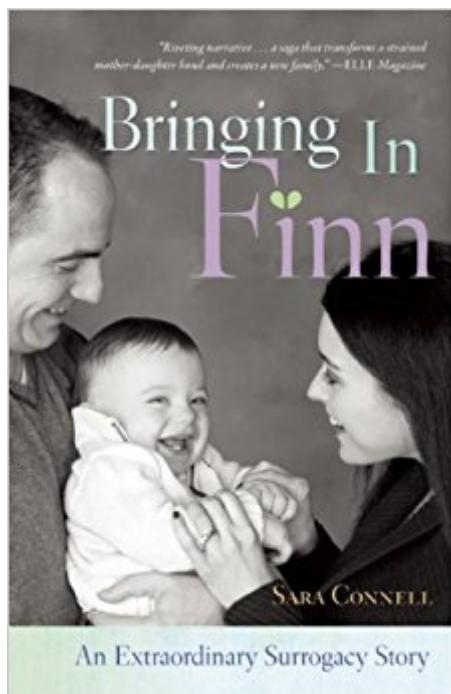


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# Bringing In Finn: An Extraordinary Surrogacy Story



## Synopsis

In February 2011, Sara Connell's mother, Kristine Casey, delivered the greatest gift of all to her daughter; Sara's son Finnean. At that moment, 61-year-old Kristine, the gestational carrier of Sara and her husband Bill's child; became the oldest woman ever to give birth in Chicago. Bringing in Finn is the incredible story of one woman's hard-fought and often painful journey to motherhood. In this achingly honest memoir, Connell recounts the tragedy and heartbreak of losing pregnancies; the process of opening her heart and mind to the idea of her 61-year-old mother carrying her child for her; and the profound bond that blossomed between mother and daughter as a result of their unique experience together. Moving, inspiring, and ultimately triumphant, Bringing in Finn is an extraordinary tale of despair, hope, forgiveness, and redemption; and the discovery that when it comes to unconditional love, there are no limits to what can be achieved.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Riveting narrative trumps all, and readers found it here in spades: After an ordeal of fertility treatments and lost pregnancies, the author and her husband accept her 61-year-old mother's offer to become the gestational carrier of their child; a saga that transforms a strained mother-daughter bond and creates a new family." *ELLE magazine*; Sara Connell burns through abstract questions about the ethics and limits of medicalized fertility and gets to the heart of things. The result is a powerful testament to the depth and complexity of mother love.

&#147;&#151;Ariel Gore, founding editor of Hip Mama and the author of Bluebird&#147;Sara ConnellÃ¢ ¬â„cs journey to motherhood is a modern miracle. Her lyrical book chronicles an adventure that leads us into uncharted territory. Connell reaches deep into her heart to write about the desire for children, the sacred trust of marriage, the enduring bonds between mothers and daughters, and the sustaining power of hope. I couldnÃ¢ ¬â„ct put it down.Ã¢ ¬Â•&#151;Dominique Browning, Senior Director, Moms Clean Air Task Force&#147;Be prepared to be blown away. Bringing in Finn is about a family so determined to bring a baby into the world that they push every convention possible and succeed in making a miracle.Ã¢ ¬Â•&#151;Michelle Lowe, playwright, author of Inana, winner of the 2010 Francesca Primus Prize&#147;Bringing in Finn is a must-read for anyone who is in any stage of yearning&#151;for a child, for a mother, for a family, for faith. This is a story for anyone with an unfulfilled longing or desire.Ã¢ ¬Â•&#151;Christie Tate, author of Outlaw Mama&#147;&#133;this is an amazing journey, beautifully shared. It calls us to celebrate what matters most, persevere in times of despair, and know the Truth that Love always prevails.Ã¢ ¬Â•&#151;Marian Baker, author of Wake Up Inspired"Bringing in Finn is SaraÃ¢ ¬â„cs bracingly honest memoir, and itÃ¢ ¬â„cs a testament to the power of family. Far from being sensational, itÃ¢ ¬â„cs a moving and inspiring look at unusual choices made with love."&#151;Reader's Digest"The remarkable story of a family coming together when a 61-year-old woman becomes a surrogate carrier for her infertile daughter."&#151;Shelf Awareness

Sara Connell is an author, speaker, and life coach with a private practice in Chicago. A frequent media contributor, Sara has appeared on Oprah, NPR, WGN, and FOX News Chicago, and will soon appear on Good Morning America, Nightline, and The View. Sara's writing has been featured in: ELLE, Good Housekeeping, Parenting, Psychobabble, Evolving Your Spirit, and Mindful Metropolis. Her first book, *Bringing in Finn: An Extraordinary Surrogacy Story*, was nominated for ELLE magazine's 2012 Book of the Year. Visit Sara at her website, [saraconnell.com](http://saraconnell.com), and on Facebook. She lives in Chicago, IL.

Here's why I love this book: While the narrative offers and delivers a gripping story about an unorthodox reproductive journey, it is also a metaphor for what can happen if you allow unexpected people in your life (perhaps your mother, as in Connell's case) to bring you great gifts. I knew I would give this book to all the people I know who are struggling with fertility. My mind naturally drifted to those who have suffered losses on the route to parenthood. And I firmly believe that they will find in

Connell's story inspiration, comfort, and hope. But, I am passing Bringing in Finn along to anyone who expresses any kind of longing, not just for children, but also for family, or partnership, or healing, or purpose. Those are the friends I most want to read this book full of heroes: Connell's mother, the newly retired 60-year-old, who prepared her body for a post-menopausal pregnancy. Connell's husband who embraced the miraculous possibilities and made delicious meals for the women in this story. Connell herself who generously and gorgeously chronicles her family's story, taking readers from the heartbreak of a second-trimester miscarriage to the triumphant birth of her son Finn. And finally, Finn, the baby whose birth is the result of both astounding medical advances and the awe-inspiring tenacity of his entire family. This review is excerpted from a longer review I wrote at the following:[...]

I read this book in one day I couldn't put it down. Anyone who is struggling with infertility or loss will really connect to this woman's story. As someone who has had losses and failed IVFs it was really inspiring to read this book and see how she and her husband persevered through all of the sadness and loss. This story is truly inspiring and brought me to tears I recommend this to anyone and everyone struggling with infertility and loss or not. She is a very skilled and honest writer and I appreciate her sharing her story, I hope she knows that by sharing this beyond difficult journey she is really helping people, this book really helped me and if you choose to read it I hope it helps you too.

I think I saw this family on Oprah before she left her show..what an amazing thing that the author's Mom had her baby..the story was pretty interesting..I did feel a little bogged down in the infertility details and the new agey meditation stuff and wanted to know more about the author and her families personal feelings..I also felt like the author blamed a lot of her infertility problems on using birth control pills for 9 years...most of my friends took them longer than that with no issues..I personally took them for 19..not a typo..19 years and had my beautiful daughter at age 37..first try..no issues..so I think the problem might have been a combo of her previous ovarian issues..her low body weight..etc...I'm not her physician or her and we all different..just saying I had a completely different experience and other women shouldn't freak out about taking Birth Control Pills for long periods, because it can be just fine.

This book was recommended to me by a friend of the author and her husband. I went through my own fertility issues and it was comforting to read that I'm not alone... The sacrifice that they all went

through to bring in Finn brought many tears. I couldn't put this book down. It's a fantastic read not only for those going through similar situations, but it's just a miraculous story!

Sara Connell's first-hand account of trauma, tragedy and triumph filled me with hope and a renewed sense of faith. This story, lovingly and powerfully detailed by emerging talent, Sara Connell, is one for anyone in need of inspiration, hope and a surge of perseverance. I can't believe what this couple went through to have a child and am blown away by the sacrifice and love Sara's mother offered her daughter and son-in-law. I loved this book! Read my full review at A Teachable Mom blog.

I must admit I loved every word of this book! I'm fascinated by all birth stories. Sara and Bill's struggle to conceive a baby is not unique, but their solution (having Sara's mom be their surrogate) was unusual and inspiring and, ultimately, thrilling. This book reads like the true adventure it was, full of perils and loss and breath-holding moments and surprises beyond measure. It's intimate disclosure and so rewarding and fun and now Finn is here! Wow.

Loved this book. It was a fast read and I was very engaged. My favorite part was how Sara integrated spirituality into the story of her fertility struggles.

My heart is so filled up after reading this beautiful book-- I loved Sara's wide open heart and the sweet, loving journey for her whole family. Thank you for the inspiration! love, Karen

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