



Broken

Shy Keenan

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Shy Keenan was not meant to survive her childhood. Her mother beat her so severely that she was deaf and nearly blind by her first day in school. Her stepsister thought nothing of pouring boiling water over her, and virtually every day she was raped by her stepfather. At age 10 she was sold to a gang of dockworkers, viciously attacked, and left for dead in a field with a fractured skull. Today, Shy is an internationally respected advocate in the fight for justice for victims of child sexual abuse. Six years ago, her testimony secured the imprisonment of her stepfather and his associates for a catalogue of crimes against children. This success was achieved only after a journey through extensive psychiatric care, prison, and near-suicide. Shy's experiences expose the extreme wickedness of which some are capable, but also tell a story of hope, strength, and courage.

Broken Details

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Author : Shy Keenan

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Love says

This book made me ponder why I read books of such genre...I always have been fascinated by this type of story because of my childhood and what goes on in a persons mind on why they do these horrible things. I have yet to come to a conclusion of why I think such men are so hurtfull. I most likely never will. Anymore then they have to be sick in the head. This book as I say every time I get done with one is the worst I have read yet. Not in the writing but in the abuse. As a mother to my wonderful babies I could not just sit back and do nothing to protect my child from such things. This mother is just as bad as the abuser in my eyes. It would take death to keep me from protecting my children. In this story the mother died long before the husband went to trial, but in my exspirience the mother never seems to get as bad of a sentence as the man she knew was doing the act..This is wrong she helped him abuse those children in my eyes..For some reason the children being abuse never see it this way. I do not know if this is a review of the book or a rant of anger on the subject. For anyone who wants to read a page turning abuse book this is that for sure. I feel so sorry for Shy she never got to be an innocent kid. My heart goes out to anyone who has suffered in life. You NEVER get over the effects of such abuse. Trust in people is never there. The dark places these type of abusers bring you ruins any chance of a normal trusting relationship. There is no punishment for this man and his friends that would be good enough.

Christine says

Shy Keenan's autobiography is incredibly moving, raw and a powerful read. It covers her childhood, growing up with a neglectful immature mother and a step-father who systematically sexually abused her from the age of four. Keenan details her abuse at the hands of Stan and at the hands of his paedophile friends. She escaped into the care system, only to be abused there and ended up on the streets of London. Every time Shy voiced what was happening to her, she was ignored or demonized as a 'problem child'. Eventually she was able to get justice via the BBC Newsnight programme in 2000. She bravely confronted Stan as an adult and he finally got the prison sentence he deserved, for abusing many children.

The book made me reflect on how we need to give survivors of abuse a voice. Too often we, as a society, do not hear their words or have preconceived ideas about victims or abuse. As I was reading, I was wishing that just one professional had taken the time to see the pain Shy was going through and to act.

Shy Keenan has established herself as a campaigner and advocate for those abused by paedophiles. She is one of those women that I have a huge amount of admiration and respect for. She is a fighter for justice and to support those who have also gone through similar experiences to her. She amazes me. A very courageous woman.

Amanda Knight says

Sexually abused from the age of four, sold to paedophiles for only £15, a heatbreaking autobiography of how Shy turned the tables around on her abusers and building a new life as a mother and childrens campaigninger. I read an interview with the author in some Sunday newspaper and felt compelled to read it. It's not the type of book I'm drawn to, and has some squeamish parts. I read the book in two sittings, which is a first for me as I've not been able to do that in a long time!

Carol Peace says

This is the most harrowing book I have read, I cannot believe how she was let down by the authorities. The social workers, police and even the courts all let her down even when her father was convicted of part of the abuse she was allowed to return home with him and then was told it was 'her fault'. I was very relieved when she eventually had been heard albeit by the BBC and Shy could then put Karen behind her although she will always be in her head. Many other children had been abused by her father and his 'friends' and she has tirelessly tried to help them but the authorities made her a troublemaker.

This is a very disturbing but honest account of the life of Shy and I feel it took a lot for her to write it.

Dawn Bates says

Although I say I liked this book, it made me extremely angry. Reading about another's sorrow is always humbling (for me) but reading this book made me really angry, and yet inspired. For some one to suffer such abuse and be overlooked on numerous occasions, yet to come out "on top" to help awaken ignorant and blind people from the fog they are in, and to bring such horrendous crimes to the forefront of people's minds is extraordinary.

A phoenix she is, and a very inspiring woman.

Bill says

This remarkable heartbreaking true story covers Shy Keenan's life in a dysfunctional family with a paedophile stepfather Stanley who, along with others, sexually abused her since she was a four years old. Sadly the authorities, particularly the Social Services, Police and Care Homes (some of the latter having abusive paedophile staff to exacerbate the problems) were uncooperative and grossly incompetent in pursuing the perpetrators, while concentrating on believing the lies of the mother and stepfather over many years - instead blaming the wild child Shy Keenan.

Some 40 years later, Shy eventually pulled together incontrovertible evidence, with the help of the BBC Newsnight programme, which aired the story on TV and eventually led to Stanley (then in his 70's) and a few others receiving prison sentences.

In 2006, Shy and Sara Payne, whose 8 year old daughter was abducted, abused and murdered by a released known paedophile some years ago, came together as Phoenix Chief Advocates, for the victims of child abuse.

The book quotes website <http://www.phoenixsurvivors.com>.

NOTE: It seems that this website was closed in 2008. See:

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/...>

If you Google Shy Keenan, many other relevant websites are available.

Jeannie says

This was such an emotionally written book (that affected me so deeply) that it has taken me some time to think about how to word my review.

BROKEN is a heart breaking account of YES one of the worst cases of child abuse I have ever read. I found myself horrified yet unable to stop turning the pages to find out how she survived to even write this. I loved the ending and knowing that "the monsters" in her life were held accountable (but not as much as they should of been). What was so sad for me was she never stopped loving the one person who should of protected her...her own mother. We see this so often in abused children, no matter how bad the abuse is, they still love and want the acceptance of the parent or loved one. Almost like the dog who is kicked and will still crawl back for more. I am happy for Shy that she was able to get past her childhood abuse and share her story with the world. I am sure that it was part of her healing process and may I say she has done a fine job and has went on to be an advocate for others. This is well written, well edited and well done! Bravo Shy!

Laura says

It is easy to write this book off as another squeamish, unimportant childhood memoir. The genre has taken off in recent years, after publishers realised the public thirst for "true life, success overcoming adversity" novels. This book serves an important purpose; it does not attempt to gloss over truly terrible details, nor sensationalise the violence that adults are capable of inflicting on a child - it simply offers the reader the chance to sit comfortably in the middle and explore their own feelings.

It would be unfair to give this book a low star rating purely for its true life content. It appears to me that reviewers are often so afraid of what they might read (and thus allow themselves to believe that they live in a world where children are not abused... We can wish...) and therefore either dismiss the book as "too gory" or avoid all together. That is surely an insult to the author? If you do not like the genre, do not read it!

The writing is uplifting, describing how a child can find beauty and hope in even the darkest of times. No child should have to go through what Shy did; and it simply baffles the mind how evil an adult can be towards their offspring. The books importance is proven through discussion, such as this review. Only by drawing attention to issues like this, as horrible as they are, can we as a society become more aware of the plight of innocent children who are being abused today. The author has done a great deal for raising awareness through her charity work, alongside mother of murdered schoolgirl Sara Payne. For that alone she should be commended.

Olivia Michelle says

Reading this book reminded me of my own childhood, when I endured abuse. Shy's story also reminded me that many people go through much more abuse than I ever did, and if they can overcome it then so can I.

I was reminded with each chapter of the "crazies" we have in our world, our abusers, but I constantly wondered what happened to her stepfather to make him into the abuser he was. Was he hurt as a child? What

did he endure? Did he ever seek help?

The relatives and friends who came to Shy's rescue reminded me of many of my own heroes, some of which are teachers in my school.

If the author ever sees my review, I want her to know I enjoyed the connection I felt with her, even though I went through nothing close to what she endured. Furthermore, her story empowered me to become all I can and speak out against the abuse. Her story renewed the spirit God used Erin Gruwell to place in me with the story of the Freedom Writers - the inspiration to become a teacher in a "bad" school district and try to be Supergirl for at least one child. There are children (and adults) everywhere who need someone, and BROKEN reminded me that I can use my own story to reach out to others.

Thank you for sharing your story.

Liz says

A heartbreaking story of abuse that goes on unspoken and unmentioned for years.....how anyone can even think of doing this to an innocent child is beyond me. This sort of thing is probably still going on in our homes today, and as usual goes on unmentioned.....a dirty secret that must be kept. The people that do these things to these children should be ashamed of themselves.

Rebecca McNutt says

Broken is a disturbing and shocking account of a child living a nightmare. Told with surprising openness and depressing honesty, her story is horrific, yet hopeful as she moves on toward the future.

Marlena says

Heart wrenching and disturbing, this book shows you how indifference leads to...horror. It also shows you the strength of spirit that burns within. A book that teaches you how easily the disturbed of this world can infiltrate and how we should never EVER let someone else's judgement of a person affect our treatment or opinion of them.

Eva Leger says

'soul-raping torture'

These are the author's words describing her going against her abusers' defense team many, many years after the fact. I'd use those words to describe almost every single experience of her entire childhood.

The cover of this book claims it to be "the most shocking true story of abuse ever told". When I saw that I took it with a grain of salt- EVERY abuse case is shocking, every abuse case is horrible. Well, they were right. I've read countless books of this nature and have yet to come across anything even close to what this woman endured as a toddler, child, and teenager.

Shy Keenan was abused basically from birth, sexually, physically, emotionally and any other kind you can think of. There were very few people in her life that didn't abuse her and those few were kept far away by her "mother" (I use the quotes because while she was her birth mother I have a truly hard time calling the woman a mother) and step father. During her childhood and teenage years she was repeatedly molested and raped by her step father, sold to his friends and friends of their friends, made to pose nude for pictures, and so much more.

She tried more than once to tell her "mother" who either didn't believe her or just plain didn't care enough to stop it, depending on which time she was told. She tried telling authority figures, professionals, everyone at one time or another and was ignored by all. Her socail services files held comments that she was promiscuious, sexually attacking her step father, an all around problem child.

I'll be blunt- this is a HARD book to read in the sense that these things that she went through are truly not something most of us can understand. It's a very EASY book in that she's a great writer. She's a great writer who takes you through her life story (which had to have been very difficult I'm sure) with so much emotion and so much feeling that you can't help but struggle through every single emotion out there yourself. Even at such a young age she was so strong, doing her best to protect her baby sister and take on more of the abuse herself and trying to care for her "mother" when she was sick. Mrs. Keenan is able to do what a lot of others in her situation haven't been able to do for me and that is to make me truly understand how she felt, as much as it's possible to without having gone through this myself, and truly make me ache for her and everyone else affected by these evil people she had the bad luck to have to live her life around.

If you're looking for something easy to read I wouldn't dare stop here but if you like reading about strong women, women who were able to make it against overwhelming odds, then this is your book. I can think of none better.

I wish Mrs. Keenan all the luck in the world and trust me, she deserves it.

Sabrina Rutter says

I will never understand how a community could fail a child that cried so desperately for help. Not only did this book make me sad it also made me angry at those who failed her.

As a child I always felt safe because I had my mom. I can't begin to imagine the amount of fear this girl went through being abused and not being able to depend on her mom for protection.

While reading this I played her favorite song "What Becomes Of The Broken Hearted" and thought about her childhood and I just wanted to cry. It really does seem that song was wrote for her. This is one of the most heartbreaking books I have ever read.

??? ?????? says

I was excited to read this book. What happened to Shy is **so horrible**

But what is written in the cover is misleading! From there, I thought it's MAINLY **physical abuse** and SOME **sexual abuse**. But it was completely the opposite!

If I had known "abuse" here actually means "sexual abuse", I wouldn't have bought this book at all.

With respect to the author, one by one I started questioning some details that for me are very hard to be believed! like:

* When she entered the hospital having caught an STD and no one seemed to be interested about that! Is it so

normal for a girl this young to have such a thing?!!

* She entered the hospital many times and had been fully checked without anybody noticing signs of rape on her?!!

* How come EVERYONE believed the silly story of Stanley defending himself after Shy announced being sexually abused by him?!!

If this was happening in Africa or one of the third world countries, then I'd say ok this is possible. People are ignorant, careless and they have important things to care about more than what's so called "abuse".

But when I see it was happening in one of the greatest first world countries in the 60th -70th of the last century, then it becomes literally **unbelievable !!!**