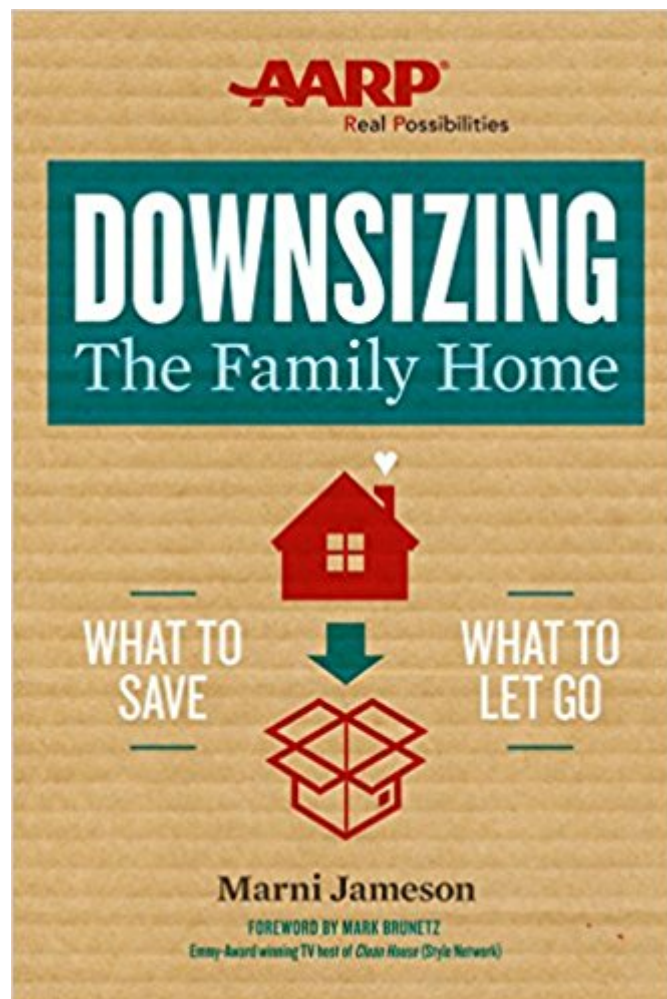




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# Downsizing The Family Home: What To Save, What To Let Go



## Synopsis

It's a rite of passage almost no one will escape: the difficult, emotional journey of downsizing your or your aging parents' home. Here, nationally syndicated home columnist Marni Jameson sensitively guides readers through the process, from opening that first closet, to sorting through a lifetime's worth of possessions, to selling the homestead itself. Using her own personal journey as a basis, she helps you figure out a strategy and create a mindset to accomplish the task quickly, respectfully, rewardingly—and, in the best of situations, even memorably. Throughout, she combines her been-there experience with insights from national experts—antiques appraisers, garage-sale gurus, professional organizers, and psychologists—to offer practical wisdom and heartwarming advice so you know with certainty what to keep, toss or sell.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is essential reading for anyone clearing out your own or a loved one's home. . . . well-researched . . . Her suggestions about how to reframe daunting tasks as positive gambits struck me as invaluable."—The Wall Street Journal

Marni Jameson is America's most-loved home and lifestyle columnist. Her humorous and helpful column appears in 25 papers nationwide, reaching seven million readers each week, including loyal followers who have been following her home adventures for a decade. Jameson has written two critically acclaimed books: *The House Always Wins: Create the Home You Love Without*

Busting Your Budget and House of Havoc: How to Make and Keep a Beautiful Home . . . (both Da Capo Press). A top-tier journalist, Jameson has written for many national women's magazines, including Woman's Day and Family Circle, and major metropolitan newspapers. A frequent guest on local and national TV and radio, she has appeared on many programs, including NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, Martha Stewart Living, and Fox and Friends. She lives in Orlando, FL.

Gosh, could I really be the one fortunate enough to be the first reviewer? I've read Marni's columns in The Denver Post for years and have laughed and ached with her along the way as she elegantly handled major life change after major life change. Last night I watched a retrospective about Erma Bombeck on PBS and realized that both these women, Erma and Marni, have amused, inspired and informed me with their sly, humorous wisdom. This book will help people. And it will entertain while doing so. I say this as the veteran of several grueling downsizings and clean outs for parents and in-laws. That was some of the hardest (physically) and most wrenching (emotionally and financially) work of my 71 years. I needed but could not at that time find the emotional support and clarity this little book offers. Further, I'm now clear in my determination not to saddle our own children with a house packed to the gills with our "treasures." Yes, Marni, I get it and a big thank you for giving me new courage and tools to tackle this challenge.

This is GREAT! Marni, in addition to very thorough guidelines for downsizing, includes recognizing that this may be a very emotional process. I am one who remembers where, when & how we brought items to our home; who has at least 30 Mother's Day, birthday cards, etc. (I know, I just went through them last week & pitched a few). I have seen books & a PBS decluttering show that rather insensitively toss objects that held sentimental value. Not this book! I needed this understanding hand holding. We are older baby boomers, trying to downsize. We, like many of our peers recognize our children really would rather not have most of our stuff.. Yet, they are our memories!! This book is PERFECT for me. I have begun walking around our house with a fresh eye on minimizing all the things we have, yet with a heavy heart. And Marni, in her writing style assures me I am not alone. Very refreshing.

I had been waiting for this book and following Marni's columns. I promise this is a book you can't put down, so my husband noticed. We are in our 80's and having been through dismantling our parents homes when they passed, we did not want this to happen to our children. My husband and I both

have boxes that came home with us from our parents lives that we need to open and take a long hard look at what was their stories and what is ours. This book helped me to change my mind about our 63 year collection, which is our stories and not necessarily theirs. I finished the book, handed it to my husband and said, "it's now your turn". We are NOW in the process of seriously downsizing. My husband and I are now on the "same page" and our children know what we are doing and are supportive. Please, if you have too much stuff read this book to help you understand how to be free from all the trappings. No matter what your age it's a must read. Thank you Marni for setting it straight for us that didn't know where to start.

So far, so good. I bought the audio on CD version. I wish I had the table of contents to refer back to; to know what tracks to go back and listen to again. And I don't know the total length of listening time. I'm well over an hour into it. There is a wealth of information. Some may think it's a bit slow listening to it, but I like audio books. Her speaking voice is clear and intelligently written. Some of the info is 'common sense' but good to hear it anyway. Nice to know you are not alone in this endeavor. It addresses our emotions logically, which is an oxymoron, but realistic and entertaining at the same time. This resource provides many options in it's subject matter; it isn't a one-size-fits all approach to downsizing. It recognized everyone's individuality. I see there is a workbook also available separately.

It does not deal well with ordinary people. It seems to be for the high end only.

Have just received this book. Bought because I have to decide what I want to do with my recently deceased mother and father's belongings. And after that downsize my own. Have skimmed through book and find information straight forward and helpful. Looking forward to implementing without the guilt that has been holding me back.

Great book. highly recommended. I am doing a presentaion at work on de-cluttering and this book along with Marie Kondo's the Life-Changing Magic of Tidying up helped me present great material.

Not a lot of new information. Certainly not an essential purchase. Jameson seems to reference other experts more than offering interesting and/or innovative ideas of her own. The story of cleaning out and preparing her family home for sale is somewhat engaging.

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