

# [PDF] Swallow The Ocean: A Memoir

**Laura M. Flynn - pdf download free book**

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#### **Books Details:**

Title: Swallow the Ocean: A Memoir  
Author: Laura M. Flynn  
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#### **Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** It was 1975, and nine-year-old Flynn was sitting with her mother on the floor of their San Francisco apartment with a pile of money as her mother explained that the faces of these men on the coins and bills in front of us... had impact on people and events. Flynn's father had moved out a year earlier; her two sisters were at school, where she, too, should have been; instead, her mother needed to talk with her about all those faces on the money. This is how Flynn, a writing instructor at the University of Minnesota, begins her elegantly written story of how her mother had been an adventurous bohemian in the 1950s and '60s, before she became unhinged by what was later diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenia. Family life became bizarrely unpredictable as her mother

became attached to stranger and stranger notions. After her father moved out, mother laid out the new terms of our lives... staying inside, and cutting all our ties to other people... careful about what we ate, and what we wore. Readers begin to share Flynn's sense of dread about what her mother might do next, heightened by the disturbingly controlled calm of her narration. (*Feb.*)

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**From** \*Starred Review\* What is a child to do when the parent who's the center of her universe becomes desperately ill? That's the wrenching reality Flynn faces when she learns that her mother is a paranoid schizophrenic. The words were "long and strange and frankly, ugly," writes Flynn, who was 10 at the time her father gave her mother's frazzled frame of mind a name. "Even so, I had a feeling it was something I could hang onto, something I could rebuild my world around." For years, Flynn and her two sisters, one older, one younger, played along as characters in their mother's fantasy world. But when her seemingly innocuous antics (forbidding certain foods and making lists of good and evil things) turned violent, the girls' father filed for divorce, then custody. Flynn's haunting memoir vividly recaptures the San Francisco of the 1970s, an emotionally fraught era in which quirky behaviors were more likely to be sanctioned than scorned. Flynn's ability to render the perspective of a child elevates this memoir from ordinary to extraordinary. From the start, readers see inside her impressionable young mind as she lives from one breathless moment to the next, grappling with scenarios that would level the most well-adjusted adults. --Allison Block --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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