

# Raising Great *Girls*

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# Raising Great *Girls*

**HELP FOR MOMS**

To Raise **CONFIDENT,**

**CAPABLE**

**Daughters**

(perfection not required)

**DARLENE BROCK**



*The Grit and Grace Project*

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P.O. Box 247, Estero, FL 33929  
[info@thegritandgraceproject.com](mailto:info@thegritandgraceproject.com)  
[www.thegritandgraceproject.com](http://www.thegritandgraceproject.com)

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# MASTER GEMOLOGIST

## | JOB DESCRIPTION |

*A Gemologist possesses the ability to establish the quality and value of gemstones assessing their clarity grading and using their identification skills to determine their worth. Understanding the market factors that will influence their final value.*

**Y**OU MAY BE wondering when a woman wants to share something she deems significant, does she have to begin the conversation with gemstones and jewelry? I just can't help it! A Master Gemologist is a job every dad needs to take. It's the most important position you need to grasp, then perform, when raising your daughter.

There are primary functions of a Master Gemologist, which are applicable for the job of dad. The most important is that you realize that you are the first, as well as the most influential individual, to determine the value of the gems you assess (in this case is your little girl). You are also in the unique position to assess the "market factors" that will influence your daughter's

perceived value by others. Then it is yours to prepare her to assess these factors for herself.

Deciphering “market factors” is not to say a father intends that his daughter grows up to be considered a commodity. It is quite the opposite. It is taking the information you have gleaned from the culture she will be entering, then applying that understanding for her benefit. When this job is done well, she will believe that she indeed is a treasure of great worth. You will be the first male to help her realize how valuable she is, unwilling to be esteemed any less. You will also be the most effective.

It does not matter if you are the hunting, fishing, kind of guy going to work each day in blue jeans and work boots, or the businessman who wears a suit and tie spending his days at an executive desk. This job can be done well no matter what you do, or what you wear. It’s performed well by who you are.

Here’s the secret to the dad version of a Gemologist. If you take the time to let her know she is priceless and worthy of respect, love, and admiration she will believe she is. If you don’t take that time, she will forever wonder what her value may be. Then another male who does not have your little girl’s interest at heart will one day set the value for her. Does this terrify you dad? It probably should, so be there first.

As you may have already discovered (because of your involvement with this girls’ mother), we females can be confusing. Some days we act like we need a man in our lives, while other times, we act as if we can do it all on our own. But the reality is this. Females seek the attention and approval of men whether our gender wants to admit it or not! This is true of your little girl as well.

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*It is your job to value this treasure, your  
daughter, before any other man does.*

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I can guarantee that if you love your little girl well, she will have a much better chance of seeking the love of a good man. She won't be found looking for love and attention from the wrong men. I can promise you Dad; the day will come and seek she will.

How to do that is pretty simple. When you talk about gems you speak of clarity, flaws, cut. A Master Gemologist is the one to quantify the worth of the gem by recognizing its unique qualities and preparing it for the market. Dad, you are the one to quantify the value of your daughter, treasuring her unique attributes and getting her ready to face the "market" she will enter.

Let's take a typical day. You may have worked with difficult tasks or demanding people all day long. Perhaps you have expended an enormous amount of physical labor. Maybe you are the company leader and are exhausted from the human demands placed upon you. You arrive home from that hard day to find your little girl in her princess outfit awaiting you on the doorstep.

She immediately drags you into the house to plant you in a chair and chatter incessantly about the silly things little princesses chatter about. After completing your exhausting day, the only thing you want to do is turn on the TV, check the news online, or take a shower. The one thing you do not want to do is sit still for this miniature royalty. But indeed, at least occasionally, you must.

A friend of mine recently discovered this reality then posted about his enlightened moment on my author page on Facebook. I know him as a road manager, sound engineer, one-time member of a SWAT team and guard in a security services company. He's a man's man, not necessarily the-hanging-with-princess type. I find this story enlightening, a complete departure from the adventuresome, rough and tumble kind of guy that he is.

*Ok, the past month has been crazy, my wife flying all over the earth (private jet pilot for the well to do) while I've been the SAHD (stay at home daddy). Last night I lay on my youngest daughter's bed while she colored and talked, and talked and talked, for a long time getting the day off her chest. I was surprised what went on in a four-year-olds head. After quite a prolonged period, she looked at me and said, "Daddy, you*

*let me talk a very long time.” She turned and then got out of her little chair. Coming to where I was laying she placed her four-year-old head on my chest and said, “Thank you, daddy.” I had a “wow” moment.*

*Last night was something. I mean I’m a good daddy, but it was like this veil was taken back. EVERYTHING I do and say, are the things that give my daughters the good and bad. How I react to momma when I’m mad shows them how a man treats a woman. I get to determine the mindset of the man she wants...it’s all very frightening...and awesome...man....my daughter’s think men should all carry guns, tell SWAT stories and cry at family movies.....*

He’s really on the right path with this one. There’s a practical side to the Dad Gemologist. That is making your daughter feel valuable from a very young age.

I want you to stay with me here Dads before we go on I need to give you the “why” for doing this. The day will come when your little girl will venture out on her own. Most begin their quest for independence in middle school with the desire to choose friends you may not know. Then comes High School which brings more decisions that she will want to make for herself, venturing into new places, building new relationships and exploring new opportunities. These years are the beginning of the outside influences that will impact her perceived value.

Her final step toward building her own life will come as she packs up her belongings to leave home, in the pursuit of a degree or to advance her chosen career. As she ventures into each of these new areas of independence, there will be influencers who often challenge her value. She may have friends whose fickle loyalty quickly extends to the most exciting new person in their lives; leaving her wondering why that isn’t her. She will most likely experience education challenges, boyfriend drama, and career disappointment.

Each of these things can shake the self-worth and self-confidence of any daughter, even those who learned their worth early in life. But for those girls who have not heard they were precious in value, it may not merely shake their self-worth, but it has the potential to destroy it. Performing this job



well, early in your daughter's life is providing her a life jacket she can grab ahold of before she even knew she needed one.

I have to give you guys a break here when it comes to female chatter. Listening to every word we females say can be incredibly time consuming and tiresome. Yes, we use three times the number of words you do to complete the same thought. Yes, we can talk about an array of subjects, both interesting and mundane.

Remember it isn't every word your daughter says every day that you must listen to. It's that you need to set aside specific time to listen with total attention allowing no interruption. Not a whole lot different than the adult female in your life. We don't need all of your attention all of the time. We just need undivided attentiveness that is entirely ours, without distraction, some of the time.

It's not just listening to your daughter, but it's talking to her as well. She needs to hear what you think of her. Does she make you smile and laugh? Tell her. Does she amaze you with some of the things she does? Tell her. Are you proud of one of her accomplishments? Tell her. Do you think she looks pretty? Tell her. The individual moments that take just a very few seconds add up to an exponential increase in how your little girl values herself. She will believe what you say; you're her Daddy. And by the way, if you ever wonder, the grownup female in your life isn't a lot different!

What I don't want you to do is to tell that little girl she's great when she's not doing what she should, when her conduct is defiance or disobedience (she will do that as well). Trust me, she will see right through that. If you always tell her she's great no matter what she does, it leads her to believe she can manipulate the male species. I'm sure you've met grownup women who have mastered that talent. It's not very pretty, so you don't want that easily-acquired ability fostered in your daughter.

Know that there will be times when your daughter will act in ways and make choices that will frustrate and even anger you. This conduct can come in the form of five-year-old disobedience or later as teen rebellion. Even though you may be disappointed in her choices, she needs to know you will always stand by her and never quit loving her. Your love should be constant,



and your love should be unconditional. By being the one who loves no matter what, you are showing her the kind of love you want her to one day receive from another.

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*She will believe what you say; you're her Daddy.*

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There's one more thing a Master Gemologist Dad should do that's slightly different than simply dealing with a gemstone. Being a man, you intimately understand the "marketplace of life" and need to educate your daughter so she can understand it as well. While it is true that your actions will speak the loudest, there are some things said by a dad, that a girl will dismiss from her mother.

You need to take any opportunity you have to help her see what an excellent "buyer" looks like. No, you are not putting your daughter on the market. You are helping her to fully understand how others will or will not place value on her by giving her the insights needed to recognize those who will appreciate what you do—her great worth.

Tell her what you expect from any young man that wants to be in her life. She may sigh, roll her eyes and say "Oh, daddy" but every qualification you give she will hear. Whether on the day that you share the information or later when she is serious about some young man your words will resonate in her heart.

There is a desire in every little girl that is treasured by her father; she will want him to approve of the man she will one day come to love. She does not want to disappoint her dad. You may not believe that to be true, but I promise you it is. Let her know what kind of guy that needs to be, and she will never forget. Tell her repeatedly and begin when she is young.

Here is a simple list of suggestions, words your daughter needs to hear from her daddy:

- › *He should possess common courtesy. If he says, he's going to call your daughter let her know he should. If he says, he will arrive at a particular*

*time make sure she understands short of an auto accident or family emergency; he must. His integrity in the little things is an accurate indicator of his integrity in the big things. Your girl should know this.*

- › *He must be willing and able to look you in the eye and answer any question asked without hesitation. Your daughter needs to understand that you expect this.*
- › *He must have a work ethic. Whether in sports, job, or education he must believe that he has to work for anything good in life and be willing to do that. Your daughter must understand it takes hard work for anything worthwhile, including a healthy relationship.*
- › *His “love” should be shown not in what he wants but in what he’s willing to give. Unfortunately, our culture teaches that “love” means your little girl surrenders herself emotionally and physically to whoever makes the statement of love in a relationship. Help her realize that unselfishness is the real definition of the word love. A guy can love a pizza, devour it, then leave the table and move on to something new. True love by a young man means he will treasure her, not consume her. She is not made to be merely the physical gratification of another. She is worth so much more than that.*

I know you may have many more expectations than just those four. Determine the standards that you want to express to your girl, ones that are important to *you*. Add them, reiterate them and make sure your daughter grasps them.

The final thing you need to help your little girl understand, one terrifying to most parents, is that the young man she may one day end up with will impact the rest of her life. Today’s statistics don’t guarantee that a young woman will find a man deserving of her commitment. Another reason a girl needs to believe in her self-worth.

But if she does pursue this relationship, you want to make sure she knows what the right one looks like. The young man she chooses to leave her parents for will hopefully encourage her to be even more than who he married because he treasures her. She will do the same for him.

Their lives will be intertwined; they will share everything. So, the final assessment will be this—are they compatible in the real world? Do they share values, have cohesive views on finances, share their faith, value integrity, and have they considered children? If you have set the bar, having taught that such critical topics of conversations between genders are something to be pursued, she will be comfortable engaging in the same conversations with the man she hopes to share her life.

So, here's a recap, Master Gemologist. Make sure your daughter treasures herself in the same way you do. Listen well. Encourage much. Love unconditionally. Explain the marketplace of life.

And remember this, how you treat the women in your life, the grown one and the one you call daughter, will be how she believes a man treats a woman.

If you do this job well, embedded in your little girl's heart will be an understanding that she is one of your great life's treasure. This truth will make her stronger, braver and successful in all that she accomplishes because you made her believe she was priceless.

## About The Author



Darlene Brock. Co-Founder and President of The Grit and Grace Project, Author, and Co-Host of This Grit and Grace Life Podcast left home at 18. Her first pay your rent job was a receptionist at a prestigious law firm, which she left to live in a Christian commune. As her life pendulum swung again, she took the job of running a summer camp and conference center before spending the next 20 plus years in the music business. One to always enjoy a new adventure, Darlene once para-glided off the Bavarian Alps with her two daughters; you just can't put this lady in a box.

It was not long after leaving home at that young age; she realized embracing grit and grace were the traits that got her through many trials and triumphs. It was this realization that led her to launch her most recent venture, The Grit and Grace Project with co-founder and husband, Dan.

In addition to the podcast, "This Grit and Grace Life," this organization currently produce a women's online lifestyle magazine. Every element of The Grit and Grace Project, including their book publishing affiliate, was created to remind women that true beauty is found in a woman's strength.

As Darlene embraced grit and grace to master the challenges in her life, she became inspired to write about raising confident and capable daughters, understanding that perfection was not required. Holding to the belief that a woman's self-confidence and strength is best gained at a young age it was her goal to arm mothers with the tools they need to complete the job of raising great (but not perfect) girls.

Having two adult daughters, she understands that motherhood is not just one job, but it is many. To set any girl in your charge on a life course for potential success requires mastering a broad range of positions. In different seasons of a girl's life. From Coach to Military Strategist, every mother takes on various responsibilities when embracing the title of mom.

Darlene has been featured on the Fox & Friends morning show, Focus on the Family and Family Life Today radio programs, and multiple ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX affiliates. She has been a featured columnist for CNN and written for numerous Family oriented magazines and websites.

It was in the busyness of producing award-winning music videos, managing music groups, promoting concerts and serving as COO of ForeFront Records that Darlene raised her two daughters. This unique blend of author, mother, businesswoman, wife, and creative producer has shown her that it is indeed true, "life challenges should neither defeat nor define you." And just so you know, she wears the tool belt in her family.



The Grit and Grace Project was co-founded in 2011 by Darlene Brock with business partner and husband, Dan R. Brock. The company, established to publish books, e-books, and other materials, was created to inspire women to discover their inherent strength.

In 2015 a separate company, under the same name, was launched as a 501c3 non-profit corporation. With this debut as a women's online lifestyle magazine, [thegritandgraceproject.org](http://thegritandgraceproject.org) provides insights, how-to's and tips on real beauty, relationships, work, finances, motherhood, purpose, and faith. The articles are written by real women who have discovered within themselves the grit and grace needed to conquer the challenges of a woman's life. Every insight delivered in such a way that women feel encouraged and inspired, often laughing along the way.

The next unveiling of The Grit and Grace Project was in Fall of 2017, producing This Grit and Grace Life Podcast, co-hosted by Darlene and Julie Graham. This cross-generational weekly podcast is like having a cup of coffee with your best friends, being part of the conversation as these ladies tackle hot-topics and issues facing all women, with occasional visits from great guests who will join to talk about some of the more difficult subjects. From the boardroom to the bedroom, car-lines to college, single married or single again you'll leave each episode with women's tips and advice on all things life.

No matter what the undertaking The Grit and Grace Project entities have done or will do, all driven by the belief that true beauty is found in a woman's strength.

*For more information go to [thegritandgraceproject.org](http://thegritandgraceproject.org).*