

The women we will become

FROM CENTRE FOLD

and our life-long indulger. But the woman who we often suspected was our stepmother has adopted so many new avatars over the years that her metamorphosis would have been impossible to foresee even if we had tried.

I am not a mother yet, nowhere close, but I imagine that is what motherhood is. The incredible ability to transform, adapt and respond according to the needs of your children. To be the disciplinarian when they are young, the giddy confidante when they discover love, the empathiser when they fail and the healer when they come back to you, keep coming back to you, every time they are bruised and broken.

I am not a mother yet, so I don't really understand the significance of Mother's Day from the other side of the table. But I don't think it's about Mother's Day anyway, it's about all those other days when she took on the unpleasant business of teaching you difficult life lessons, when she forced you to face your fears even though she must have been more afraid than you were. All those other days when she asked you to be brave because nothing was going right for you and she was hurting just as much as you were or the days when you stole some compassion from her because you had none left of your own.

I am not a mother yet, of course, but I think every daughter is one day a reflection of the woman who was hers. In our fits of teenage angst, no matter how many times we promised ourselves we would never be the kind of mother our mother was, truth is, we will. And maybe that isn't such a bad thing after all.

To all the mothers and to all the daughters who are their mothers in the mirrors, Happy Mother's Day.

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