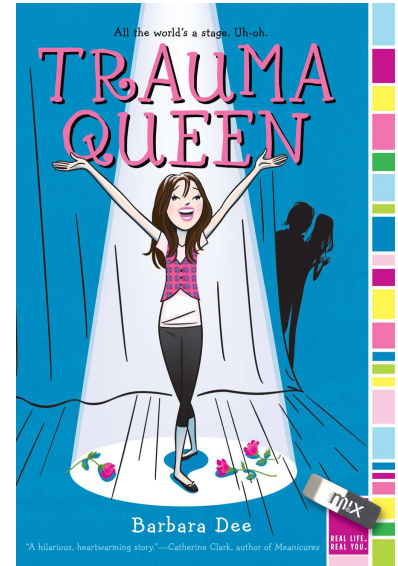


## TRAUMA QUEEN

By Barbara Dee

Aladdin MIX, Paperback, ISBN 978-1442409231

Seventh grader Marigold has the most embarrassing mom on the planet: a performance artist who has just taken a new job - teaching theatre improv at Marigold's school!



- Is Becca a dream mom or a “mother of Doom?” How would you react if you had a mom like Becca? Or a mom like Trisha Hartley?
- Do you think Marigold is always fair to her mom? Do you think Becca is always unfair to her daughter? What do they need from each other?
- Why is it so hard for them to say it?
- When Becca was a girl, was she like Marigold? Look at Marigold's friends - would Marigold be friends with the 13-year-old Becca? What does Marigold look for in a friend? Does she choose the same sorts of friends that you do?
- Marigold tells Layla that Becca's performances are “cool when it's not your mom.” How are the rules different “when it's not your mom?” Do you think your mom - and moms in general - need to behave differently from other women? Are there as many rules of behavior for moms - and grown up women in general - as there are for tween girls? Are the rules the same?
- Marigold says her “Thing” is “just this dumb thing I do to pass the time.” Of course it's more than that. Why is it so important to her (even before Gram tells her the secret about the material)? Which other characters have “Things?” What's yours?