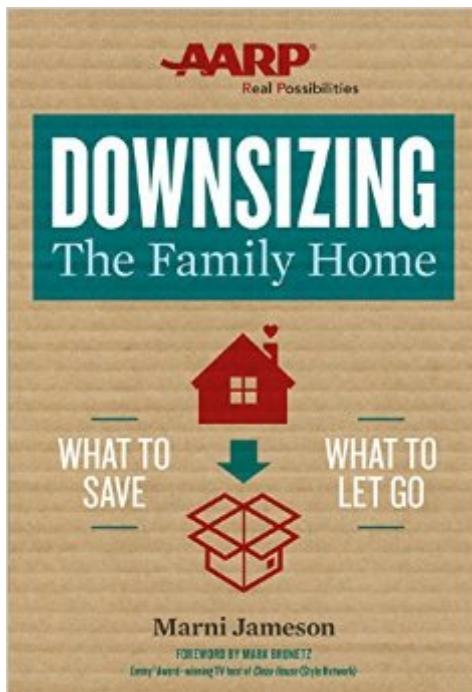


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# Downsizing The Family Home: What To Save, What To Let Go



## 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

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.

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.

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 have been reading Marni's column in The Oklahoman for a couple of years and have dealt with my deceased daughter's belongings and my parents' assets. I decided that when my daughter passed away and left all of her things for me, I didn't want my other two children to be left with my belongings and the burden of "what to save and what to let go". Marni's book would have been great to have. She offers practical advice and a bit of humor to go with it. Thank you, Marni, for helping so many people who will most likely be in a similar situation sometime in their lives.

Very informative! It helps me think in a new way about parting with my possessions. It's about reclaiming real estate inside your home. If something is stored, either in a closet, basement, attic or a paid storage bin, why do we keep it? We can only use what we know we have and we often forget about what we store away. If we have feelings for Mom's dresser, but we have no room for it and it lives in the attic, are we really honoring Mom? This book sheds light on our need for "things" and how we can help ourselves let them go.

This book was a disappointment and a waste of money. There is too much sentimental worry over which and what item. There is too much description of HER parents stuff. Its MY stuff I am worrying about, NOT her stuff. There are too many stories that seem to be filler. What i wanted was practical advice. I think I am being honest when I say I did not learn one thing. The first part of book is about deciding to put your parents in a retirement facility. It touches on all of the emotional and upsets about that decision. The last part of the book touches on the matter of when it is time for you to downsize. I did not need help with these decisions---the name of the book is "Downsizing".

A couple years ago we had to have an estate sale at my parents home. Now we are looking into downsizing our own. After 50 years of marriage we have a lot of stuff. Marni Jameson's book is concise, to the point, written in simple language and has summaries of each chapter. She speaks of keeping, donating, selling and giving away. She reviews: estate sales, rummage sales, garage sales, e-Bay, Craig's List and selling to antique dealers. I found it immensely helpful. At least I don't feel horribly overwhelmed now.

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