



Miss America by Day

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A former Miss America from Colorado tells the gripping story of her life as an incest survivor. A Colorado best seller in hardcover, new in pb.

Miss America by Day Details

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Author : Marilyn Van Derbur (Contributor)

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From Reader Review Miss America by Day for online ebook

Lela says

Amazing writing! Very detailed about her incredible life. To get to know her better, look at some of her motivational talks on YouTube. She has helped so many survivors of sexual abuse. Wonderful woman. She husband is also amazing.

Leslie Nelson says

This book is for survivors of sexual abuse, people who love and support them and everyone else. Marily is such an inspiration. I couldn't put it down, and I started telling my friends and family about it before I had finished.

The first part of the book is a memoir, the last part is a combination of motivation, education and support. With chapters about how to talk to children, taking care in "safe places", seven things not to say to survivors and a message of hope, there is something here for everyone.

I am also a survivor of incest. Marilyn's book gave me hope, and words to explain what I am dealing with. I learned things about protecting children that I had never heard or considered before.

My book is heavily highlighted and will be read over and over. Get one for yourself and someone you love, you won't regret it.

Tara says

I absolutely must put this book on my list, for it helped me immensely! I have read this book 3 times, and have referred to it and recommended it many times! I admire Marilyn Van Derbur for telling her life story, and hope, if you haven't already, you will pick this one up!

Fishface says

Wonderful. A very moving account of the day-to-day struggle and survival process of an incest survivor who looked, well, like Miss America in public but was someone very different in private. The national truthquake following her public disclosure was amazing and brought me to tears repeatedly as I read.

Deborah LaRoche says

I volunteer with Darkness to Light, an organization that aims to prevent, recognize, and respond responsibly to childhood sexual abuse. Marilyn Van Derbur's story is part of the video training we offer, so naturally I was interested in reading her full story. It was as compelling and amazing as I'd assumed it would be, and after hearing her speak at a recent luncheon, I kept wanting to describe her as a total badass. But, she is so

very graceful, poised, classy, and inspiring that "badass" just doesn't seem to do her justice. The lack of bitterness she displays mystifies me, but as she describes, "peace of mind is not a gift; it is a hard-fought and earned reward for doing the hard work of therapy." (I'm loosely quoting there.)

Regardless, if you have any interest in how and why it is SO important to keep children safe and to BELIEVE them when they disclose (if they disclose), this would be a powerful book for you to read. If you think sexual abuse is "no big deal" and survivors should just "get over it and move on," this may help you understand why that is difficult, if not impossible, for many to do. My only complaint is that it was a bit long/repetitive in parts, but when you realize that it took her the better part of 35 years to fully heal from the shame, guilt, physical pain, and other deep wounds of incest, suddenly a few extra pages doesn't seem so daunting.

If you read this book and want to get involved in the movement to STOP childhood sexual abuse, contact your local Child Advocacy Center or go to www.D2L.org to find out how.

John Stinebaugh says

This is an absolutely excellent book. I would encourage anyone and everyone to read it even though the subject material is heavy and it can be hard to get through. I am always pleasantly surprised when I learn more from books that are written by people who have had experiences than by so-called experts.

Jessica says

This was a very difficult read, intense, I had to give myself long periods of time to process it between picking it up, but was well worth it. Hearing others stories always enriches our lives in some way, and hearing her story and the other victims stories, helped me find the courage to learn to keep an open dialog with my own children to teach them to protect themselves. Sometimes we think the atrocities of the world only happen on the other side of the world, but this is a chilling reminder how some of the worst criminals are hidden right under our noses. I love how she illustrated how much of a protection and healing power openness and honesty has on the human heart.

Dave says

This is the best abuse survivor book I have read; she is just so real and good. I wrote her and she immediately wrote me back. What I love about her is that she doesn't have "the answer"; she just presents her story and her struggles to recover. She is seriously one of the coolest people I've ever heard talking about sexual abuse; she really calls people out on their crap: including her family, some scumbag doctor, and Anthony Robbins (the jerk charged like 10 grand for a 1/2 hour session, and he seriously doesn't know Jack Shit about sexual abuse). She doesn't preach forgiveness, which made it easier for me to read, being that I was so raw and angry when I first read this. She allows herself and you to have your feelings. So many people want to fix you when they find out what happened to you, and we want to fix ourselves...but Marilyn knows better. She is also very supportive to men survivors, which isn't always the case in these types of books. She is awesome; I totally love this lady, and I recommend this book to all sexual abuse survivors--IF you are at a place where you are ready to hear the real heavy stuff. Great even if didn't happen to you; educational and inspirational :)

Virginia Welch says

This is a (more or less) well-written, riveting nonfiction work, no doubt about it. Hate to be wishy washy, but I'll explain in a minute.

Marilyn Van Derbur can write and she certainly has a story to tell. The former Miss America (1958) recounts in chilling detail the 13 years of incest committed upon her by her father, a successful businessman, and the emotional and familial neglect of her mother. Marilyn is candid and convincing as she describes the devastation to her mind, emotions, and physical health that resulted from broken trust and how she finally climbed out of her very real pit of despair.

There are a few places in the book that you leave you wondering, forcing you to fill in the gaps as to what she means. An editor should have caught the logic laps. Sometimes she jumps in a disconnected fashion between paragraphs. Again, it is the fault of the editor for not catching these thought canyons. Fortunately there are few of these problems; overall the writing quality is sound. BUT...

I wanted to rate this book highly but find that I cannot. At 546 pages, it's about 146 pages too long. Marilyn goes into repetitive detail (waaaaay too repetitive) about the terror and trauma that lingers for years after the fact. After you read her descriptions of panic attacks and blistering, daily emotional drama, all of it rooted in sexual abuse, by the 25th time you are ready to put the book down. And that's what I did.

So there you have it: the book is too long and it's repetitive.

Nevertheless, for sexual abuse survivors or family and friends thereof, much of this material could be very therapeutic. And I'm genuinely sorry that Marilyn (and others) had to suffer so much and at such a tender age.

Jessica says

Very well written. Van Derbur addresses a very difficult topic with grace, candor, and even humor. Her story shows her path to healing through speaking out about the abuse and helping others start the healing process. It does have some disturbing content (which she lets you skip if you feel uncomfortable), but also is amazingly positive and empowering. It's well-written and conversational in tone; as such, it jumps around a bit and sometimes has the feel of a journal. The book has a good pace, is easy to digest, and has an important message, making it a worthwhile read.

Mariann Snyder says

Very important book. If you want to have a better understanding of victims of childhood sexual abuse, you must read this. Mrs. Van Derbur is not the greatest writer, but she is plainspoken in a way we all need this topic to be addressed. Read this book. And determine to be part of the solution to this evil problem!

Maggie says

Everyone Needs to Read This Book

Marilyn deserves nothing but praise for writing this book. She is forthright about her own experience and empathic toward other survivors. This book will make you think. There are so many more victims of sexual assault than we realize.

Xotzin says

I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Marilyn in Denver at a deminar she held for survivors of child rape. I won't call it molestation or incest bcuz to me those words are not accurate. She is a phenomenal woman and I was happy to have had the time I did with her talking about our lives good bad and indifferent. Thank you Marilyn. I know you take the time to talk to everyone who contacts you and that is amazing and truly caring of you. Thank you for helping us all to come out of the dark and into the light.*ambrazos y mucho amor*

Angela Mcentee says

This was a powerfully emotional book, very upsetting. The author is so honest and strong i ended admiring her deeply. One thing I really liked is at the end of the book she gives suggestions on talking with children and advocates using the phrase "secret touch" instead of "bad touch", because so often abused children feel guilty - did they bring this on themselves? and confused. They may believe they are why it's bad

Andrew Vachss says

The incredible journey of a true warrior woman, who is a "model" in every sense of the word. An inspiration not just to incest victims, but to self-publishers everywhere.
