



"Geared especially toward first-time parents, *My Heart's First Steps* will find a ready audience among those for whom it is intended. The construction itself, with short chapters, essays, and poems, will make it appealing to those first-timers in the dizzy world of parenting in which some days success is measured by having found time to brush your teeth, make the bed, and decide what you're having for dinner. Not actually prepared it and served it, mind you: just decided what to fix. The entries are short enough to be read in the 5-10 minutes at a stretch that are all new parents feel they can call their own."

-Peggy Vincent, author of *Baby*

*Catcher*

"It's difficult to capture the complex feelings of parenthood, but *My Heart's First Steps* succeeds."

-*Fit Pregnancy*, March

2004

**Seventy writers, some widely-published and others making their literary debut here, share what they love, and don't love, about being parents.**

*"When my daughter was born, I wondered when I would feel different, feel like a mother. What does it feel like to be a mother, anyway? I was getting an idea that it was different than I imagined it would be."*

-Ann Reilly Cole, from "Diapers and

Deadlines"

*"After a long day of defending the dog, cleaning Cheerios off the carpet, quieting their cries and playful screaming, giving them dinner and baths, I miss them once they are asleep."*

-Bradley Earle Hoge, from "Renga of an At-Home

Dad"

With writing by:

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*My Heart's First Steps--Writings that Celebrate the Gifts of Parenthood*

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