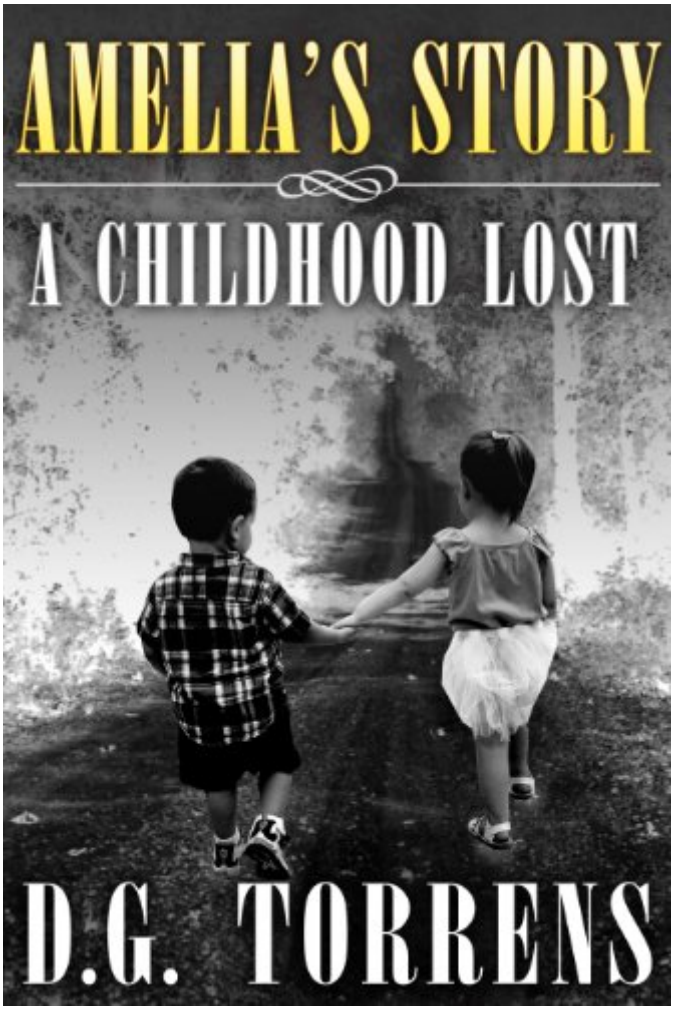
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Amelia's Story (Book #1): A Childhood Lost (Amelia Series)



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Synopsis

This is a powerful true story of one young girl’s struggle to survive the state-care-system in the 70s and 80s. Amelia has just one wish, to make it through to adulthood and hold her destiny in her own hands. This is a harrowing true story, one of survival and human strength. Amelia has been tragically separated from all her siblings, never to see them again for many years.She is moved from one children’s home to another until finally, it’s just too much for her to bear. Amelia starts to wonder about the peace and finality of her own death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amelia’s Story, Book 1 tells the struggle of one girl’s challenge to remain a part of her family with an abusive mother. She grows up in and out of the child welfare/orphanage system in England, while trying to maintain contact with her brother, form friendships and finish school. Technically, Amelia isn’t an adoptee, but I chose to read this book because it was closely related to adoption and foster care and takes place outside the USA. The cover is appealing and wistful.Everyone in the foster and adoptive care system has a worthy story, and all of our voices need to be heard. Unfortunately,

the writing style is less literary and more like reading a factual report. It reads fast, but it lacks detail and deep feeling. Clearly, the writer has the feelings, and perhaps the subject matter is so sensitive that she felt unable to delve much beyond just reporting events.There is a sequel to this book, and I am undecided about reading it at this time. I wish author D. G. Torrens well and much success with promoting her books. I hope that her writing has brought her some peace.

Although her story was interesting, it was painful to read; similar to reading a 3rd grade novel. In the author's defense, she DID state the book was a memoir written for her young daughter. And to that end, she succeeded. I have thought about how I would advise her so as to appeal to the public, and came up with the following:1. Hire a good editor. Your free editors are not doing a very good job. Too many punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors.2. Develop the characters and settings better. After ending the book, none are memorable. Your characters are one or two dimensional. You, the protagonist, have not delved deeply enough into yourself to honestly portray someone who has any faults. I cannot identify with you at all as you come across as a Disney heroine.3. Rewrite the ending to this book or incorporate the entire book into the rest of your story. This book provides no closure - nor does it provide any type of incentive to buy the rest of your story. Do we really care to continue to read what comes across as a travelogue?4. Connect with some successful writers of this genre [e.g.Jeannette Walls, Dave Pelzer, Elizabeth Gilbert] or at least The National Association of Memoir Writers for mentoring. If I were your English professor, I would say, "Nice start! You have an interesting story - Now go back and rewrite".

I had trouble deciding whether to give this book three or four stars. As mentioned in many other reviews, there are some issues with editing, grammar, syntax and story flow. However, I cannot deny that the character of Amelia is well developed and compelling. We have all met people in our life time that seemed to be dogged by tragedy; Amelia is certainly one such person.At the outset, the author is writing her memoir to be given to her young daughter when she grows up. It is meant to explain the childhood that Amelia cannot bring herself to talk about when asked about her past. The rest of the book depicts a life filled with cruelty, abuse, deceit, bullying, unfortunate circumstances, and the insensitivity of society toward the plight of children who are too young to defend themselves. Amelia's mother is an alcoholic and a drug addict who is unable to forge a loving relationship with any of her husbands or her children, Amelia and her brother Jake. Later on she has two more children, one of whom is disabled. Amelia's mother beats and locks up her children, she drugs them with sleeping pills, and leaves them on their own. But their mother Heidi is

always successful in deceiving the Social Welfare authorities. Eventually the children are placed in daycare and foster care. They must face a whole new set of challenges. Amelia is much stronger than Jake, but she alternates between striving for success, and following a path of disobedience and resistance. Every time things seem to be looking up, she must face a new challenge either from the authorities or her peers. How will the spiral end? As an adult, will Amelia triumph or fail?I could not put this book down and read it in one sitting. Warning, do not read this book when you are feeling blue; it certainly is not one to lift your spirits. The fact remains that this is story that needs to be told, and a problem that remains hidden under the surface but one that needs to be brought out into the open and addressed. For children like Amelia are at the mercy of those in society who are bound and sworn by conscience to protect them.

Amelia's story is simply written, a little repetitive and the punctuation sometimes leaves much to be desired. But I still found this book interesting enough to want to read to the end. What the story does do is demonstrate how an abused child might think and feel, and explains why even a child who wants to be basically good appears to be rebellious to those who have never had her experiences. Amelia's lot is not a happy one, with an abusive, unloving mother, bullies in institutions and a sexual predator in foster care. She is to be admired for wanting to rise above it all despite the odds being against her. The author explains the plight of such children well - probably because, although she doesn't exactly say so, this seems to be her entire childhood story.

Although this story is fiction, I totally believed every word of it. I just wanted to pick up Amelia and her siblings and bring them home with me. No child should ever be abused, and especially not to the extent that these little ones were. I have to believe that many things described in this book really happened, as the author references actual case studies.My only reason for not giving a 5 star rating was that once again my pet peeve in any piece of writing was present throughout this book. There was a definite lack of proofreading, especially for sentence structure and punctuation. I don't know if this was intentional so the writing would seem to be done by a teenager, or if was simply lack of knowledge or lack of knowledgeable beta readers.

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