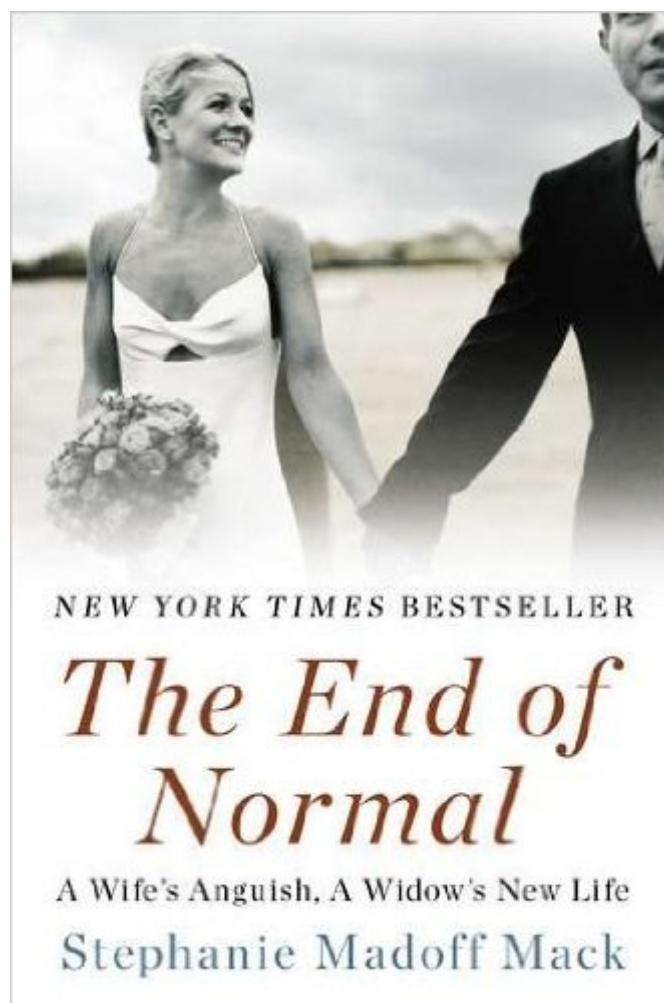


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The End Of Normal: A Wife's Anguish, A Widow's New Life



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller, the explosive and heartbreaking memoir from the widow of Mark Madoff and the daughter-in-law of Bernard Madoff. When the news of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme broke, no one was more shocked than the members of his own family. Before then, Madoff's son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Stephanie, had built an idyllic life. Yet, while Mark's thriving business was entirely separate from his father's now notorious fund, he and Stephanie found themselves in the eye of the storm and grappling with their own sense of betrayal. Mark refused to see or speak to his parents, and on the second anniversary of his father's arrest, he hanged himself. Left to raise her children as a single mother, Stephanie tells the real story of her marriage to Mark, of being a part of the Madoff family, and of life for two years following her father-in-law's arrest and incarceration. *The End of Normal* is a searing inside look at one of the most controversial stories of our time, and an extraordinary memoir of surviving personal tragedy amid public scandal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The former Stephanie Madoff (she changed her last name to Mack) writes poignantly in *The End of Normal* about the details of how Bernie Madoff not only ruined the financial lives of so many but also shattered his family's life. Tainted by the accusations that Andy and Mark, Madoff's sons, were part of the swindle, the two were shunned and judged by society - as was Stephanie. Now Stephanie tells her side of the story - and it is a book which I picked up with reluctance and couldn't put down. Why reluctance? Because our family, while luckier than many, had a portion of our investments lost

to Madoff. Just thinking about anything "Madoff related" made me feel angry. But I'm glad I overcame my reluctance and gave this book a chance. Stephanie's writing allowed me to see another perspective. Imagine marrying a Madoff son and not having an inkling that the father was masterminding a scheme of such monstrous proportions. After all, Madoff fooled so many, including some very prominent people. As Stephanie describes it, he also kept his sons...and her...in the dark. Imagine...how ironic and eventually how sad...actually sharing the same birthday with Bernie Madoff...as Stephanie does. Imagine living with a shattered shell of a man, Mark Madoff, the husband Stephanie once knew as happy and vibrant. Stephanie Madoff Mack brings it all to life for readers and I could see how her seemingly dream life dissolved in an instant. Based on at least one comment on a review of this book, there are those willing to condemn anyone connected to a Madoff, including his daughters-in-law. But why? Bottom line- I did find Stephanie's account to be credible. After all, her own stepfather lost money to Madoff and Stephanie's husband was...

The financial fall-out from the scam perpetrated by Bernie Madoff claimed many victims and many of their tragic stories have been heard: people's lives turned upside down, crushed and ruined, some with no hope of recovery. Bernie Madoff is in prison, but there is no retribution...no answers for those who have been hurt beyond measure. One victim, silent until now, is Stephanie Mack Madoff, the widow of Mark, Bernie's eldest son who took his own life. And if you scoff at her being a victim, then you must read her story...it's truly heartbreaking. I picked it up out of curiosity and I was blown away. I've often wondered, (and I'll bet you have too what it must have been like to be a member of the Madoff family...this book brings it home: It is filled with intimate details of Mark and Stephanie's courtship, their marriage (including the rough patches), their daily life, Mark's devotion to his children from his first marriage and their two children together. Stephanie discusses her relationship with both Ruth and Bernie....where credit is due she gives it e.g. both Ruth and Bernie were loving grandparents.) The mind boggles! She comes across as totally sincere, totally honest, and totally devastated by the betrayal and what it did to her husband and her family. Put yourself in her place...there is no training for enduring the nightmare that her life became. But this is also the story of her husband Mark who, because of the legalities involved, was never able to publicly stand up for himself and deny the accusations of his involvement in the debacle. Again, I urge you to read about him from Stephanie's perspective...her passion for you to know Mark as she knew him is palpable. There is also the description of the children and how they're coping with Mark's death.

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