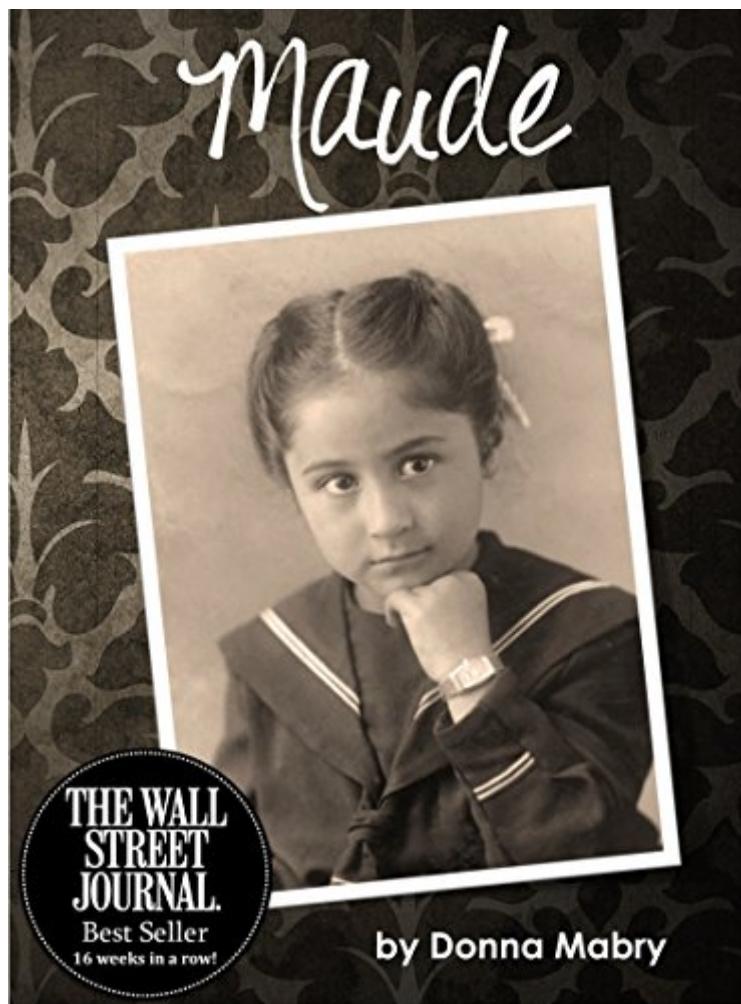


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# Maude



## Synopsis

In 1906, I was barely over fourteen years old, and it was my wedding day. My older sister, Helen, came to my room, took me by the hand, and sat me down on the bed. She opened her mouth to say something, but then her face flushed, and she turned her head to look out the window. After a second, she squeezed my hand and looked back in my eyes. She said, "You've always been a good girl, Maude, and done what I told you. Now, you're going to be a married woman, and he will be the head of the house. When you go home tonight after your party, no matter what he wants to do to you, you have to let him do it. Do you understand?" I didn't understand, but I nodded my head anyway. It sounded strange to me, the way so many things did. I would do what she told me. I didn't have a choice, any more than I had a choice in being born.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read the reviews and laughed a bit because a few of the reviews I read seemed to be from people who knew this family personally. Since it was only 99 cents, I thought it was book written by someone who threw it together and pawned it off on her neighbors, but it was really a great book. It is told in the first person, in the voice of Maude. It's an honest book and written in plain words, like

you would use to talk to your friend over a cup of coffee. It covers 1906 through the late 1960s. I found the time span interesting to see Maude go from using horses for transportation and using an outhouse to finally having her husband work for an automobile plant in Detroit and having indoor plumbing and electricity. The book spans the lives of her children and grandchildren and is very relatable. I read it in just two days. For 99 cents, this is a great bargain.

And like life is...not perfect. Donna Mabry takes us on a journey through her Grandmother's life, bare and raw and heartwarming. She takes stories her Grandmother told her and fleshes out each character so the reader can feel the love, the pain, the longing and losses. I cried through the book which I could barely put down. If you like a book that stirs your feelings about a person who survives the hardships of life with strength and courage, you will love Donna 's Grandmother, Maude.

I was enthralled with this book. I am so glad you shared this, Ms. Mabrey. Not only is it a retelling of an interesting lifetime but it also gives firsthand insights into the Great Depression, women's suffrage, WW2, and how it affected American society. I commend Ms. Mabrey for her storytelling skills and will be reading more of her works. ETA: I noticed that this story is getting criticism for being 'depressing'...life was harder in a lot of ways for women back in those days and Maude didn't have as many options as we do now. When I was a child my grandparents shared stories with me about what life was like for them during the period that this book was written, i.e. making 50 cents a day as a farm laborer, living in a tent with three small children at nineteen years old, and it was a much tougher existence. Regarding her son who was obviously mentally ill, little support was offered back then as well. I think Maude did her best with the cards she was dealt. She obviously was a loving grandmother to her granddaughter, the author.

I read this book in three days. It was definitely a page turner for me. I knew that life was very different in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This book creates such vivid pictures in one's mind that I found myself thinking about the story all the time. When I was reading I'd find that tears were coming to my eyes, that I was cringing, occasionally laughing, and continually amazed by what people, especially women, had to endure in those days. Life was so full of tragedy, but there was barely time to grieve. I found myself empathizing with Maude and rooting for her from the time the book opened when she was just seven years old. She sure had to grow up fast. Yes, there were times when I didn't always like Maude, but I did take into consideration the times in which she was living and the terrible things she was forced to endure. For the most part, I thought she was an

admirable and resilient woman. I wanted to give the book five stars because it really kept me interested, but I wanted to be uplifted more than I was. I'd certainly recommend the book to anyone who wants to go back in time and see the hardships people endured years ago and how much easier life is now, as far as medical and health services and modern conveniences.

I came across this book on accident when I was searching for Prime books. I bought it on a whim because it reminded me of my own grandmother, who was my best friend until the day she passed, seven years ago this week. I don't think I have been this engrossed in a book or storyline in years. My heart is aching for Maude and I wish I had been lucky enough to know her. I can't stop thinking about all the pain she endured and feeling sad that she never had a happy ending. A must-read, I would recommend this memoir to any and everyone!

I am one of the few who have to wonder why this book got so many excellent reviews. In my personal opinion the history at the time was interesting but the actual story was somewhat depressing and I had to skim several pages just to get to the end. I know life at that time was hard but I was really disappointed I didn't enjoy it more since it was rated so high by so many people.

A page-turner of a biography! Maude's story is so well-written that you may not realize you've just witnessed 80 years of the struggle and evolution of women's rights at the dawn of the twentieth century, although Maude was certainly no suffragette...She had laundry to hang out! That said, Maude was of age in the very first year when women were allowed to vote. Born in the horse and buggy era, Maude would live to see tremendous changes in her lifetime. Maude's struggle, and that of her family is the struggle of many of our ancestors. Neighbors, church community and friends provide an invaluable support system at a time when a hot dish and a friendly smile meant more than a 'like' on Facebook. I fervently hope educators will utilize this book, and make no mistake it is not a 'women's book' only. Students will be enthralled by the story which cannot help but inspire discussion on a wide range of historical and sociological issues.

Like many poor Depression Era Tennesseans, this is the story of a young girl who had to grow up way too soon. She had to assume more responsibility than most anyone her age could, and she had to figure things out on her own. Most of us never think about how much we learn from other humans, but isolation truly leaves you to your own resources. Sometimes you don't get it exactly right, but examples are lovingly brought out. The journey from Tennessee to Missouri to Michigan is

filled with interesting stories. My only real criticism is lack of geographical fact checking. Silver Point is Middle Tennessee. Just because it's east of Nashville does not make it East Tennessee.

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