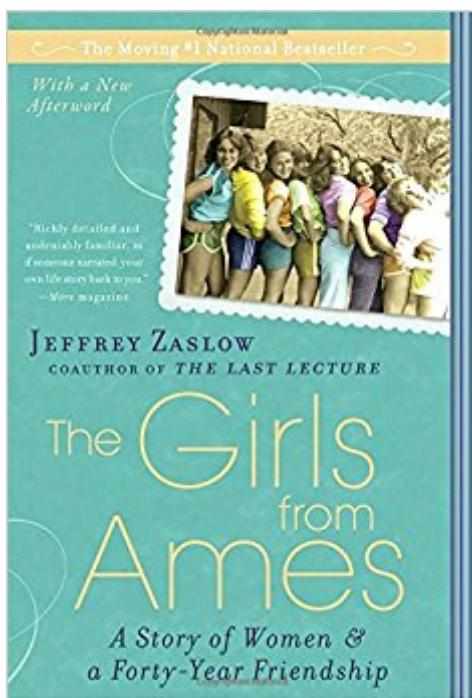


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# The Girls From Ames: A Story Of Women And A Forty-Year Friendship



## **Synopsis**

The instant New York Times bestseller, now in paperback: a moving tribute to female friendships, with the inspiring story of eleven girls and the ten women they became, from the coauthor of the million-copy bestseller *The Last Lecture*. As children, they formed a special bond, growing up in the small town of Ames, Iowa. As young women, they moved to eight different states, yet they managed to maintain an extraordinary friendship that would carry them through college and careers, marriage and motherhood, dating and divorce, the death of a child, and the mysterious death of the eleventh member of their group. Capturing their remarkable story, *The Girls from Ames* is a testament to the enduring, deep bonds of women as they experience life's challenges, and the power of friendship to overcome even the most daunting odds. The girls, now in their forties, have a lifetime of memories in common, some evocative of their generation and some that will resonate with any woman who has ever had a friend. *The Girls from Ames* demonstrates how close female relationships can shape every aspect of women's lives—their sense of themselves, their choice of men, their need for validation, their relationships with their mothers, their dreams for their daughters—and reveals how such friendships thrive, rewarding those who have committed to them. With both universal events and deeply personal moments, it's a book that every woman will relate to and be inspired by.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jeffrey Zaslow is a Wall Street Journal columnist and, with Randy Pausch, coauthor of *The Last Lecture*, the #1 New York Times bestseller now translated into forty-one languages. Zaslow

attended Dr. Pausch's famous lecture and wrote the story that sparked worldwide interest in it. The Girls from Ames also grew out of one of Zaslow's columns. He lives in suburban Detroit with his wife, Sherry, and daughters Jordan, Alex, and Eden.

I had heard an interview of the author by Diane Rehm on NPR one morning and just had to get this book. Personally, I have several 40+ year friendships and I wanted to see if the girls from Ames had similar experiences. The answer is yes. There's no friendship like a long, endearing one that survives life's ups and downs. I passed this book along to another friend who was leaving for her 20th "girlfriends reunion" with 3 former grade school classmates. They read it aloud during their weekend together and loved it as much as I did.

As an Iowa girl from Dubuque and about 18 years older than these girls I was pleased that they mirrored my own youth so well. I found the analysis of their relationships and how some felt on the periphery to be interesting. Though I wasn't a college girl in the early 70's, the social changes of legal abortions and feminism affected me also. The difference is that these girls didn't seem to realize how stereotypical roles were for women before the 70's. Why would they? They weren't born until 1962. The need for women friends seems to be universal and timeless. The need for friends that go back to when you were young is important because your parents die and they were the only ones that remembered you as a child unless you have these childhood friends still.

I loved this book. I have six grown daughters and purchased a copy for each of them. They in turn have bought copies for friends. The book chronicled their experiences both with one another and with friendships they have maintained.

Such a good book about female friendships as lived by these childhood friends from IA. Zaslow did a fantastic job chronicling the depth and breadth of their relationships, how they grew and shrunk from time to time, but most importantly how vitally important it has been to each and every one of them to keep in touch and be there for one another through thick and thin. I've recommended the book to several people, and gifted it to a couple of friends I hold close from my own childhood.

The overall message of the beauty of friendships is clear, but I had difficulty keeping track of who was who. I found it difficult to really care for any one character. Many of the details, like names and behaviors of their children, lost my interest. It also seemed that the author was attempting to use the

voice and language of the girls.

I truly believe Jeffrey Zaslow has hit the "nail on the head" with this book and that it should be required reading for all married men, especially those grooms-to-be. I, too, am a member of the same kind of group of women who have remained close friend for 73 years. Our's started with a Brownie Scout Troop when we were 7 yrs. old. 15 women, all 80 yrs old, will be having a reunion in July...for no reason, other than, we simply want to! At some time during this gathering, during a break from singing Campfire songs, passing pictures of Great-Grandchildren around, and gabbing, I intend to recommend they all read this book and giggle. Mr. Zaslow has done a beautiful job of explaining the unexplainable ties that only women can cling to.

There are plenty of women in this world that still get together after knowing each other for years. I belong to a card club that has been together for around 50 years

I was not familiar with this author before reading one of his first books, but I found this book very interesting, entertaining and hard to put down until I finished reading it. It was a lovely story of how these women stuck together through thick and thin, even though they only got together most times once a year. They were there for each other through the good times and the bad times. It truly was a wonderful story about their relationships. It was a beautiful tribute to these women.

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