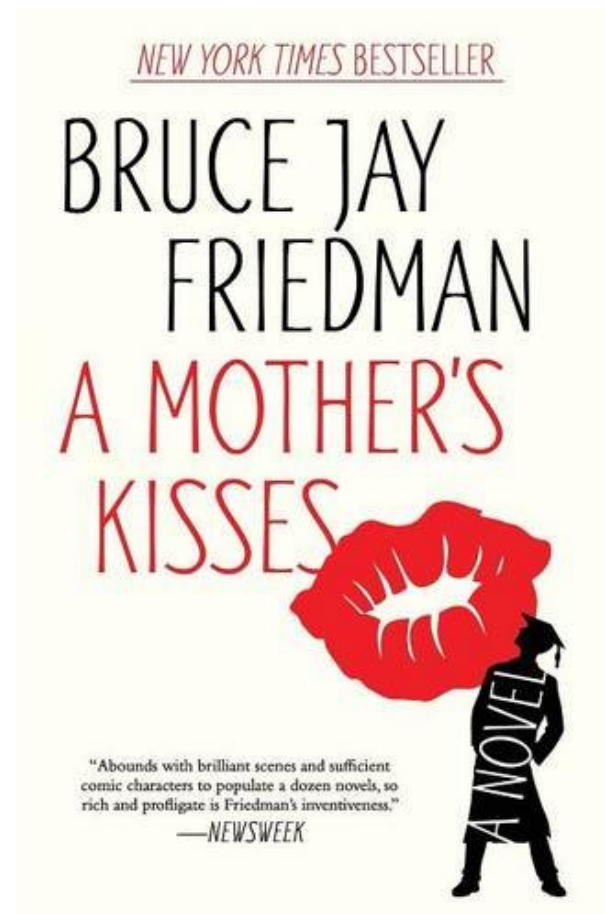


# A MOTHER'S KISSES: A NOVEL BY BRUCE JAY FRIEDMAN



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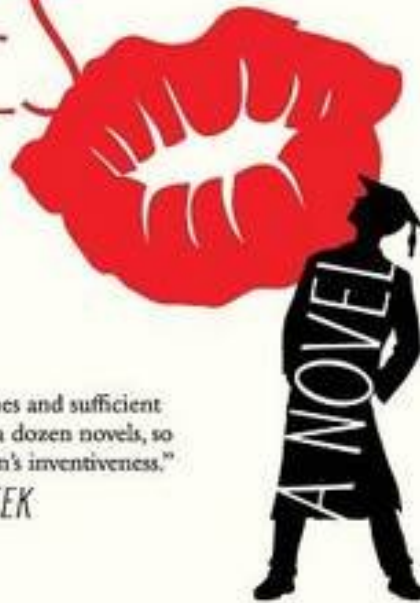


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

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FRIEDMAN  
A MOTHER'S  
KISSES

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—*NEWSWEEK*



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## Review

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An indefatigable, irresistible, and wildly inappropriate Jewish mother takes her 17-year-old son to school in this uproarious coming-of-age comedy

Tall and scattered-looking, Joseph has just graduated from high school and is ready for college. But is college ready for him? Apparently not, judging by the rejection letter he receives from Bates and the deafening silence that greets his application to Columbia.

While his friends pack their bags for schools across the country, Joseph mopes around the apartment in his bathrobe and checks the mailbox obsessively. It's enough to make his mother fear for the boy's sanity—so she resolves to take matters into her own hands. What follows is a sidesplitting series of misadventures as Meg, whom the New York Times Book Review called “the most unforgettable mother since Medea,” pulls out all the stops to get her boy what he wants.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Bruce Jay Friedman including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 276 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A very funny and elliptically deep book

By E. Derman

I first read this in the late 1960s and laughed aloud at its funny and subtle humor. Every turn is unexpected and yet makes sense. Friedman's memoir is called "Lucky Bruce" in reference to Kingsley Amis's "Lucky Jim" and the book is in Lucky Jim's class, completely memorable after 40 years.

18 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Funniest book ever written

By A Customer

I read this back in the early 60's when I was about 14 or so. I am still laughing. You will not believe the way this guy writes. It is indescribable. If you are lucky enough to come upon a copy, buy it. You will be so glad you did. Bruce Jay Friedman is a national treasure. His take on life is at first glance quite askew..but, upon further reading, you will find that he "writes" like you "think." I've never experienced this with any other writer. Check out his other books, as well...especially the *Lonely Guy's book of Life*.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Throw Mama from the train

By Andrew Billek

This is a one joke novel stretched across 300 pages. While the main character, Joseph, does develop it is on the last page and we have to put up with many repetitive, predictable comic situations to get there. The term 'Smother Love' could easily have come into existence from this novel. Joseph's mother Meg is a powerful personality who co-opts everyone near her. The novel details Joseph's attempts to break away from her and

her difficulty in letting go. He fights being a mama's boy all his life. While he despises her actions he comes to realize that he does love her. The reader becomes aware of the depth of feeling each has in this possessive relationship. All sorts of Freudian undertones are present though they may sometime be a bit too obvious. It reads like a comedian writing a psychological textbook.

This book may have been a liberating influence in that it opened the way (along with Roth's Portnoy's Complaint) to the popularization of ethnic humor which is today's pervasive style. That would give it a place in literary history. But "A Mother's Kisses" has ironically been swallowed up by all the great comedy that it helped to make acceptable.

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