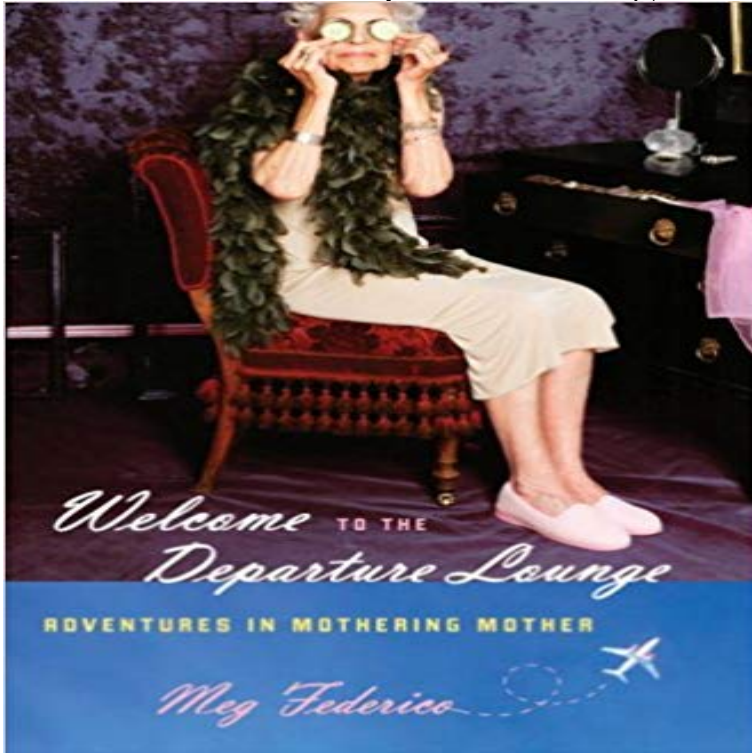


Welcome to the Departure Lounge: Adventures in Mothering Mother



A fresh, funny new voice, Meg Federico showcases her keen eye for the absurd in this poignant, hilarious, and timely account of one daughter's tumultuous journey caring for her aging parents. When Meg Federico's eighty-year-old mother and newly minted step-father were forced to accept full-time home care, she imagined them settling into a Norman-Rockwellian life of docile dependency. With a family of her own and a full-time career in Nova Scotia a thousand miles away from her parents, Federico hoped they would be able to take care of themselves for the most part, and call on their children when they really needed them—but of course that's not quite what happens. As she watches with horror from the sidelines, Federico's parents turn into terrible teens. Fighting off onslaughts of dementia and Alzheimer's disease, Addie and Walter, forbidden by doctors to drink, conspire to order cases of scotch by phone; Addie's attendant accuses the evening staff of midnight voodoo; Walter's inhibitions decline as dementia increases and mail-order sex aides arrive at the front door. The list of absurdities goes on and on as Federico tries to take some control over her parents' lives and her own. This is a story for the huge generation—nearly 76 million people—now dealing with the care of their parents. You'll laugh and cry as you read this powerful and important debut.

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