

Erica Jong

“Fear of Flying”



General facts

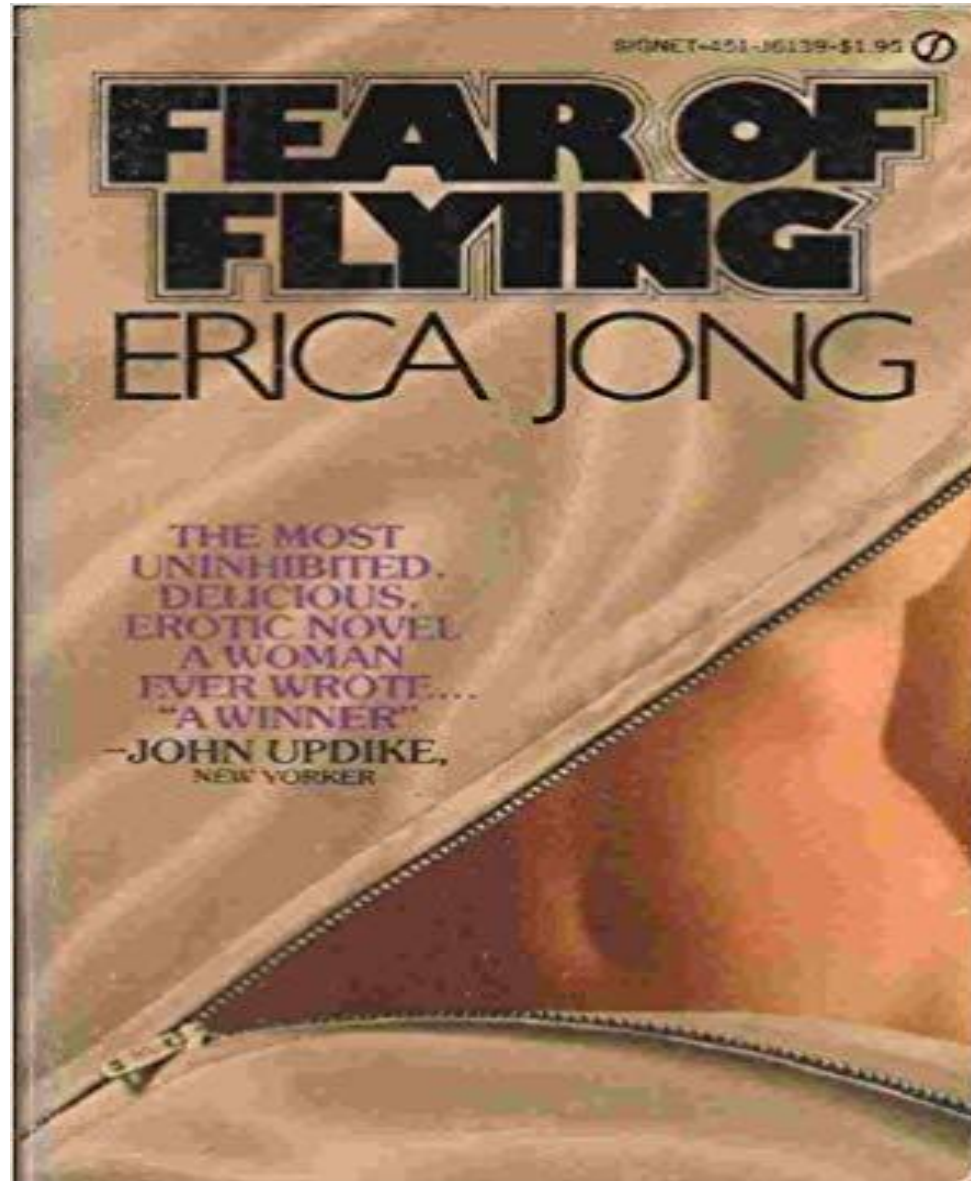
- Erica Jong is an American author of fictional writing and a well known poet
- She was born on 26th of March 1942 in New York
- She was the middle child of Seymore Mann, a businessman of Polish Jewish ancestry and Eda Mirsky who was a painter and a textile designer by profession

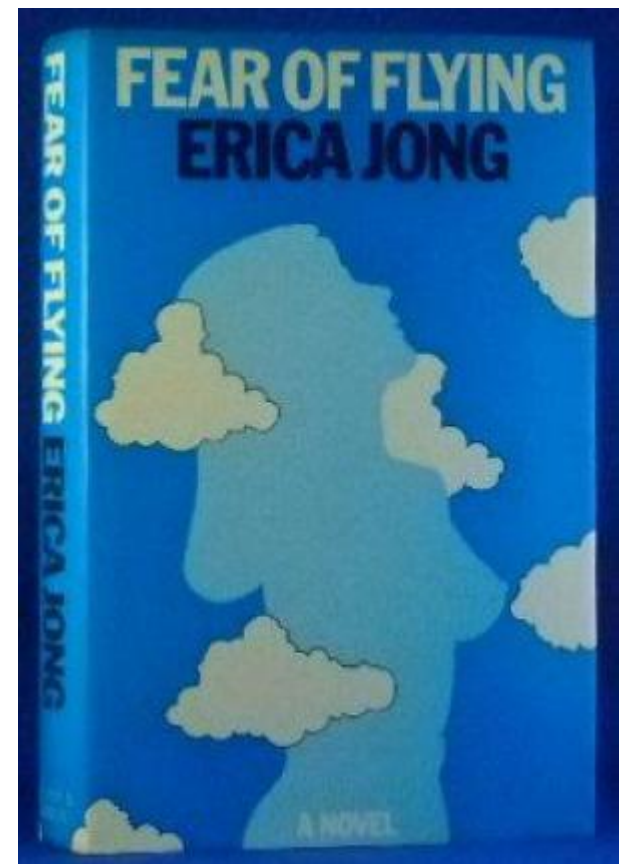
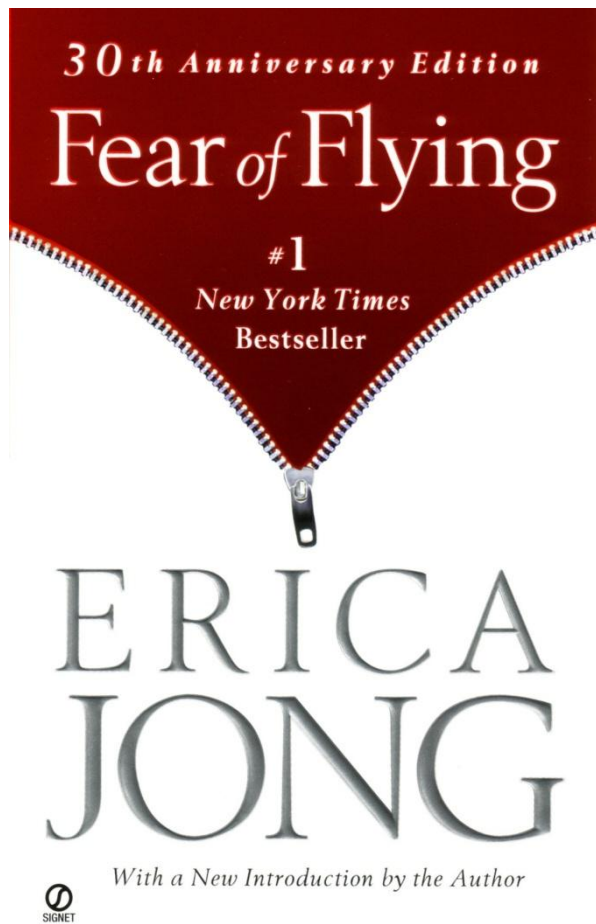
- Erica married four times
- She is currently in a marital relation with Kenneth David Burrows, who is a litigation attorney
- Erica Jong has a daughter, writer and satirist Molly Jong-Fast who is also shared with her three wonderful grandchildren
- Jong went to the prestigious New York's public High School of Music and Art in the 1950s; her main subjects being art and writing

- She received her Master's degree in 18th century English Literature from Columbia University in 1965
- Her total publications are twenty which include 8 novels, 6 volumes of poetry and 6 non fictional books along with several articles written for various magazines like New York Times, the Sunday Times of London, Elle, Vogue and the New York Times Book Review

- Erica Jong is known particularly for her novel “Fear of Flying”
- “Fear of Flying”, published in 1973, blew conventional thinking about women, marriage and sexuality out of the water, selling over 37 million copies and being translated into over 45 languages including Chinese and Arabic.

Fear of Flying





Isadora Wing tries to define herself

- As a daughter
- As a Jew
- As a WOMAN

As a daughter

- The role of Isadora's mother is an interesting invocation of Jewish stereotypes, in that she defies them in some ways and closely follows them in others. Rather than subscribing to the stereotypical image of a Jewish Mother as being overly excessive, nurturing, and giving, Isadora's mother is rather cold and distant. She does, however, fit the mold of the Jewish Mother stereotype as a martyr and constantly seeking to guilt her children.

As a Jew

- Jewishness appears frequently throughout the book, although it may not stand out as the most eye-catching theme because of how entrenched it is in Isadora's experience of the world. In particular, her Jewish heritage is invoked through her constant awareness of the history of her people and the trials and tribulations that the Jewish people have gone through not only in recent decades but over the course of their long history.

As a woman

- “At the time I wrote *Fear of Flying*, there was not a book that said women are romantic, women are intellectual, women are sexual—and brought all those things together.” “What Isadora is looking for is how to be a whole human being, a body and a mind, and that is what women were newly aware they needed in 1973.”

- *Fear of Flying* was written in the throes of the Sexual Revolution of the 1970s, as associated with second-wave feminism. Finally it was acknowledged that desire and fantasy are a good thing and not entirely condemnable in women.