



# Between Women and Generations: Legacies of Dignity

*Drucilla Cornell*

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## **Between Women and Generations: Legacies of Dignity** Drucilla Cornell

Drucilla Cornell interweaves the ethical and the political in this unique and profound narrative, focusing on women and dignity. Before Drucilla Cornell's mother died, she asked her daughter to write a book, "that would bear witness to the dignity of her death [and that] her bridge class would be able to understand." Shortly thereafter, Cornell's mother, who had a degenerative disease, decided to claim her right to die. Forceful, honest, and unsentimental, this is the book that Cornell promised to write. Cornell uses the personal as a springboard to discuss contemporary issues concerning women today. She engages with the difficult nature of intergenerational relationships between women by writing about her relationship to her own mother. The fundamental argument of *Between Women and Generations* is that all women should have the conditions under which they can claim dignity in their own lives. It is necessary to create such conditions, Cornell argues, because even when women are physically harmed and morally wronged, they do not lose their dignity. Cornell tells the story of her adoption of Sarita Graciela Kellow Cornell, her Paraguayan daughter, and of her relationship with UNITY, a cooperative of house cleaners in Long Island, New York. She creates a powerful picture of the legacies of dignity between women and generations.

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