction

This is a book about self-education. It is not a book about homeschooling our children so much as about homeschooling ourselves. In that way, it is not a book for homeschooling moms only but for all moms who want to become educated in the midst of a busy life.

It is not a book about parenting. It is a book about how a mother can capture her moments and days in such a way that they add up to a life worth living. Her life.

I hope as you are reading this book the lines between spirit, body, and mind become blurred, seamless. Our minds, bodies, and spirits are a trivium, a trinity, best kept in balance. In point eighteen of her twenty principles, Charlotte Mason says:

We should allow no separation to grow up between the intellectual and “spiritual” life of children; but should teach them that the divine Spirit has constant access to their spirits, and is their continual helper in all the interests, duties and joys of life.

We should allow no separation to grow in our own adult lives either.

BEYOND MERE MOTHERHOOD

A. W. Tozer, in his book *The Pursuit of God*, caps off a masterful work with a masterful chapter on the importance of not separating the sacred from the secular. This does not mean that we have to over-spiritualize our pursuits to make them acceptable. You know how we tack spiritual things on to secular things to make them seem noble? Like singing a hymn while changing the baby's diaper or making sure we read a Bible verse at book club? It means that our regular, ordinary, daily tasks are already spiritual. Maybe we just feel like singing hymns while changing the diaper or maybe not. Either way the diaper changing is sacred and so is the hymn, if our hearts are tuned towards our Creator.

The Thinking Mother

Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministration. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.

A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

Ordo Amoris

I used to think that I had been cheated out of an education by the system. After graduating from high school woefully ignorant, I began my own course of self-education. This has been both gratifying and frustrating as I discovered for myself that the more you know the more there is to know. One thing I know now is that all education is ultimately self-education. I hadn't been cheated by the system; the system itself was never able to perform the task. It had always been up to me, just as your education has always been up to you. Over the years, I have noticed people from different elementary and high school educational venues complaining about the education they received. Just like I did.

I grew up in Florida public schools. A friend who attended private Christian schools all her life would never send her children to one of those. And many grown-up homeschoolers complain about the poor education they got from their mothers. I have begun to look at all these complaints kind of like those pesky internet ads. They don't reflect the site you are visiting so much as you. We all