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The Slave Across The Street



Synopsis

*** Wall Street Journal and USA Today best seller! ***While more and more people each day become aware of the dangerous world of human trafficking, most people in the U.S. still believe this is something that happens to foreign women, men, and children--not something that happens to their own. In this powerful true story, Theresa L. Flores shares how her life as an All-American, blonde-haired 15-year-old teenager who could have been your neighbor was enslaved into the dangerous world of sex trafficking while living in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Her story peels the cover off of this horrific criminal activity and gives dedicated activists as well as casual bystanders a glimpse into the underbelly of trafficking. And it all happened while living at home without her parents ever knowing about it. Involuntarily involved in a large underground criminal ring, Ms. Flores endured more as a child than most adults will ever face their entire lives. In this book, Ms. Flores discusses how she healed the wounds of sexual servitude and offers advice to parents and professionals on preventing this from occurring again, educating and presenting significant facts on human trafficking in modern day America.

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Customer Reviews

There have been times when I've wondered if there could really be a Hell. The experience related

here vividly presented the existence of unspeakable evil. The only way to imagine suitable justice requires me to believe there is a Hell. There are people who are beyond redemption - even with a most merciful God. The book also convincingly conveyed that even strong people from good circumstances are vulnerable. Slavery is not confined to poor parts of town nor to people who have serious character flaws. God bless this woman for her willingness to speak. I can't begin to imagine how difficult this was to recount the experience in the hopes that others could be spared. Yet, curiously, it makes me wonder that prostitutes are arrested while those who take advantage of them are often left loose. Severity of the crime varies, but sex offenses are not "victimless crimes." A well-written book that effectively informs and convinces. Buy it, read it, and think! If you note some of these symptoms in the people around you, say something.

This is not an easy book to read, but it's a story that needs to be heard. The atrocities committed against this young girl are unbelievable. That she lived to tell about it is the miracle. It's so easy to bury our heads in the sand and think sexual slavery of our young girls (and boys) doesn't happen in our country, it happens everywhere but here. The facts are startling. The stories are heartbreaking. Awareness has to come about to protect our children. Brave survivors like this, who are willing to share how easily and innocently it starts sometimes, are slowly bringing this issue into the consciousness of the public. The book is very heart wrenching at times, you can truly feel the desperation and helplessness she went through at different points. But you also see the determination she has to never give in and to keep fighting. That is probably what saved the author's life. She just never gave up. She is obviously a smart, strong, capable girl which really drives home the point that this can happen to anyone. I'm grateful to have had the chance to read her story and to see a bit more clearly what sexual slavery looks like in America. I would have thought that I would recognize it if I saw it happening to someone I knew, and this book has shown that you have to be much more vigilant than just looking at the surface of things.

JoeDonDonigi, I can relate to this story but more about that later. I grew up in a similar household not rich but well enough off that my mother didn't have to work for my Dad made enough income. I took cross-country, indoor and outdoor track, too. But I failed four classes third semester so I failed off the outdoor track team. I was going through emotional problems like I was mad at the world and didn't care about school at all after third semester tenth grade. That's where the similarities end. I don't have the ability to describe in words what it must have been like for you to go through the sexual and emotional abuse of people you wanted to like you. Conflicted to be sure. I can't imagine what you've

had to go through with hope at the end of the tunnel for those pictures, and the deadening feeling of hopelessness as it goes on and on as the light grows dimmer and dimmer just as the light at the end of the tunnel grows smaller and smaller. The reason I can relate is when I ran cross country in 11th grade. I quit the team and wanted to practice for indoor track later in the season and keep the social ties together. The coach challenged me to a fight taunting me. I didn't bite-but I did back down. Didn't report the incident to vice-principal or my guidance counselor. I can recommend this book to all girls who their intuition thinks their boyfriend is pushing too hard. Trust it. Have heard guys laughing about girls they immediately broke up with after sleeping with them when I worked at a high school. So if you don't think it could happen to you don't be so sure. So if you're bullied like I was by my coach think of what you can do about it. Don't fail like I did. Photoman35mm

When Liam Neeson's movie "Taken" came out in 2008 many people were shocked. The film portrayed how easily it was for unassuming girls to get pulled into the slave trade. As the setting was Paris, I had several friends question my sanity in sending my teenage daughter on a student ambassador program which included a week in France. The movie and my daughter's trip both had a good ending, but for many girls the horrors of the slave trade are an awful reality. In her book, "The Slave Across the Street," Theresa Flores brings the human trafficking story home to the United States, to a wealthy suburb of Detroit, sharing what really happened in her own life. Not the victim we tend to imagine in these crimes--white, upper class, stable family--Theresa was taken advantage of, repeatedly, and was in a cycle of abuse that was so cruel she was lucky to have escaped with her life. Flores now shares about these teen years as part of her own healing, uncovering what had lain secret for years, but needed to be brought into the light of truth not only for her but also for current victims and potential ones. Although the subject matter of the book is by its nature adult material Flores' descriptions of her life are not graphic in detail. I have read similar themed books that emphasize the horror of the lifestyle with only a chapter of redemption at the end. They make for a titillating read, but are hardly helpful in the fight against human trafficking. This book is bare of the glamorization of such tragedies and only provides enough story to understand the enslavement issue. The book also includes several chapters regarding the facts about human trafficking, how to seek help for victims, identify red flags on the slave trade, and provides important pointers for parents and professionals. Anything this book may lack in its presentation and prose is made up in its substance.. (Please note that the current Kindle version is not formatted correctly. The navigation and pagination need attention from the publisher and from .)

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