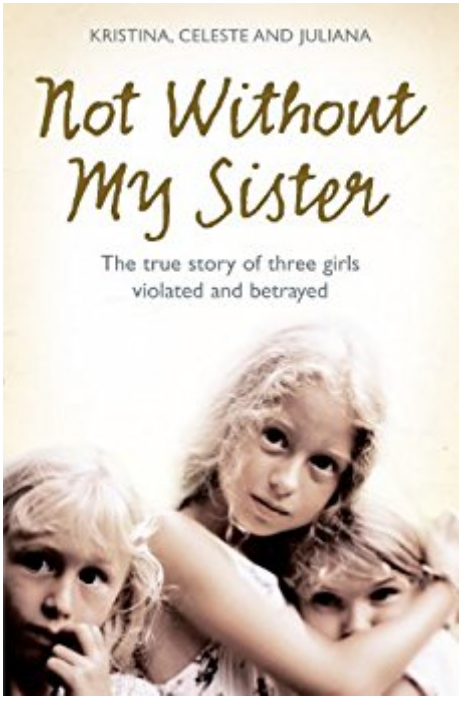
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Not Without My Sister: The True Story Of Three Girls Violated And Betrayed By Those They Trusted



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Synopsis

The bestselling, devastating account of three sisters torn apart, abused and exploited at the hands of a community that robbed them of their childhood. It reveals three lives, separate but entwined, that have experienced unspeakable horror, unrelenting loyalty and unforgettable courage.From as early as three years old, Juliana, Celeste and Kristina were treated as sexual beings by their 'guardians' in the infamous religious cult known as the Children of God. They were made to watch and mimic orgies, received love letters and sexual advances from men old enough to be their grandfather, and were forced into abusive relationships. They were denied access to formal schooling, had to wander the streets begging for money, and were mercilessly beaten for 'crimes' as unpredictable as reading an encyclopaedia.Finally, unable to live with the guilt of what had happened to her children, their mother escaped with Kristina, cutting herself off from her remaining children in a bid to save at least one child. Desperate to save her sisters, Kristina eventually returned to the place of her torture to free Celeste. Years later, Juliana found the courage to escape, knowing that the child she was carrying would be subjected to the same fate if she did not.Now the three sisters have finally come together to reveal in full and horrific detail their existence within the Children of God cult. Their stories reveal a community spread throughout the world and its legacy of anorexia, depression, drug abuse, suicide and even murder. Lives are ripped apart and painstakingly mended with a shared strength that finally enabled the sisters to free themselves from the shadows of their past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is exceptionally accurate about the Children of God and indeed, all cults of that era. I have personal knowledge because I was raised in a different cult myself, and I have a good friend who was raised in the Children of God and told me many, many similar stories. His experience and now this book taught me that my own bizarre experiences were nothing by comparison. This friend and I lost touch when he changed his name for the...4th time...in 3 years. I asked him why he kept changing his name and he said, "Because it doesn't matter." Imagine being stripped even of your own sense of identity? Only someone raised as these women report would fully understand what they went through. It appears toward the end that the sisters each wrote their own chapters, because the writing style of one of them (not the main author) is shockingly bad. But considering the haphazard education these women endured, it can only break one's heart that they were never taught how one crafts good writing. This is an engrossing read and a well-executed autobiography. Kristina, if you ever read this review, I send a huge hug to you and all your family, with the exception of your father and Joshua. What a lot you all endured!

Three sisters of the same father, Kristina, Celeste, and Juliana, describe their harrowing accounts of childhoods. Instead of being children, they were sexual slaves and slaves to the cause for the Children of God cult. This book is quite a read but it's important to realize how the Children of God or the Family International operate in order to destroy them. The Children of God and the Family International is nothing more than a cult focused on sexual orgies with minor children involved such as the young girls on the cover.Their father, Christopher Jones, should have protected them all along. But part of cult culture is the separation of children from their biological parents or those who will protect them from the abuse. Cult culture is bent on secrecy, lies, deception, and illusions.Their late leader, David Berg, was seen as the supreme being rather than a human being. His death did not help in it's organization's deconstruction. Like other cults, the Children of God changed their name to the Family Internationl. The sisters here provide an insider's look into this twisted world

where children are routinely abused in various ways particularly sexually.Another issue with this cult is that they move around frequently rather than stay in one place. They keep a low profile and try to maintain a sense of normalcy to outsiders. The insiders like the sisters here write about the illusions to the public and to outsiders such as relatives who visit their loved ones.This book is a triumph against the Children of God for revealing shocking accounts of blatant abuse of children and even it's adult members. The Children of God leaders make decisions for the children and the adults. Their mysterious founder David Berg lived on the run and in hiding much like Bin-Laden. He sent messages through his trusted advisors to his members about the end of the world and how to train soldiers for the end-times.The girls' father Christopher Jones blindly accepted David Berg's leadership and his word as the holy gospel. He believed Berg was a prophet and not a pedophile. Even in the end, I don't think their father realized the overwelming damage that the Children of God inflicted upon his own offspring. Often, he was out of their lives and on missions for the organization. He was a true believer who never doubted his prophet unfortunately.For three sisters, they had to learn to escape the Children of God cult not just physically but emotionally, psychologically, and sexually as well. When you join a cult or are born into one such as the Children of God, your mind is not yours to begin with and neither were their souls and bodies.This book will help in stopping Family International and exposing their practices. The sisters have done a brave job in detailing painful memories and experiences of their lives. My heart goes out to them and all the other survivors.My only complaint about the book is the lack of photographs except for the cover and back. Another complaint is the writing is a bit off. But other than that, their experiences are invaluable for those survivors out there.

Children growing up under the domination of a cult are said to know only one thing, the society of the cult. That is not necessarily true. We all have a sense of what is right and wrong. Some of us turn off that knowledge in order to survive. Some rebel.Regardless of what the Children of God cult claims (and I have no idea what it claims these days), it is a cult based on perversion. It calls sex, even sex with children, the ultimate expression of love. It perverts the Gospel of Christ, whose love was to release us FROM sin, not enmesh us in it.There were many that escaped from the domination of this perverse power structure. Some escaped through suicide. Three young women escaped by labeling what happened to them as wrong, and finding a way to survive outside the confines of their world.They paid a price no child should pay, and once they left, they needed to learn to survive in a completely different world than that which they knew.Follow Celeste, Kristina, and Juliana as they struggled through verbal, physical and sexual abuse. Cheer with them as they

faced their doubts, and finally escaped.This is a true story. Names have NOT been changed to protect the innocent. It this story, the adults were not innocent, and they should be brought up on charges of sex with children, incest, rape, imprisonment and torture.

A caution to anyone that is considering this book: there are things that happen to children in it, and it can be quite disturbing... but it rounds out the story for the three girls in the book. There were times I had to put the book down and walk away. What they went through with the cult is one thing... that they survived to tell it all is a wonder in itself.It’s a great read... just be warned, the content can be very explicit and very disturbing.

I have seen a few documentaries about the Children of God but this was my first book. I thought they were pretty sick, this is beyond the Pale. Jeez. I have read about many different cults and they all have the same themes. Abuse of women and children, physically, sexually, emotionally. What this book says should be heard by everyone.

Sorry, but this book is too long, too repetitive and very hard on the stomach. While I have great sympathy for the horrific suffering these girls went through for so many years, I find the book very difficult to read and the writing just doesn’t do the basic story justice. I only got through about 1/3 of it and had to give up which is very unusual for me. I think a "ghost writer"and a good editor were sorely needed with this publication.

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