



## **Sold**

*Tess Stevens*

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## **Sold** Tess Stevens

What kind of a woman would sell her own child? A monster. Tess was just eleven years old when her mother sold her to a rich elderly man. Grace ran a brothel in Croydon and she plunged her young daughter into a terrifying world of sex and depravity. Grace was absolutely ruthless in her pursuit of money and had a toxic mix of low cunning and high ambition. Dangerous criminals visited the brothel every day, and Tess was exposed to things no little girl should see. A timid child who longed for her mother's love, she grew up in a world of unimaginable horrors with no one to turn to. Her mother ensured that Tess followed her footsteps and began selling herself. She later opened a brothel too, but became known for looking after her girls and running it as cleanly and as fairly as she could. Along the way she encountered some fascinating characters, including Christine Keeler, the Kray twins and Myra Hindley, as well as numerous well-known actors and politicians. Amazingly, after such a horrendous start in life, Tess has left prostitution and completely turned her life around. **HOW COULD YOU DO IT, MUM?** offers readers a heart-wrenching and shocking insight into a criminal underworld and is a compelling account of one woman's recovery from the ultimate betrayal.

## **Sold Details**

Date : Published April 1st 2008 by Hodder & Stoughton  
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Author : Tess Stevens  
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## From Reader Review Sold for online ebook

### Suzanne Moelands says

Tragic story of a young girls involvement in her mothers dark world of prostitution. I wasn't completely drawn in and found it hard to have an emotional involvement with the book due to the writing style I think. Still, an interesting read with the detail of her experience that kept me interested to the end.

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### Ashyxo says

This is a tremendous story of triumph. I think that the people who are saying 'the mother was resourceful' should be ashamed of themselves; the mother was physically and emotionally abusive. This child was sexually abused because of her mother; there is no excuse for that! A child should never be left alone with a man who is a pedophile and a man who is paying to be left alone with that child! If the mother was in need of money why not prostitute herself rather than her child...the emotional dumping and pain she shows at the end of the book that's core is her mother, is warranted. Because you cannot have a childhood like this and not feel the effects in adult hood.

The mother was a sadist with a narcissistic personality her whole relationship with her daughter was only to control her. I study Social science and criminology at uni and found this to be a really good read in terms of my studies.

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### Jessica says

A heart breaking true story about a girl whose life was manipulated by her strong-willed, and perverse, mother. Tesses mother used her house as a place for hookers to meet with punters, a place to sell stolen goods and use her daughters feelings and desperation to guilt her into a life of crime and selling herself.

Tess managed to carve a life of happiness and stability for herself in the end with the love an support of her beloved partner.

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### Danbob89 says

The only reason I am giving this 3 stars is because it is real life. No heroes or princesses or evil witches (so to speak). Miss Stevens is able to relive all her memories in a delicate way, all the reader has to remember is that times were of course different to this day & age. I would shake her hand & congratulate on the fact she always held her head high.

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### Anan Tello says

This was very disturbing for me; I stopped reading halfway.

However, it was very, very well-written to the point where I felt extremely disturbed by the images and emotions, I couldn't take it.

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### **Sarahlyn says**

I agree with one of the reviews.. I thought that at the end, the authoress shouldn't blame everything on her mother. She did show her love, like when she went after the man John after she realised that he abused her daughter. I hope she reads this. Anyway, I was appalled at the violence. I can't imagine that there is such violence between couples.

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### **S. Valentine says**

I was drawn to this book due to it being non fiction, and as I love to hear about people that turn their lives around and overcome bad situations that they end up in. This was another emotional read. These brave people deserve their story to be read. Inspiring.

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### **Katja says**

This book was a completely new experience for me. How easy it was to be sold. How absolutely disgusting and terrifying is was. I found it unexpected and well-made, the narrative was more to a " story" feeling rather than a documentary feeling. I absolutely recommend to people who are not easily disgusted, and to those that wants to go beyond the borders of normal, and enter a parallel universe.

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### **Anastasia says**

terrible story - well writted so easy to read- lost me in last part of the book as could no longer empathise with author. Not for everyone

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### **Kher Shin says**

Didn't really like the book but it's crazy how her life was like! Makes me really appreciate how much protection my mother has given me since I was a kid. I, too, don't understand why would Mother do such things to Tess despite showing love and care at some point in time. I truly hope Carol will be nice to Tess till the very end.

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### **Sara M. Abudahab says**

[and even being mocked by her mother abo

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## **Sabrina Rutter says**

DO NOT READ THIS UNLESS YOU HAVE READ THE BOOK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

While I really liked hearing about the authors childhood it seems her adult life could have made just as much if not more of a fascinating read. This was not the misery story I was expecting, although yes she had some bad things happen to her and her mother was mentally abusive, the story was pretty interesting. I mean it's not everyday you find a memoir of growing up in a brothel!

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## **Joanne says**

I'm not sure how to go about reviewing this book. It's not a story, it's real life. It's terrible what happened to Tess when she was younger. Her mother was... there isn't a word strong enough that isn't bad language. Detail is giving all the way through the book, even during the dreadful events of her life, but she doesn't go into too much detail. One can almost turn the page and try hard not to think about it, like Tess does herself, but it's so disturbing.

The emotion in this book is so strong, you can feel Tess' fear, her worry, her sadness. You can understand how she wants her mother to love her, but despair at what she puts herself through to try and gain it. The brainwash her mother puts her through, you just want to slap her.

An example; Grace covers her leg in lipstick, and wraps bandages round it, and tells Tess that God is punishing her for being a bad mother - because she must be if her daughter doesn't love her enough that she keeps visiting the lady upstairs and loves her instead. Her leg will bleed and bleed until she dies, unless Tess promises not to visit the lady upstairs anymore, and to love her mother. When she does, a miracle takes place, and God turns the injury into lipstick. It's disgusting.

Tess has had such an awful life, and reading all the things she had to go through made me so emotional. It's an eye opener for people to realise how normal - not lucky - we are who live good lives and have loving families.

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## **Nux says**

I think the book's quite well written and I like the attitude of the characters in it.

However I changed my mind about how many stars I give this book because at the very end the narrator seemed to 'dump' all the troubles she's ever had in life, almost every bad choices that she's made herself, even those made after she's become an independent adult, onto her mother's lap...

which I think is highly unfair. I even actually quite admire the mother's character. And she (the mother) can't be that bad. My impression of the mother was that she's a very strong woman... shrewd and manipulative with flaws here and there, I agree to that. But I can still get a tell tale signs of motherhood instincts coming out on several occasions (almost contrary to what was then later stated in the book) and no one can help about being human.

So, one star less for slagging off the strong and resourceful mother.

## **Kingfan30 says**

Despite the terrible life this poor child had it is a relatively easy read, sounds odd I know but it is written in quite a matter of fact way. I have to say I thought it would be quite a horrific read, but it was not as bad as I expected. It is a good demonstration of emotional abuse at it's worst and you just can't imagine being treated like that by the person who is supposed to love you the most.

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