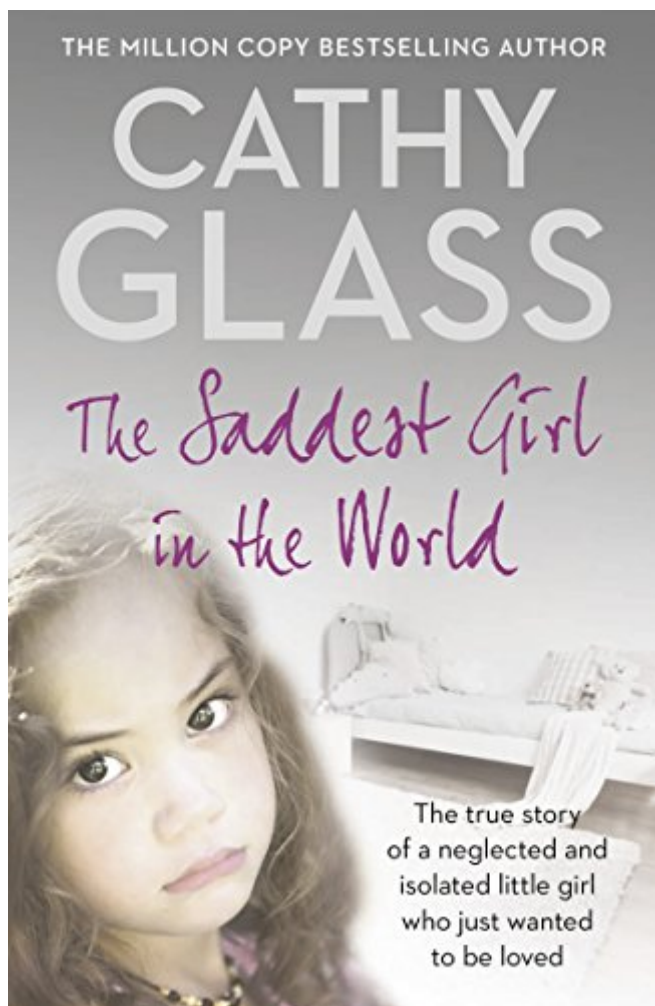


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The Saddest Girl In The World



Synopsis

The Sunday Times and New York Times bestselling author of *Damaged* tells the true story of Donna, who came into foster care aged ten, having been abused, victimised and rejected by her family. Donna had been in foster care with her two young brothers for three weeks when she is abruptly moved to Cathy's. When Donna arrives she is silent, withdrawn and walks with her shoulders hunched forward and her head down. Donna is clearly a very haunted child and refuses to interact with Cathy's children Adrian and Paula. After patience and encouragement from Cathy, Donna slowly starts to talk and tells Cathy that she blames herself for her and her brothers being placed in care. The social services were aware that Donna and her brothers had been neglected by their alcoholic mother, but no one realised the extent of the abuse they were forced to suffer. The truth of the physical torment she was put through slowly emerges, and as Donna grows to trust Cathy she tells her how her mother used to make her wash herself with wire wool so that she could get rid of her skin colour as her mother was so ashamed that Donna was mixed race. The psychological wounds caused by the bullying she received also start to resurface when Donna starts reenacting the ways she was treated at home by hitting and bullying Paula, so much so that Cathy can't let Donna out of her sight. As the pressure begins to mount on Cathy to help this child, things start to get worse and Donna begins behaving in erratic ways, trashing her bedroom and being regularly abusive towards Cathy's children. Cathy begins to wonder if she can find a way to help this child or if Donna's scars run too deep.

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Customer Reviews

It's hard to imagine the kinds of horrific circumstances some children are born into. And yet, these kinds of "homes" are sadly more common than we think. Powerless to help themselves, the young victims must often wait until a shrewd teacher or other adult notices something amiss, and contacts the authorities in a position to make a change. That's precisely what happened to 10-year-old Donna, and her younger brothers Jason and Warren. Once removed from an extremely filthy and neglectful home by child protective services, the adults involved slowly began to glimpse more and more horrific details of the almost unfathomable levels of abuse suffered by the children, especially Donna. For reasons that Cathy Glass, Donna's foster carer and author of this story, could not understand, young Donna took the brunt of the abuse - even from the 6- and 7-year-old brothers, who were instructed by their mother to help beat their sister. But as always, Glass - a foster parent for over two decades - put her all into attempting to help improve Donna's life. With her loving yet no-nonsense attitude, Glass used her usual approach of trying to integrate Donna into a normal child's life while also encouraging her to speak about what had happened to her in the past in the hopes of Donna's beginning to heal emotionally. Despite the serious and potentially depressing subject matter, readers should not be scared off from taking on Donna's story! Glass's unique style manages to tell the details while in no way dramatizing or focusing upon the negative - although, of course, if anyone in this world has a right to ask "why me?" it would certainly be a child like Donna. Instead, Glass never stops hoping, both for Donna to heal and find peace, and even that Donna's family will be able to do the same.

I am reading this story of Cathy Glass longer than supposed to do. Too many details subscribed by author on an usual duty as so a preparation something to do in every action in and out of the house. The sad story of a girl indeed, good thin that end good. Can't wait to finish this book. No interest to read the another one, getting into many details that foster do every day from the morning to the

evening: prepare children breakfasts, lunches, dinners, bed at night and so on.. . . Expect what it cost.

I have read one of Glass's books, *Damaged* and felt not only touched and thankful there are such excellent people out there with this talent but also educated. So I wanted to continue reading Cathy Glass's books. This one did not disappoint. I love how her books read close to what a diary log of family happenings rather than totally emotional outpouring. I find it easier to relate to the damaged children and marvel at the ability of people who can figure out a child's drama like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle. It is intriguing and totally satisfactory in the end. I also enjoy the fact she doesn't pull any punches in regards to what happens to each child. Not all children are able to rebuild their lives after abuse. I am more understanding of the social dilemma of workers in this arena and how each child can impact our society by producing more damaged people if not helped. Therefore I have gained more of a world view that this is occurring everywhere. It isn't a pretty picture but it has made me more aware. And for that I am thankful. Perhaps Cathy's books would be good reads for older high school students for more understanding and possibly for volunteering to do more social work. When you read her books, you will be touched.

When I read these types of books, it reminds me again how thankful and impressed I am by those people who really want to help children who seem to have insurmountable stumbling blocks placed in their way. The way Cathy was able to work and love this child is quite admirable, as are those who work as the support staff for these wonderful carers. It makes you see how much work goes into saving just one child at a time. These children finally get to a place where many people are working on their behalf so that they can heal from their abuse and become productive members of society instead of continuing the generations long systematic abuse. Well written and emotional. There were times when I was crying as I was reading.

Enjoyed reading it, although there are parts of the book where the story line crawls or stalls because of redundancy on the part of the writer who has put "too much" into her descriptions of things and places unnecessarily. Otherwise, though, it's a good read. .

Wonderful! Cathy Glass stories will touch anyone who has children or works with children. She writes about how less fortunate children from homes of some kind of abuse and how she works to show them love, respect, and kindness. Her work shows how with a lot of patience and love these

children can learn to live, trust, and love in a normal household. She is up front with the battles that people who take these children must face and how with time can they can go on the be successful, productive individuals. She touches the readers hearts. I can not put any of her books down till the end. Please keep writing these beautiful stories Cathy.

I'm a huge fan of Cathy Glass and this story will not disappoint. Donna comes into Cathy's home after being removed from another foster family. Her behavior problems are many and it is not until Cathy begins to understand the dynamics between Donna and her real mother that the underlying cause comes to surface. This child is truly a rejected and sad child just looking for the love of her mother. I always love hearing how these children fare when they become adults and there is a nice follow-up at the end. Kudos to Cathy Glass for saving another unloved child.

Ah Cathy does more waiting around for a child. As always goes into details about how the other children react and worry. How she seems to not even want to leave her home....when awaiting a child. This child is sad but not the Saddest Girl in the World. It seems to me that Cathy thinks she can solve all the child's problems by making sure they feel safe. Is this child in therapy?

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