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BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

JENNY TOMLIN

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Behind Closed Doors: A True Story of Abuse, Neglect and Survival Against the Odds Jenny Tomlin

In 'Behind Closed Doors' Jenny Tomlin recounts her traumatic upbringing at the hands of a physically and sexually abusive father, as well as how she and her siblings not only survived but eventually transcended their experiences, and how she went on to find love and happiness in her life.

Behind Closed Doors: A True Story of Abuse, Neglect and Survival Against the Odds Details

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From Reader Review Behind Closed Doors: A True Story of Abuse, Neglect and Survival Against the Odds for online ebook

Irene Lazlo says

Quiero empezar diciendo que este libro puede herir tu sensibilidad. Tiene pederastia, incesto, violación, abuso de menores, violencia de género y más. La infancia de Jenny Tomlin fue absolutamente terrible, con un padre que era el demonio. Es increíble todo lo que tuvo que sufrir y el poco caso que hacían a los niños las autoridades en los 60 y 70. Es un libro muy importante.

A pesar de lo cruda que es la historia y la cantidad de detalles que da, está escrita de manera un poco naïve que choca con la dureza de los hechos. Pero no creo que el objetivo de la autora sea tener una prosa impecable sino contar un tipo de historia del que no se habla lo suficiente.

James Perkins says

If you live outside of the UK, you probably don't know who Martine McCutcheon is, but she is a big celebrity there, as a central character in the popular soap *EastEnders*, and a sometime minor pop star and occasional movie actress (e.g. Hugh Grant's romantic interest in *Love Actually*). This book was written by her mother, who has no doubt ridden on the coattails of her daughter's fame in racking up sales. I don't blame her for that - after all, who is going to buy a book about a terrible childhood by a complete unknown?

I can't say it's well-written: the prose doesn't sparkle or come alive, a lot of it seems like the naïve ramblings of a teenager rather than the more astute observations of the adult who has penned it, and compared to other misery memoirs such as Frank McCourt's "Angela's Ashes", it doesn't hold a candle - but at least the grammar is correct (poor grammar is very distracting) and the story is so appalling that you can't help but read on in complete disbelief to wonder what happened next in the author's inglorious childhood. The book is quite explicit in its descriptions of abusive behaviour, but I think that was necessary to convey just how shocking such things really are.

In our enlightened times, it's easy to wonder how such severe neglect and abuse is possible, but things have certainly changed, in terms of awareness and action towards these kinds of social problems. Many people in a similar situation would have self-destructed, and I can only applaud Jenny Tomlin's strength to rise above her beginnings and create a better life for herself. Perhaps after reading this book, somebody else who has been abused will be inspired to do the same.

Caroline says

Wow wow wow, what children put up with! Really enjoyed this heartbreaking story of abuse, real eye opener x x

Tracey says

This was a very good and interesting read

-Georgina- Smith says

this book is soooooooooooooooooooooo good

Hazel McHaffie says

A harrowing and sickening true story of the horrific abuse of a mother and her children by a monster of a man. And the indomitable spirit that drove the author to rise above her shocking childhood and go on to form healthy relationships and become a proud mother herself. Reveals the massive divides of years gone by and the deficiencies of official organisations who should have supported and protected these vulnerable children. The happy outcome comes as a blessed relief after such unimaginable torture.

Oana Spahiu says

This story is so shocking, i just can't believe it's true. How come no one ever helped those children? And their mum? I kinda hate her more than their father. She knew all the horrors and still did nothing at all and seemed to "love" her husband in some kind of way. The police, the social services, the judges, the doctors and probably everyone knew the abuse and still let them in the hands of their father.

This book raises too many questions I'd love to ask the author. How could they "forgive" their mother, why did they let Carol and Kris stay in that home (even the aunt never took care of them!) and most importantly, how on earth is there a photo of Kim's son with his grandparents?!! Why did Laurence go away after Kris's death? I always thought that Jenny, Kim and him had a great relationship and in the end they'd be all together.

Also, I don't get why did she breakup with John when he was such a nice guy and ended up with an abusive husband. The nightmare never ends.

?

richwire says

A sad story well-told for the most part. It seems like I had a lot of questions after I finished. Why didn't she disown her mother? Didn't she feel bad about leaving Carole at home after the trial? Why so much love towards Auntie when (1) she had to know what was going on and (2) she basically ignored the two youngest children.

I think the only one I admire after reading this book is the author's sister, Kim.

I will read her 2nd book and see if it fills in some of the blanks. Hey, maybe that was the author was hoping people would do.

Dawn says

Difficult to rate this book as I didn't like the subject matter at all, and I didn't like reading a lot of it, but I liked the way it was written, so I have rated it on that merit. I do not normally read books like this but I found it in a charity shop and I was interested to read it to compare it to "Jesus Land" (also called "Another Hour on a Sunday Morning") by Julia Scheeres. I much preferred Jenny Tomlin's disclosure of abuse as it had an honesty about it which was lacking in Scheere's book, and also it did not have the sneering undertones which Scheeres' book had.

It made me angry that those involved in child-protection can be so thick.

However, the bit that really upset me and made me cry with sadness and anger (and my reaction surprised me) was when Auntie's dying wish to be buried next to her husband was ignored, and she was cremated and her ashes scattered to the wind. I really don't know why this upset me so much, but Auntie was one of the few people in the book with dignity and love, and I felt really upset that such a noble person was not even afforded her last dying wish.

Eva Leger says

There isn't much more than "Wow" that I can say for this book. I'm still amazed and when I think of parts my mouth drops open. I read books of this nature a lot and one would think it gets old after awhile, or so I'm told, but it never does for me. I'm still shocked that there are people, children, who have had and still have to endure this kind of torture and pain. I feel like I actually know Jenny and her sister Kim as well as their aunt. Their aunt passing actually brought tears to my eyes. The writing is fantastic and as far as I know there is a sequel to this which I must find asap. Definitely recommend to people who already read this kind of book- others will maybe find it tough to read.

Nadine O' brien says

Most amazing and inspirational book I've ever read.

Love says

I loved this book but at times it seem to drag on about nothing to me. Not very often just a chapter or two in between. I feel so sorry that parents have children they just do not seem to want. I can not understand as a mom how any person or woman for that matter could just ignor someone abusing their child. With all that wen to n in this house I do not know how these children even survived. Going hungry, beaten, sexually abused and for no one to seem to care but one aunt. That seems very odd to me. Maybe it was the times, or just the place they lived but you think someone a neighbor would have done some thing.

In the book in the picture section there is a picture of one of the kids baby son sitting with his grandparents

the ones that abused the kids in this book. Why is this....Why would you take your child if you were abused so severely to see the people who had abused you?? I never understood how people do that. What is all forgiven when you are grown up? I really want to know.

I like Jenny's writing style so I will read more books by her. This is one author I would love to sit down and ask a few questions. I am glad that these girls can move past what they had been put through and do better by their own children... I do think this is a must read!!

Fiona Macdougall says

Wonderful book. Mostly sad but nice to read the happier times too. Jenny didn't paint a complete doom and gloom picture even though her childhood was stolen many times over. Fantastic read!!!

Fiona MacDonald says

Tough going, although was strange to believe that this was written by Martine McCutcheon's mother! Well presented though.

Elaine says

I think this was one of the best books I have ever read. It's a brilliant read I felt as though I knew Kim Jenny an Auntie.
