

This little book is a series of life lessons given to a 13-year-old girl during a confusing time in her life. Over the course of one summer, an older woman shares these important lessons by comparing them, in an inspirational, warmhearted way, to the different hats we wear throughout our lives. On the brink of womanhood or at any milestone or transition along the way, women and girls of all ages will be inspired by these simple lessons - whether reading them for the first time or being reminded of what is truly important in life.

Try Lots of Hats

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TRY LOTS OF HATS



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FOR MY MOM AND DAD

MADDY



WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN

my grandmother's oldest friend, Madeline, or "Maddy" as she was called, came to spend the summer at my grandparent's house at the Jersey shore. It wasn't unusual for the old Victorian house to be bursting

with visitors during the summer months but it was the first time Maddy had been there since

I was a baby. My grandfather had died during the previous winter and Maddy came from her home in Costa Rica to spend the summer with her old friend. Maddy, who was an author of novels and poetry and a world traveler, took up residence in Costa Rica long before it became the "in" place to vacation or retire.

I was also spending the summer at Grandma Jean's shore house. My mother thought it would be good for me to get out of the city and away from the sadness and tension of my parent's recent separation. I suspect that she also thought it would be good for Grandma Jean to have me there. Looking back over more than thirty years, I realize that the things I learned that summer laid the groundwork for the woman I was to become.

I became enthralled with Maddy. She was a striking figure - tall and slender with snow white hair, smooth skin and clear blue eyes but, more than that, was her commanding presence, her wonderful story telling voice, and her musical laugh. She had her own unique style that had nothing to do with fads or fashion.

One of the first things she said to me was "try lots of hats". I didn't know what she meant but she had a wonderful collection of hats and she used them as symbols for the lessons she taught me. I didn't put it all together that summer but, over the years, the pieces of what she told me came back at what always seemed like just the right time.



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