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Tears Of The Silenced: A True Crime And An American Tragedy; Severe Child Abuse And Leaving The Amish



Synopsis

When I was six years old my family started to live and dress like the Amish. For the next twelve years, my sister and I were subjected to almost complete isolation, sexual abuse, and severe physical violence. In my late teens, my parents feared we would escape and took us to an Amish community where we were adopted and became baptized members. I was devastated to once again find myself in a world of fear, animal cruelty and sexual abuse. Going to the police was forbidden. A few years later I was sexually assaulted by the bishop, I knew I had to get help and one morning in early March I made a dash for a tiny police station in rural Minnesota. After being excommunicated from the Amish I found myself plummeted into the strange modern world with only a 2nd or 3rd- grade education and no ID or social security card. Based on the tragic and inspiring true story. Pictures of the author as a teenager and after leaving the Amish. goo.gl/sHvICm

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Customer Reviews

I am not sure whether to consider this a novel based on several actual abuse cases, or if its an autobiographical account with lavishly embellished events created in the authors mind to demonize

and project her past abuse onto the Amish with impunity because the Amish are not very likely to dispute her story. The public is not very likely to actually demand facts but far too many will read it and take it at face value without question. I tend to lean towards the latter. I was born and raised Swartzentruber Amish and one thing is for certain. This is NOT a true story as the author implies. There are far too many discrepancies for it to be even remotely legit in that aspect and for me to take many of her accusations serious. She has definitely suffered abuse and I am sorry she had to endure that but it doesn't give her the right to fabricate an account and claim it to be true. I have since left the Amish but will always acknowledge the good of the community. The Swartzentrubers do not accept and raise any children from an outside family for one. They do not elect Bishops, they are chosen by lot. There is no engagement period in the Swartzentrubers as she suggests, and the list goes on. Hexing buggy wheels so they can't move and have to walk to church, using dark magic to open cupboards are claims so far fetched, it's simply not believable to a person with any degree of logic, especially for someone that has any real knowledge of the Amish. In her narrative she was told to choose an Amish name and then uses names like Phyllis for her Amish characters. I never heard of an Amish person with that name, even in the more progressive groups.

This is a compelling, courageous story beautifully written. Misty Griffin and her sister, Samantha, were victims of the most hideous abuse for all of their childhood. Then, as young women, they were turned over to a strict Amish community where they saw more abuse unchecked. Most people have the idea that the Amish are a simple people, with beautiful ideals. Yet this grim, inside view reveals a culture where incest, child abuse, and attempted murder are covered up by church rules. In this world, women have few rights, and men, sometimes evil men, make and enforce all of the rules. The author left the Amish in order to reveal abuse and try to help some of the victims. She wrote this to show the world that the abuse is real, but also to bring hope. This book is hard to read because the abuse is described so clearly from the first person perspective. Misty Griffin poured her heart and soul into this and revealed her innermost thoughts growing up in a world of hurt. Yet this book is laced with hope and the idea that no matter who we are, we are people with rights and that nobody has the power to steal the essence of who we are. The only way to stop bullying of any kind is to stand up to it. The personal story of Misty Griffin reveals that in her own life, she managed to transcend the horrible childhood, to embrace it as part of herself, but to also move beyond it to achieve her dream of going to college and starting a foundation to help other abuse victims. While this book is an eye-opener, and not the usual view of the Amish culture you find in movies and

novels, this is a true story. It is a lyrical and beautiful book. I am amazed. It is breathtaking. I used to belong to a church that had cult-like aspects and it was difficult to leave it.

Have you ever continued reading a book just because you were somehow enjoying how annoying it was? That's the case for me and "Tears of the Silenced". Purchased for 99 cents on my Kindle after an engaging sample (and mention of an Arizona city within my county piquing my interest) the beginning of the story was more quickly paced, though somewhat unbelievable in parts. Every adult is pure evil, sadistic and cruel, and the adults who are not evil are clueless. After the lead character, Misty, inexplicably moves away from home to join an Amish community (contrary to what you'd expect from her abusive mother and step-father who previously imprison her and her sister as work slaves), the story drags to a snail's pace. I've slogged through to 96% finished ("Oh my gosh, how is this book not over yet?") due to its excruciatingly tedious, introspective writing the last half of the book. The problem is the excessive detail, down to the most minute reaction to the most boring conversation. Much of it is so very repetitive and dull. Seasons change from winter to spring, spring to summer, blah blah blah. She mentions the color of her hair more than once, as if we'd forgotten from the previous chapter. Elaborate detail repeated over and over again about the pinning of the Amish attire, the aprons, the adjustments of the kapps, etc. Misty, now named Emma Schrock, is appalled at the sexual abuse going on within the community and she is determined to stand up to it, yet so many times she just glares with her fiery green eyes, stomps her foot, or bites her lip.

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