


# Stepmonster: A New Look at Why Real Stepmothers Think, Feel, and Act the Way We Do


By Wednesday Martin Ph.D.



## Stepmonster: A New Look at Why Real Stepmothers Think, Feel, and Act the Way We Do By Wednesday Martin Ph.D.

Half of all women in the United States will live with or marry a man with children. And what woman with stepchildren has not—in order to defuse the often overwhelming challenges and anxieties she experiences—referred to herself as a “stepmonster”? What Hope Edelman’s book has done for motherless daughters, Wednesday Martin’s empowering and original Stepmonster does for stepmothers: unlocks the emotional mysteries of why they think and feel and act the way they do. Martin draws on her own experience as a stepmother, interviews many stepmothers and stepchildren, and gathers insights from literature, psychology, and evolutionary biology to reveal the little-understood realities of this demanding role. Stepmonster illuminates the harrowing process of becoming a stepmother, exposes the myths and realities of being married to a man with children, counteracts the prevailing notion that stepmothers are solely responsible for the problems they encounter, identifies the five “step-dilemmas” that create conflict, and considers the emotional and social challenges men with children face when they remarry. Stepmonster also sheds light on the history of stepmothering and the previously overlooked legacy of women with stepchildren everywhere. Finally, in an unexpected twist, Martin shows why the myth of the Wicked Stepmother is at once an elaborate cultural fiction and our single best tool for understanding who real stepmothers are and how they feel.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Fascinating... Informative and carefully researched." -Salon.com

"[Martin's] insights and advice are more clear and articulate than those offered in any other book on the subject that's currently available." -*LA Examiner*

"For women who find themselves in a similar family dynamic, Martin's book should come as a welcome relief, and proof that they are not alone." -*Bust*

#### About the Author

WEDNESDAY MARTIN holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Yale. She was a regular contributor to the New York Post's parenting page for several years, and her work has appeared in a number of national magazines. Martin, a stepmother for nine years, lives with her husband and their two sons.

[www.wednesdaymartin.com](http://www.wednesdaymartin.com)

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One day we are real, normal people, living alongside everyone else in the regular world, in normal time. Then we marry a man with children and somehow we become something utterly different from what we had believed ourselves to be. When we become a stepmother--even if defining ourselves by this role is the furthest thing from our minds, even if we have kids of our own and are loving mothers, even if his kids are grown...we are likely to find ourselves wrenched from whatever identity we inhabited, and forced into another way of being seen entirely. ...Why have the specific, shared experiences of women with stepchildren been largely ignored by feminists, sociologists, and even some of the very authors who write about stepmothers and stepmothering?...Disliking stepmothers is easy; suspecting them is more or less automatic. Caring about stepmothers, expressing concern about what they're going through, considering their reality at any length, requires a leap of faith.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Nathan Wilson:

This Stepmonster: A New Look at Why Real Stepmothers Think, Feel, and Act the Way We Do tend to be reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The reason of this Stepmonster: A New Look at Why Real Stepmothers Think, Feel, and Act the Way We Do can be among the great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed you with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this Stepmonster: A New Look at Why Real Stepmothers Think, Feel, and Act the Way We Do giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

### **Kathe Waller:**

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### **William Kavanaugh:**

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