



Anita Halton Associates

Literary Publicity

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW

Contact: Anita Halton

Phone: 949-376-5780, Email: ahapub@aol.com

RETURNING TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

Taking Back the Wisdom of the Feminine

Gail Straub

“Fiercely honest...Gail’s story speaks to my entire generation of babyboom women, and the way that we collectively lost our connection with the wisdom of the feminine and, often, with our own mothers. Most important, this story is about how we are finding this connection once again. Though this memoir is intensely personal, the story is universal.”

—From the Foreword by **Christiane Northrup, M.D.**, author of
Women’s Bodies, Women’s Wisdom and *Mother-Daughter Wisdom*

A pioneer and world-renowned authority on empowerment, **Gail Straub** had built a career devoted to helping people overcome self-doubt and live with purpose. She had enjoyed a long, loving marriage. Yet, in the midst of her life as an accomplished middle-aged woman, she felt a deep sense of loss. After much soul searching, Gail realized that in her quest for success, she had lost her intuitive, emotional, imaginative self. She realized that she was following the path paved by her mother—a woman whose spiritual abandonment, even more than the tragic fact of her premature death, had haunted and driven her since the age of twenty-three.

In ***RETURNING TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE: Taking Back the Wisdom of the Feminine*** (High Point; October 2008), Gail Straub shares her journey to reconnect with the true spirit of her mother, Jacqueline Walsh Straub, who died at age fifty-five of a rare heart condition, and reclaim what both mother and daughter, like countless women, had sacrificed for the sake of society, logic, and achievement. With vivid immediacy, Gail revisits her idyllic childhood home on Brecks Lane, near the banks of the Brandywine River just outside Wilmington, Delaware, and reveals how her mother began to change, subtly yet profoundly, when she was a teenager. From there, she retraces how she grew up and moved on to inhabit her mother’s unlived life. “So much of my life has been shaped by what my mother betrayed, lost, or had stolen from her,” Gail reflects.

Gail’s story begins with Jacquie’s story. A gifted artist with a bohemian streak, Jacquie defiantly left her large, close-knit Irish Catholic family in Colorado to marry a Protestant and move East. Her husband, and later Gail’s Pop, James Straub was a tall, strong, and handsome former Army captain with

remarkable stoicism about his painful past, marked by surviving the Great Depression after witnessing his father's suicide. A talented craftsman, James landed a job teaching shop at Tower Hill, an exclusive private school, which Gail and her siblings, Jimmy and Joanie, were privileged to attend tuition-free. To Jacquie, however, living in an elite community came with the price of continually being reminded that the Straubs could never live up to their neighbors, the DuPonts. Torn between coveting wealth and prestige and craving simple comforts, Jacquie gradually gave up her creative passions and colorful style for full-time work and somber suits. She stopped standing out, and standing up for herself, in order to fit into an upscale, conservative society. She began to die many years before her actual death. She left her firstborn daughter with a gnawing emptiness and a voracious hunger for adventures beyond her Mom's wildest dreams.

An intimate, candid, and powerfully affecting memoir, ***RETURNING TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE*** is also an inspiring guide for all women who have lost touch with their innate female wisdom. Through tales of her travels around the globe—to Africa, Bali, Russia, China, and Ireland, her mother's ancestral home—Gail shares her search to balance her fulfilling and demanding empowerment work and social activism with a rich, rewarding inner life. Along the way, she recounts:

- Her years of addiction to busyness, speed, and workaholicism to numb her grief and shut the door against overwhelming emotions.
- Her rigid reliance on rationalism, in misguided efforts to be more like her intelligent father and her strategically brilliant husband and business partner.
- Her choice not to have children and the unsettling discovery of what a life-saving tubal ligation cost her devoutly Catholic mother.
- The long healing process of transforming her emptiness into openness, nurturing the irrational, and making peace with and learning from death.
- Her commitment to honoring her mother and the universal force of the feminine by becoming a spiritual mother to others.

“***RETURNING TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE*** is Gail Straub's poetic, heartfelt, and very personal journey, but it is also my story, your story, and the story of a culture in desperate need of ‘taking back the wisdom of the feminine,’” states Elizabeth Lesser, cofounder of the Omega Institute and author of *Broken Open* and *The Seekers Guide*. With her words of wondrous wisdom and comfort for all mothers and daughters, Gail Straub offers hope to everyone struggling to cultivate and sustain an interior life in our fast-paced, hard-driving world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gail Straub co-directs the Empowerment Institute, a school for transformative leadership. Over the past 30 years, she has taught and inspired thousands of people throughout America, Europe, Russia, Africa, and Asia. She is co-author of the bestselling *Empowerment: The Art of Creating Your Life As You Want It* and the author of *The Rhythm of Compassion: Caring for Self, Connecting With Society*, as

well as *Circle of Compassion*, a book of meditations. She lives in the Hudson River Valley region of New York, near Woodstock, with her partner in life and business, her husband of 27 years, David Gershon.

RETURNING TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

Taking Back the Wisdom of the Feminine

By Gail Straub

Published by High Point

Pub. Date: October 2008

Price: \$21.95 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-9630327-5-1