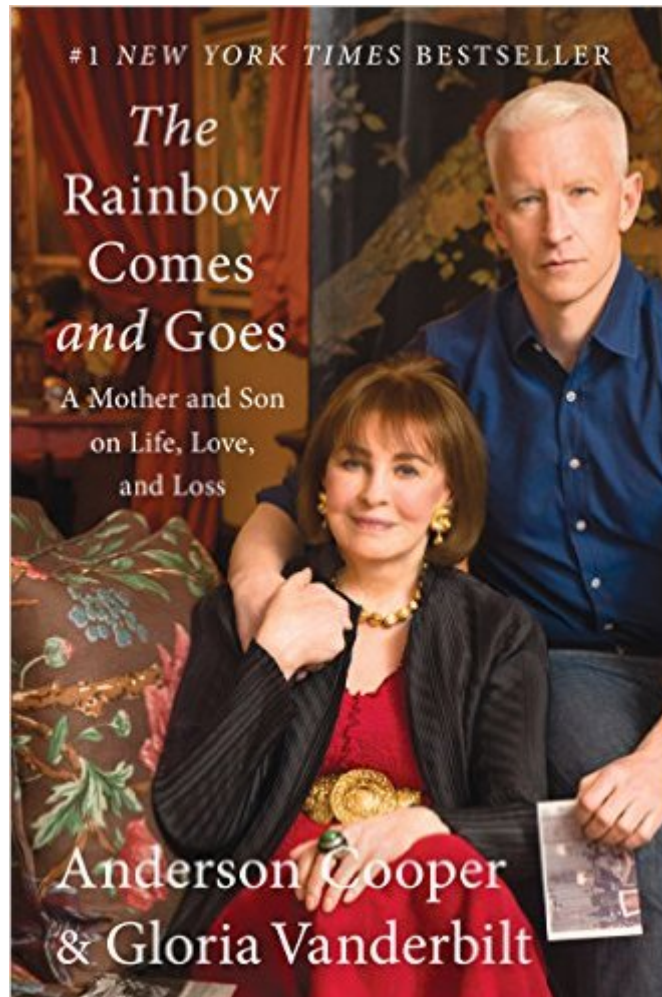


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# The Rainbow Comes And Goes: A Mother And Son On Life, Love, And Loss



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times Bestseller A touching and intimate correspondence between Anderson Cooper and his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, offering timeless wisdom and a revealing glimpse into their lives. Though Anderson Cooper has always considered himself close to his mother, his intensely busy career as a journalist for CNN and CBS affords him little time to spend with her. After she suffers a brief but serious illness at the age of ninety-one, they resolve to change their relationship by beginning a year-long conversation unlike any they had ever had before. The result is a correspondence of surprising honesty and depth in which they discuss their lives, the things that matter to them, and what they still want to learn about each other. Both a son's love letter to his mother and an unconventional mom's life lessons for her grown son, *The Rainbow Comes and Goes* offers a rare window into their close relationship and fascinating life stories, including their tragedies and triumphs. In these often humorous and moving exchanges, they share their most private thoughts and the hard-earned truths they've learned along the way. In their words their distinctive personalities shine through. Anderson's journalistic outlook on the world is a sharp contrast to his mother's idealism and unwavering optimism. An appealing memoir with inspirational advice, *The Rainbow Comes and Goes* is a beautiful and affectionate celebration of the universal bond between a parent and a child, and a thoughtful reflection on life, reminding us of the precious insight that remains to be shared, no matter our age.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is not a book about a famous journalist, nor is it a book about a famous family. *THE RAINBOW COMES AND GOES* is a story about a mother and her son, and their desire to know more about each. The two live in very different worlds, and have different world views. It's only slightly relevant that the correspondence took place via email. It doesn't really matter so much. Anderson asks mom questions about her childhood, and the people she knew, and mom gives detailed answers. Some of the questions are startling--questions about death. Anderson asks, "Do you think about death a lot? Over the years you have talked to me about dying many times." Gloria then gives frank answers about her thoughts on dying, and asks Anderson a favor: "I'd like you to place a handful of my ashes in your father's grave." The fact that both people are world famous is not so much relevant in this book--at least in most cases. One big exception is the terrible experience of the custody battle over little Gloria. There are long accounts of the fight, with Anderson asking his mother why it happened, "Why do you think she fought for custody?" Not surprisingly, a lot of money was involved, all about who gets custody of a little, scared girl. "Lawyers were hired, a trial date was set, and both sides began preparing for a court fight unlike any the country had ever seen." Anderson's grandmother started a court fight, "for custody of a child she barely knew." I thought the most interesting question in *THE RAINBOW COMES AND GOES* was Anderson's question, "Do you have any regrets?" Gloria admits that yes, there is a very long list: "For me the list of regrets is so long I wouldn't know where to begin or to end.

WOW. What a great book and is worth a read. It's sincere and everything that you would hope it would be. There are two aspects to this book, one is a candid conversation between a mother and a son, and the other is, well, a lot of the family gossip. It mirrors the conversations that many people hope that they have once in their lifetime with their own eldest family member, when they themselves are adults. It is a conversation, but done in the style of Anderson Cooper, almost being his own investigative journalist regarding his own family. However, unlike situations in which Cooper simply asks questions and keeps moving, he discusses his own responses, his own feelings, and explores elements from his own background and experiences. A great example is Cooper mentioning how he was afraid to tell his mom he was gay because of being afraid of how she would react because of the rumors that her own mother was gay. Instead the mother essentially responds with, "Yeah, I knew, all your friends were gay," and does the motherly thing of refocusing on the question of her son regarding her own mother and discusses her mother's sexuality and her own views on sexuality, which have changed over the years and views that it is fluid. There is also some really unique insights into the different family members, providing a history of each one as

Anderson asks, going so far as to describe houses and ways that money was made. There is also a slight element of motherâ™s give a damn being broken at 91 and even letting her son know about sex and the first time she no longer had to fake an orgasm, which was one of the attractive aspects of who she dated.

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