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Helpless: The True Story Of A Neglected Girl Betrayed And Exploited By The Neighbour She Trusted



Marianne Marsh
with Toni Maguire

Helpless

The true story of a neglected girl betrayed and
exploited by the neighbour she trusted



Synopsis

Neglected by her careless parents, Marianne turned to her neighbour, the one person that she thought she could trust. Eight year old Marianne, the eldest of five children, was neglected by her slovenly mother and her violent alcoholic father. Uncared for and unkempt she was rejected at school by her peers and scarcely tolerated by her teachers. Only one person gave her the affection she craved; a neighbour who seeing the vulnerable child knew she was easy prey for his perverted desires. "Little Lady" he called her over the few months he groomed her. Less than twelve months later she was caught in a trap of fear - if she talked she would be punished. With no one to turn to she kept "their secret". At thirteen she fell pregnant. Still too frightened to speak out she refused to tell the social workers who the father was. Without family support the teenager gave birth to a daughter in the unmarried mother's home. Six weeks later the baby she had already grown to love was taken away for adoption. Marianne returned home, but the neighbour's abuse continued and a year later she was pregnant again. This time her father literally tried to beat the baby out of her but she failed to miscarry. Scared for her life and that of her baby's she ran away from home carrying only a plastic bag stuffed with her few possessions. Marianne who still missed her first child desperately struggled to keep her second daughter. Two months after the birth she realized that for the baby's sake she would have to hand her over for adoption. Helpless is Marianne's heartbreaking story as told the bestselling author of Don't Tell Mummy.

Book Information

File Size: 609 KB

Print Length: 307 pages

Publisher: Harper Element; UK ed. edition (March 6, 2009)

Publication Date: March 6, 2009

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B002RI9R16

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #42,340 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Abuse #44 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Mental Health > Sexual Abuse #58 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Dysfunctional Families

Customer Reviews

I could not put this book down. I was so mad that her horrible parents, who had to have known what was happening to her did not do anything to stop it. Then she gets the blame from the pedophile who did all these horrible things to her since she was very young. His wife blamed her. How can you blame a child. Also he most likely moved onto his own young daughter. I was so mad at all she went through. It sure opens your eyes to just how a child molester gets his victims. I was wishing he got taken away to jail, put with all the prisoners who hate child molesters, and let them take care of him. There were some parts that were hard to read. I had tears in my eyes at times for what she endured in her young life. I will not give the ending away.

Admirably written, heart wrenching, and deeply personal true life account of a small child's parental neglect and betrayal and the heart breaking exploitation and sexual abuse by the vial man next door. Marianne's choice to share her heart breaking childhood with us shows me she didn't let her painful past define her. She freed herself of the bonds of adversity and has triumphed to become a hero to me. Thank you for sharing your story..

This is a depressing and educational book about how a child molester chooses and sets up his victims. This should be required reading for every parent. The people who you would least suspect often are the worst offenders. This is a story that goes from the present to the sad childhood of the Author. How she managed to live her life without the help of family or therapy is amazing. The story touches on how a disfunctional family can leave a child vulnerable. You will have a hard time putting this book down.

All child abuse is hard to comprehend, but this neglected and abused girl finally found real love in her present life and closure to her childhood. She triumphed in the end! I highly recommend this book.

I enjoyed how she wrote the book in the past and present time. I am glad she finally found people to

make her feel loved!!!

It was hard to read in the beginning, It was too sad and made me mad. I passed several pages . I went back to it and finished it. I couldn't put it down again. So glad to see it end as it did.

This book is well written switching from past to present. It tells the life story of a woman who was abused and molested from the age of 8 by the pedophile next door. She became pregnant at 13 years old and had to give up the baby and do it all alone emotionally. I don't want to spoil the ending so I will stop here.

What a great example that shows that we can all overcome. Loved the book and the message that went along with it. Thank you for sharing your story.

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