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Butterflies or Tigers: A Memoir

By Liza M Tilson

Xlibris. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 308 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.1in. x 0.9in. In 1923, letters were the only means available to Liza Mitnik Tilson to hold on to loved ones left behind in Colombia when her father brought this young family to what he thought would be a much better life in the United States. Only four years old at the time, Liza would soon become an inveterate letter writer. Six years later, the Great Depression fell on Liza's already dysfunctional family. In 1936, in a desperate effort to feed his family of six, her father uprooted them from suburban New Jersey to a primitive farm in central Florida, forcing each member of the family to explore new coping and survival skills. Always an outstanding student, Liza's first encounter with higher education began in triumph with a college scholarship created especially for her, and ended in shame and humiliation when she was expelled for what private school administrators considered serious rule breaking. Running from failure and disgrace to New York, her new life included marriage and motherhood, years of evening classes at City College of New York, and two satisfying careers first as a research secretary-typist at New York University, and later as a bilingual teacher in New York City public schools. Liza's lifelong letter writing paid off when, at age 80, urged by a friend,...


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