



My Father's Prostitute: Story of a Stolen Childhood

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An honest, and sometimes brutal, true story of one man's struggle growing up in the shadow of childhood sexual abuse. From his difficulties growing up, to his drug addiction, failed relationships, and struggles with parenthood, the author takes us through the ups and downs of a life spent in the shadows, trying to make sense of the events that formed the basis of his being. Sometimes tragic, sometimes hopeful, but never sugar coated, My Father's Prostitute – Story of a Stolen Childhood takes the reader on an emotional ride which reminds us that the human spirit is more powerful than the demons that haunt us.

My Father's Prostitute: Story of a Stolen Childhood Details

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From Reader Review **My Father's Prostitute: Story of a Stolen Childhood** for online ebook

Fran Macilvey says

'My Father's Prostitute' by Steven Whitacre

Steven's mother is cold, distant and cruel, and his father is a physically affectionate man, a caring father who is also a cruel, destructive paedophile. That parenting combination, in itself, would be enough to blow my mind to pieces - so many contradictions!

But our narrator is too intelligent to let the years of relentless cruelty destroy him. His story of his efforts to build a life for himself and to learn parenting skills when he himself has had no parenting to speak of, are saddening, yet heartening: Steven knows what he has to do, and he finally accepts the challenge of learning anew, so that he can build a good life, despite his lamentable experiences.

I wish you every success in your new life Steven.

Fran Macilvey, "Trapped: My Life With Cerebral Palsy"

Julie Haigh says

Excellent conversational style, easy to read, it's not what you think.

I must admit, I had this book for ages before I read it-I thought it would make really difficult, uncomfortable reading. I held off reading it for quite a bit. I think it's especially hard to read memoirs like this when you know the person-ok, I don't know Steven personally, but he is part of a group of authors and readers on Facebook of which I'm a member too and I've got to know and like him these past few months. So, I thought it was high time I read it. It doesn't contain so much detail of the actual abuse, there's more of the after-effects, how his life turned out, how it affected everything in his life. I couldn't put it down. It is so well told; sort of like he is just sat talking to me, telling me what happened, confiding in me/the reader. I think Steven Whitacre has made an incredible job of writing this, I wish I had read it earlier now and would highly recommend it to everyone. Congratulations Steven and BIG hugs x

Frank Kusy says

I've read a few other accounts of childhood abuse in recent years, but none of them by a man. Why is this? Well, as author Steven Whitacre explains, we men are supposed to 'get over it' if we experience such serious trauma, we are not supposed to 'whine' about it. That Steven exposes his terrible situation – caught between an incestuous, paedophilic father and an emotionally distant, alcoholic mother – and writes about it with such unflinching courage and honesty, brought this reader to tears. Beautifully written and gripping from the start, we are taken for a ride into a hidden taboo world that most people are unaware of and led out again, better human beings for the experience.

One passage will remain with me for a long time:

‘My life had been so full of bad, I had been physically and mentally abused for so long, that it was normal. Much how you can tie an elephant to a small wooden stake and it won’t run away since it’s been conditioned to believe that once it’s tied up, it’s useless to try.’
That Steven tried, and succeeded, in dispatching his demons and reclaiming his life will, I believe, give hope to many...and encourage more brave men to come forth with their stories.

Shigi says

The author honestly and simply tells the story of his childhood sexual abuse at the hands of his father and how that abuse affected and continues to affect his life to this day in the way he feels about himself, his relationships with other people, and his own struggles with drugs and alcohol as ways to numb himself to the years of abuse he was forced to endure and the resulting trauma. I appreciate the author's courage in coming forward and sharing his story. Those who share a similar background or others who are seeking to further their understanding of those who do will hopefully be able to take away a lot from reading this first-hand account.

The author mentions the statistic that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are thought to have been sexually abused to some degree and emphasizes that these are not just numbers but people. Our modern society has a problem wrapping our minds around the fact that these aren't just numbers, but are your coworkers, your friends, maybe even your relatives. As unfortunate as it is, this is something that is prevalent in our society and needs to be addressed. We need to stop turning a blind eye to the problem and recognize that abuse happens to everyone, men, women, and children, and that the effects of abuse extend not just to the immediate victims but to those whose lives they touch in turn, their children, spouses, friends, and relatives. Abusers are not just some cartoon caricature of evil but they too can be the neighbor that you like, the churchgoer you respect, or even the father that you love. Mr. Whitacre has shared his story and how even though the path to healing is difficult, it is also rewarding. I can only be glad of one more voice out there bringing light to this issue.

I received this book through the Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

Kathy Golden says

My Father's Prostitute: Story of a Stolen Childhood

I started this book ready to stop at any moment but found I couldn't stop reading it until I finished. It is a story of the human spirit raw and exposed and without pretense or apology. What the writer could not feel at times in his life, as a reader you will feel it for him. With every forward step he tries to make, you will hope he succeeds. When you read this account, you'll catch a glimpse of the fact that the darkest of experiences and the fiercest of internal battles can only be fought and won through the power of LOVE.

Kristiina B says

Do yourself a favor and pick this book up when you have solid uninterrupted time dedicated to read it. You are NOT going to want to put it down. I've had it for a month, but couldn't bring myself to read it right away. But when I did, I read it cover to cover. I knew that it would be difficult, and powerful.

I have a knot in my stomach from all that Steven and his family have had to endure. He was betrayed by most of the people around him.

Thank you for sharing your brutally honest story with the world.

Marquita Herald says

I started writing this review at least half a dozen times because I struggled to find words that could do justice to My Father's Prostitute. The word "courage" has been used repeatedly in other reviews and try as I might there really is no other term I can think of to describe what it must have taken for the author to tell his story of prolonged abuse by his father with such honesty and integrity. Outside of expressing my appreciation for Steven Whitacre's writing and storytelling ability, I want to dispel any notion that this book is best left for those who have suffered abuse or addiction.

There is a passage in the book where the author realizes that while his only hope of healing is to come to terms with what's been done to him, the truth of it makes others, even in a therapeutic setting, uncomfortable because incest is a subject that is simply far too horrific for most people to think about let alone put a face to. But this is precisely why I find this book so easy to recommend because it's not only those who have suffered abuse and addictions that need to face these demons, it's also the people who know and love them.

It hasn't been that long ago that society deemed alcoholism and drug addiction too shameful to discuss in the open. My mother was an alcoholic so I know what it's like to grow up keeping secrets, which is why I feel so strongly that this book should be read by as many people as possible because it sheds understanding and light on a problem that is sadly nowhere near as uncommon as most people would like to think.

Philip J McQuillan says

Beyond the obvious fact that here is a story that cries out to be read and Shared "My Father's Prostitute: Story of a Stolen Childhood" is a powerfully gripping account of one man's grit, determination and will to survive and overcome horrific childhood experiences. It is truly commendable that he would bare himself so completely in order to attain healing while bravely showing any silent, suffering readers that perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel; that they will someday "be alright."

Recently I read that as many as 1 in 6 adult males may have lived through something similar at some point in his life; I suspect few were subjected to such trauma at the tender age of 5 yrs old— Steven explains how such early age trauma changes the hard-wiring of the brain, making traditional behavioral therapy less effective later on. Steven wasn't lucky enough to get the treatment he needed early enough; one hopes that the telling of his story will help others to get proper treatment much, much sooner.

This book deserves the high praise and excellent 4-5 star reviews that it has gotten.

I must confess that, though I am an author, I seldom review other author's works. I mean, at least compared to the dedicated reviewers at WLM on Facebook. This book really should reach more people and I think one of the best ways to help is to... break down and Write a Review!!

So, make the pledge or do whatever you do to get motivated; this book deserves your attention.

Charmaine Martin says

Always an emotive subject, Steven Whitacre confronts his inner child with strength and an honesty that are at times completely humbling as he takes his reader with him on a journey through a life misshapen by childhood abuse and the "enablers" who should have protected innocence. I stayed up until the dawn chorus and in its silence, I cried as a mother and felt the anger of injustice, Steven writes with a simplicity that is refreshing and an incredible lack of self pity. I hesitate with the cliches, courageous and brave but certainly a determined strength to take back what had been stolen from him, through the gauntlet of addictions that served to numb the emptiness and loneliness he experienced imprisoned inside his head with a dark shame, a name he couldn't speak. It is telling that he recognized how invasive abuse can be, how it perpetuates itself like a self fulfilling prophecy, with his own children slipping from the warmth of a fathers nurture, he confronts his demons and unites the love for his inner child he had never felt or understood and in so doing he lets go. I have nothing but respect for the author to cover such an intense subject with such clarity. A must read.

Stephan Peters says

My Father's Prostitute is an honest and chilling biography of a man who had secrets. Unspeakable secrets throughout childhood and young adulthood, and how these secrets affected his life for many years after.

He was betrayed by his Father, his mother, his church, his Boy Scout troop, later his wife, all those people who gave him any happiness and love in his life were also betrayers. This telling breaks down stereotypes, and gives a firsthand account of what it is like to be a shell of a person. This reading is not what you might expect when you begin, and is a must read.

The entire work is written in a frank and honest tone, and the author bares himself in a clear and readable style I have never seen before. He tackles the "it's in the past, move on" assertion with an unexpected optimism

Here are some quotes to pique your interest further:

"My father wasn't a monster that would come in the middle of the night to do bad things. He was actually a good guy if you ignored the obvious."

"And since I couldn't trust my parents and couldn't trust the police, all authority became suspect."

"Perhaps only the people that have been there will understand I had no choice."

"...but at least I had a roof over my head and food to eat. Many of these people barely had that."

"But the coping skills we develop as abused children frequently don't help us in adulthood. In fact, they can seriously hinder our lives later on."

"I wanted to be a different person so bad. Not a person with a different life, but simply a different person who could fully appreciate what he had."

"We tend to think of abuse affecting only those that are abused. But the sad reality is that it also affects everybody they come in contact with, sometimes for the rest of their lives."

READ THE BOOK!

Gene Brockhoff says

Whitacre takes a forbidden subject matter and writes about it with honesty and integrity. Molested repeatedly by his father as a young boy, and distant from his alcoholic mother, Steve tries to escape his pain with drugs and alcohol, but also by tuning the world out and driving away those closets to him. Desperately wanting to face the dark forces lurking within, he turns to therapy to heal, but also to break the cycle and not pass it on to his own daughter. Steve grows from his journey of facing the ugliness of sexual abuse. He never loses his voice throughout the memoir. I read the book in two sittings. A great read for those who are seeking a map, or a blueprint for facing their demons, whatever they may be.

Caryl Williams says

I've given five stars for one of the bravest memoirs I've ever read. Courage comes in many forms. Writing and publishing a book about childhood abuse, particularly sexual abuse from a parent must have been one of the hardest things for this author to do. Thank goodness for people who can write about such deeply personal and hurtful relationships with twisted parents, who instead of nurturing and loving a child choose to inflict their selfish perverted desires on them. I cried for this little boy who couldn't feel safe in his own room or home. There is no doubt that this well written account will have helped other readers who have suffered in a similar way but may believe that they are the only ones; unique in their experiences. As readers we are drawn into this very moving account and have to read on hoping for a positive outcome and respite for the author. Without giving too much away, the author does forge a successful life for himself, but there are difficulties and hardships along the way.

Charisse Harris says

Terrible childhood

Well written. I read this book with an open mind for starters. For one it's not often men are strong enough to come out with a book about sexual abuse. This man's childhood was stolen and like always the people we look and depend on to protect us weren't there. The issues brought on from abuse didn't just affect his life as a child, it went further into adulthood and trickled into his children's lives. As well as played a major part in decisions he made as soon as the abuse started. This book allows us to see how difficult it is for men and

abuse, signs that something is wrong and don't be so quick to judge someone because they are different. My heart was touched by this story because I hate to see parents who don't or won't watch for signs or signals for their kids happiness to notice something is troubling them. But they go on with life as if the kids asked to be here and they must figure life out as they go on without our (parents) helps. God bless this man for having courage and being strong.

Victoria Mae says

Steven Whitacre is a true inspiration to those that have suffered at the hands of others. His story is well told. The emotionless shell of a person he became. The struggles with alcohol and drugs to maintain that shell and the protective fortress he built around himself. I could relate all the way through the book.

Abuse is a cycle that Steven wages war with in order to develop a healthy relationship with those he cares about.

I am unable to come up with the words to describe the commendation he should receive for exposing what he went through and how he worked at overcoming the pain.

I know that men don't generally disclose abuse they have gone through for fear of reprisals in society. Steven acknowledges that in his writing, but ventured to disclose anyway.

I highly recommend this book for everybody.

Shelley says

I always have a hard time know how to rate a book like this. If I give it 3 stars it seems like it was just an ok book. But to give it four and say I REALLY LIKED IT sort of seems creepy given the subject matter. It was a sad book and a tragedy that a child ever had to go through something so horrible and sick.
