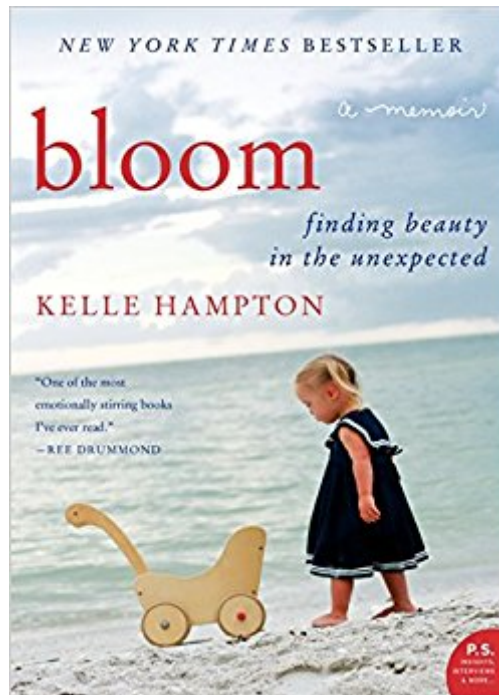




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Bloom: Finding Beauty In The Unexpected--A Memoir (P.S.)



Synopsis

“In her tender and genuinely beautiful memoir, Kelle Hampton encourages us to not simply accept the unexpected circumstances of our lives, but to embrace them like the things we wished for all along.” —Matthew Logelin, New York Times bestselling author of *Two Kisses for MaddyBloom* is an inspiring and heartfelt memoir that celebrates the beauty found in the unexpected, the strength of a mother’s love, and, ultimately, the amazing power of perspective. The author of the popular blog *Enjoying the Small Things* —named *The Bump*’s Best Special Needs Blog and *The Blog You’ve Learned the Most From* in the 2010 BlogLuxe Awards —Kelle Hampton interweaves lyrical prose and stunning four-color photography as she recounts the unforgettable story of the first year in the life of her daughter Nella, who has Down syndrome. Poignant, eye-opening, and heart-soaring, Hampton’s *Bloom* is ultimately about embracing life and really living it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Bloom is one of the most emotionally stirring books I’ve ever read.” This story is a reminder that perfect, when it comes to human beings, is such a relative (and irrelevant) term—and that a mother’s love for her child is a powerful, eternal, unshakable force. (Ree Drummond, New York Times bestselling author of *The Pioneer Woman Cooks*) “Kelle Hampton reminds us that life may not always look pretty or perfect, but it is always beautiful.” She has indeed made of her life something “wild and

precious and her book, like her two beautiful girls, is a bundle of joy. I finished it reluctantly and with a full heart. (Claire Fontaine, national bestselling author of *Come Back: A Mother and Daughter's Journey Through Hell and Back*) "In her tender and genuinely beautiful memoir, Kelle Hampton encourages us to not simply accept the unexpected circumstances of our lives, but to embrace them like the things we wished for all along. (Matthew Logelin, New York Times bestselling author of *Two Kisses for Maddy*) "A constitutionally positive person Hampton makes a convincing argument that grief and disappointment can be transformed into compassion and joy. (People (3 stars)) #11 New York Times Bestseller (New York Times) A USA Today Bestseller (USA Today) "Bloom is not only about a particular young mother working through the place of hurt it is about all of us. [A] powerful meditation on loss, perspective, challenge and opportunity. Give it to anyone you know who is hurting. (Fort Myers Florida Weekly) "In Bloom, a searing and brave portrait of her baby's first year, Hampton opens up about her fears, jubilation, and the throbbing pain of losing what I had expected. Filled with personal photos from the delivery room through Nella's first birthday, Bloom gives new meaning to the term open book. (BookPage) Winner of 2012 Mom's Choice Silver Award, Biographies & Memoirs (Mom's Choice Awards)

There is us. Our Family. We will hold our precious gift and know that we are lucky . . . From the outside looking in, Kelle Hampton had the perfect life: a beautiful two-year-old daughter, a loving husband, and a thriving photography career. When she learned she was pregnant with their second child, they were ecstatic. But when their new daughter was placed in her arms in the delivery room, Kelle knew instantly that something was wrong. Nella looked different than her sister, Lainey, had at birth. As her friends and family celebrated, a terrified Kelle was certain that Nella had Down syndrome a fear her pediatrician soon confirmed. Yet gradually Kelle embraced the realization that she had been chosen to experience an extraordinary and special gift. With lyrical prose and gorgeous photography, Bloom takes readers on a wondrous journey through Nella's first year of life a gripping, hilarious, and intensely poignant trip of transformation in which a mother learns that perfection comes in all different shapes.

All I knew about Kelle Hampton is that she had a child with Down syndrome & her blog went viral. I was curious enough to pick up her book to get the whole story. End result: I'm confused. I love a good memoir. This one seemed to be more about the excitement of her pregnancy, her daughter

not being perfect as she'd planned, a lot of drinking & more or less, a feeble attempt to convince herself that Nella is perfect as she is. I don't question her love for her children, but as a memoir, it just didn't have a hook I understood. I think I was looking for answers about her relationship with her husband, how they've connected or not after this, but it's like scratching the surface... But never hard enough to leave a mark. I've since seen more of her blog and while Kelle takes some beautiful photographs, I can't say this book is one I'll read again. Bottom line? I can take it or leave it. I will say that the lack of preaching as found in Angie Smith's book was definitely refreshing, so I will give Kelle that!

I rarely 'hate' anything, but I truly hated this book. Bad, just bad. I'm not going to go into the dirty details but just don't do it. Author is self-indulgent, immature, materialistic, and shallow (I guess she makes a good antagonist if I have to find something good to say). She is a poor representation of the amazing families who nurture special needs children. And let me be clear--her honest reaction to how she felt in learning that her daughter had down syndrome is not my rationale for disliking this book so strongly--I actually appreciate her honesty. The problem is the prolonged whining, poor writing, million glossy pictures of her self, self-indulgent drivel.

This is the true story of the author's little girl, Nella. She was born a Downs Syndrome child and the book describes beautifully the first year of Nella's life. The book celebrates how important every life is and how we should treasure each life.

So far I have seen whole paragraphs repeated & some missing sentence completions. Not happy with the editing.

A beautiful story and a very easy read. Loved the photos too. While some parts were much better written than others, I appreciated the honesty and reflections on joys and sorrows, the pride and judgments, the hopes and dreams realized and forced to change. While there are other books about raising children with disabilities that I've given 5 stars too, rather than 4, I appreciated this story and getting the full picture of the Hamptons' life.

A heartwarming story about accepting your 'imperfect' child.

Beautiful story

It reminded me of my own journey with my special needs child. I would recommend this to be read by Special Education undergrads for them to realize the depth of how a family deals with landing in Holland instead of Italy.

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