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PARENTING

Exploring parenthood

Baby is a Four-Letter Word, by Dorianne Sager, Key Porter Books, 197 pages, \$22.95.

Terry Peters

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The bookstores have rows of parenting books all promising to provide the answers to your questions and to tell you how to raise your child.

This isn't one of those books. Instead what Dorianne Sager does is share her own ups and downs from her parenting roller-coaster ride to help you find the humour in your own misadventures. From the sleep deprivation to the incredible smells that can come out of a diaper, Sager manages to find a smile in every situation. Like many new mothers, she had no idea what she was getting herself into. As the realization gradually sunk in that life would never be the same again, it also brought the joy of discovery and love that comes with child rearing.

She presents her viewpoint in a series of articles that touch on a huge range of subjects that every parent has to deal with. Breast-feeding in public places, grocery store chaos and toilet training are just a few of the topics. Each one is like a shared joke between friends; they tell us its okay to laugh at ourselves and that we are all going to go through the same things. In the end there is no greater joy than being a parent, and Sager leaves you filled with hope that you will be equal to the challenge and that a little laughter will go a long way to making the journey a lot more fun.

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