

Quercus

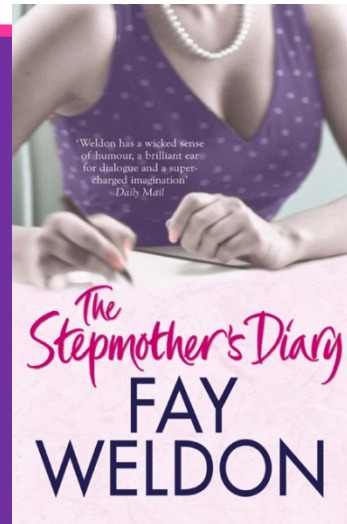
Media Release

The Stepmother's Diary

By **FAY WELDON**

Publishing November 2008

RRP \$29.95



I read my daughter's diaries the other day. You may find that despicable, but let me share with you. You think truly dreadful things only happen in other countries, other cultures, far away: but they also happen in your own back yard, and to the nicest people.

Sappho was so happy when she married Gavin. She was in love and it seemed that at last everything was falling into place. But she hadn't considered his daughter, Isobel, a delightful, charming girl who spends her school holidays caring for the elderly and is the apple of Gavin's eye. Now cast in the role of Wicked Stepmother, Sappho tries all she can to befriend Isobel and find her place in the new family. It's not easy, but no one had promised it would be. Sappho perseveres. But she has a history, and the history works against her.

When it becomes clear that, contrary to popular belief, it is Isobel who steals Gavin's love and attention, and Sappho who must fight for his affection, Sappho is at a loss. How can she win her husband back? With warmth, wit and her unique insights into the workings of the female mind, Fay Weldon offers a brilliant, unsettling new novel about family life today.

Fay Weldon was born in England and raised in New Zealand. Since her first novel, *The Fat Woman's Joke* (1967), she has produced novels, essays, short stories, non-fiction and scripts for radio and television, including *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, *Mantrapped*, *What Makes Women Happy* and *The Spa Decameron*, published by Quercus in 2007. She lives in Dorset with her husband, the poet Nick Fox.

Praise for Fay Weldon:

'Marshalling those elegant, deadly sentences – there's simply no touching Fay Weldon as a writer' – *The Observer*

'Weldon's style, that virtuoso of intelligence and insinuating garrulousness, achieves a kind of ideal equilibrium between therapy and gossip' – *The Times*

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