



She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me

Emma Brockes

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me

Emma Brockes

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me Emma Brockes

"One of those memoirs that remind you why you liked memoirs in the first place... It has the density of a very good novel... As you do with the best writers, you feel lucky to be in Ms. Brockes's company." -- Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

A chilling work of psychological suspense and forensic memoir, *She Left Me the Gun* is a tale of true transformation: the story of a young woman who reinvented herself so completely that her previous life seemed simply to vanish, and of a daughter who transcends her mother's fears and reclaims an abandoned past.

"One day I will tell you the story of my life," promises Emma Brockes's mother, "and you will be amazed." Brockes grew up hearing only pieces of her mother's past—stories of a rustic childhood in South Africa, glimpses of a bohemian youth in London—and yet knew that crucial facts were still in the dark. A mystery to her friends and family, Paula was clearly a strong, self-invented woman; glamorous, no-nonsense, and frequently out of place in their quaint English village. In awe of Paula's larger-than-life personality, Brockes never asked why her mother emigrated to England or why she never returned to South Africa; never questioned the source of her mother's strange fears or tremendous strengths.

Looking to unearth the truth after Paula's death, Brockes begins a dangerous journey into the land—and the life—her mother fled from years before. Brockes soon learns that Paula's father was a drunk megalomaniac who terrorized Paula and her seven half-siblings for years. After finally mustering the courage to take her father to court, Paula is horrified to see the malevolent man vindicated of all charges. As Brockes discovers, this crushing defeat left Paula with a choice: take her own life, or promise herself never to be intimidated or unhappy again. Ultimately she chooses life and happiness by booking one-way passage to London—but not before shooting her father five times, and failing to kill him. Smuggling the fateful gun through English customs would be Paula's first triumph in her new life.

She Left Me the Gun carries Brockes to South Africa to meet her seven aunts and uncles, weighing their stories against her mother's silences. Brockes learns of the violent pathologies and racial propaganda in which her grandfather was inculcated, sees the mine shafts and train yards where he worked as an itinerant mechanic, and finds in buried government archives the court records proving his murder conviction years before he first married. Brockes also learns of the turncoat stepmother who may have perjured herself to save her husband, dooming Paula and her siblings to the machinations of their hated father.

Most of all, *She Left Me the Gun* reveals how Paula reinvented herself to lead a full, happy life. As she follows her mother's footsteps back to South Africa, Brockes begins to find the wellsprings of her mother's strength, the tremendous endurance which allowed Paula to hide secrets from even her closest friends and family. But as the search through cherished letters and buried documents deepens, Brockes realizes with horror that her mother's great success as a parent was concealing her terrible past—and that unearthing these secrets threatens to undo her mother's work.

A beguiling and unforgettable journey across generations and continents, *She Left Me the Gun* chronicles Brockes's efforts to walk the knife-edge between understanding her mother's unspeakable traumas and embracing the happiness she chose for her daughter.

 [Download She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me Emma Brockes

Download and Read Free Online She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me Emma Brockes

From reader reviews:

Anthony McDonell:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me. Try to face the book She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me as your friend. It means that it can be your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunate to suit your needs. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So, let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Rebecca Burks:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or this for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby per other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Phil Garcia:

Typically the book She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

James Ojeda:

Reading can be called brain hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book especially book entitled She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me your brain will drift away through every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one contact from conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Download and Read Online She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me Emma Brockes #65UB8WME0ZJ

Read She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes for online ebook

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes books to read online.

Online She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes ebook PDF download

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes Doc

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes Mobipocket

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes EPub

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes Ebook online

She Left Me the Gun: My Mother's Life Before Me by Emma Brockes Ebook PDF