



SERPENT'S TAIL

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Dear Reader,

I invite you to meet Andrea Bern. Single, independent, child-free, thirty-nine and fast-approaching forty. A drinker, a former artist and a shrieker in bed. A woman with desires and dreams that don't match up with conventional expectations of a female character – or a real-life woman, for that matter. She has no fantasy of getting married or starting a family. She's striving simply to make and strengthen connections with the people around her – her friends, her family, her co-workers.

The world needs characters like Andrea, now more than ever. Women who are unapologetically forging their own paths, taking chances and making mistakes, chasing dreams and sometimes people. Of course, I hope this book is accessible to all kinds of readers, no matter if they're single or married, childfree or childless, male or female. Your access point is irrelevant to it as an object or piece of art. But my dream is that it will inspire conversations between friends or family members who have different trajectories in their lives.

Since writing the book people ask me 'What does it mean to be grown up?' I don't know the answer, and more often people know what it is *not*. For Andrea, it's owning your choices and having a real clarity and understanding of why you make them.

Yours,

Jami Attenberg