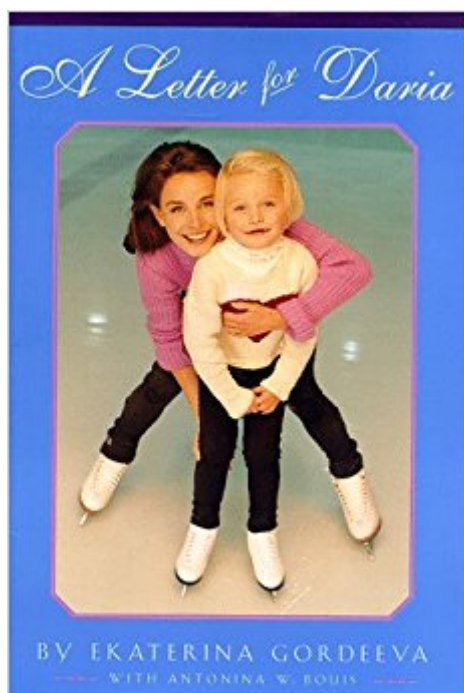


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# A Letter For Daria



## Synopsis

The Olympic gold medal-winning skater talks about her daughter Daria, with reflections on her own mother and grandmother, and advice for Daria.

## Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

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## Customer Reviews

Russian figure-skating champion Gordeeva follows up *My Sergei*, a tender tribute to her late husband and skating partner, with this equally sentimental collection of musings and advice for her daughter, Daria. Within a very loose chronology, Gordeeva shares memories of Daria's birth in 1992 and the hectic but happy family life she enjoyed until Sergei Grinkov's sudden and unexpected death three years later. But this is no maudlin recounting; Gordeeva reflects on the joys of her life and clearly expresses her hopes and dreams for her daughter in encouraging, nurturing words. Readers will take away a strong sense of family—especially in passages where Gordeeva stresses the importance of Russian babushkas (notably her own grandmother and great-grandmother) as an essential support system, and will detect their loving bonds in the numerous color photographs. The book has a rambling feel with no formal organization, and phrasing and sentence structure occasionally remind readers that English is not Gordeeva's native language. But regardless of format, Gordeeva's sincerity shines through and her life philosophy is one that will inspire many. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-5AGold-medal winner Gordeeva writes to her six-year-old daughter in this autobiographical letter. Each of the nine short chapters touches on a different aspect or time in the skater's life. Although the easy-to-read text is clearly written and concise, Gordeeva does not go into depth about her or her late husband's lives. She touches on a few differences between Russian and American cultures, her feelings about training, and her thoughts on religion, and shares some of her hopes and dreams for both her and her daughter's futures. The result is a charming story through which readers can peek into the life and thoughts of a star athlete. Uncaptioned full-color photographs depict the happy family life the author describes. Although it will not suit the needs of report writers, this heartfelt account of an athlete's struggles and triumphs will enhance both sports and biography collections.ABarb Lawler, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PACopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Straight from a mother's heart! Loved the way Katia put her thoughts down for her sweet baby during a very difficult time in her life. I couldn't help but be touched deeply by this, as well as the other book she wrote, My Sergei: A Love Story, during this time in her life.

I was a real fan of Gordeeva and Grinkov and bought Katia's book, MY SERGEI, which was wonderful. This new book doesn't contain much information and doesn't have as many pictures as I would like. It is really designed for children.

I bought this product on Dec 10 and still I can not track this product, I don't know where it is or if it is on the way...

I'm really glad I picked up this book. First off, it is a book that you can easily read in a single sitting. The family photos just add to the book.Ekaterina's writing is very personal. It made me want to continue reading the book. I was a little disappointed when I reached the end, not because there were parts of the book that I didn't like, but because I wanted the book to keep going. I wanted to read more.She is such a strong woman and has an amazing family. One part of her life is a situation that I'm currently going through. Reading how she handled it and bettered herself is an inspiration to me.Why doesn't the US celebrate International Women's Day?

This is a delightful book that showcases a mother's obvious love for her daughter and for her own mother and grandmother. In this book Katia reveals as much or more about herself than she did in

her previous book (also a great book) and tells lots of cute and funny anecdotes about her family. As much as I love *My Sergei*, I think I actually like this one better. But, you should know, it is written for an older children's reading level and is very different from *My Sergei* in style. Just so no one is misled, there is NO mention of abortion in this book. Katia says only that she was very lucky that her parents and Sergei were supportive of her having Daria - nothing more, nothing less. Nor does Katia mislead anyone about her (and Sergei's) arrangements for the care of her/their daughter while they were away from home on tour for half the year (her parents moved to the U.S. with them so they could care for Daria while her parents worked (touring) - all children should be so lucky to have their grandparents with them rather than spending long hours in daycare - and Katia expresses her gratitude that that option was available and her desire to do the same for Daria's children one day just as her grandmother took care of her while her own parents were away). In short, this is a delightful book that anyone with a mother or a child can enjoy and appreciate whether they are fans of skating or not. The wisdom Katia has gained from her grandmother and mother and passes on (along with her mom) to Daria is delightful and rings true across all cultures. This book also has some interesting glimpses into Russian/Soviet culture as it differs from our own.

I was so pleased to have read another book by Ekaterina Gordeeva. I think it is wonderful that she continues to share her life with her fans. She truly has a beautiful story to share. I think we can only ask her to share what she is willing to tell, however. I think her first book was a wonderful tool for information on the Grinkovs. However, I think the thing to be remembered is that she wrote this book to Daria with the intention of looking to the future. I can say it would be great for her to mention more about Sergei, but the thing to remember is that he is a memory and that memory is only the base for Katia and Daria's future. I think Ekaterina did a beautiful job of displaying that. This book is a wonderful gift for mothers and daughters everywhere, and one I hope that Daria will treasure for the rest of her life. She is lucky to have a mother who has so much to say and has found such a beautiful way in which to say it.

I read this after finishing "*My Sergei*", and was just as pleased. In this book, Ekaterina gives glimpses of her life through narrations and pictures, since the loss of her husband, and wishes for her daughter Daria. Ekaterina truly does seem like a courageous, kind hearted, family oriented, loving mother! It seems nothing can keep her down! I really enjoyed this book as well as "*My Sergei*"

I was excited to find a new book out by Katia. When I bought it and after I read it, my feelings were mixed. I understand the importance of Katia's upbringing and what she wants for Daria, and it shows through this book, but I really want to know HOW Katia is doing in her personal life and if Daria mentions her father. If Katia is going to write any other books, please, let us know what's up with her and maybe how she feels being a single mother. People hold Katia and Daria in their hearts and will support them in whatever they do. Katia also needs to feed us in our hearts and let us know how they are doing. My prayers and well wishes are with both of them. How are they doing anyway? I've been wondering where Katia's been skating...I thought she took a loooooong vacation, but, now I hear she is skating in Canada. I will continue to follow her career with much support and constant prayers. God Bless.

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