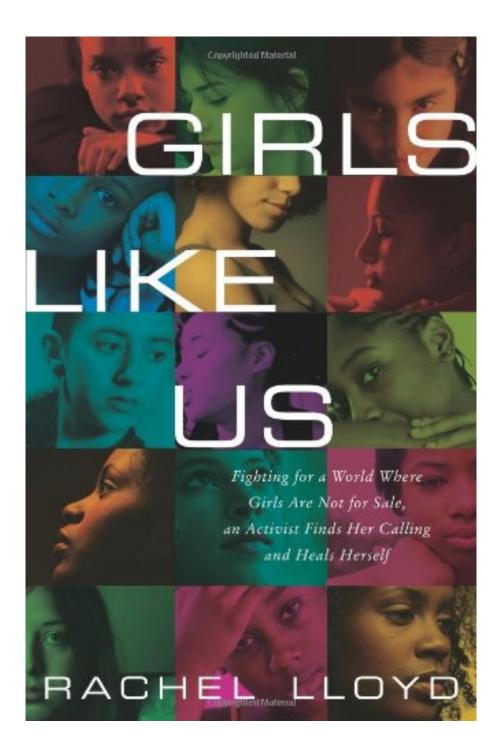


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"Powerfully raw, deeply moving, and utterly authentic. Rachel Lloyd has turned a personal atrocity into triumph and is nothing less than a true hero. . . . Never again will you look at young girls on the street as one of 'those' women—you will only see little girls that are girls just like us." —Demi Moore, actress and activist

With the power and verity of First They Killed My Father and A Long Way Gone, Rachel Lloyd's riveting survivor story is the true tale of her hard-won escape from the commercial sex industry and her bold founding of GEMS, New York City's Girls Education and Mentoring Service, to help countless other young girls escape "the life." Lloyd's unflinchingly honest memoir is a powerful and unforgettable story of inhuman abuse, enduring hope, and the promise of redemption.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

This book changes your perception and life within minutes

By F. Butler

This book was tough read, but not due to lack of literary merit. It was difficult to read, because of the accounts of so many victimized girls and women right in the very U.S.A where we live. I stand firmly corrected that Sex Trafficking and CSEC (Commercially, Sexually, Exploited Children) is not a Thailand, India, Russia, etc issue. It is a human issue. Rachel Lloyd captures the anguish and torment of young girls in vivid details. I was moved to rage and commitment to take action. I will never be the same after reading this book. I highly recommend it for readings not just in an academic setting, but in churches, schools, or just personal knowledge and awareness.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Couldn't put it down A++++++ By mdrw I've only recently become much of a reader. My ADHD usually gets the best of me--five books at a time without finishing one.

This book will keep you on target and glued to your seat--so ADHD people take note :-)

As a male, hopefully it will help you understand that prostitutes are not commodities that you can buy, sell, and then go home.

Just because you pay for the service doesn't make it a legitimate business transaction--for that to happen it would have to be good for both the buyer and the seller. Transactions for the services of a prostitute aren't good for either party. (I'm a male)

I don't think anyone wakes up and suddenly realizes they've accomplished their childhood dreams by becoming a prostitute. This book will not only drive that point out of the park, but more importantly, it will help you to understand that it happens for a variety of reasons--and none of them are good.

The worst part of the whole picture is what happens after the dollars have changed hands--and what happens to make the sale possible.

For the ladies, I'm not one so I'm not sure what to say except maybe have your man read it--he needs to hear the message. Internet pornography is pushing a tsunami whether you realize it or not. That's not what the books about, but that's where it's going without awareness. I think this book provides a great starting place to help make men more aware of how their actions could have a catastrophic impact on another human being and their family. If they look at pornography long enough, they will most likely act out--it's not harmless. If you suspect they watch it or you've caught them there's a pretty good chance it's happening more frequently than you realize. Google some statistics--men are hardwired for visual stimulation, and that's what can get them in trouble. Sorry for the rant, this is a book review--but that's my take on the issue.

Rachel, thanks for helping me to understand. May God bless and keep the girls you've helped save and the ones that haven't been reached yet. If Big Boys don't cry then I'm not a Big Boy--I wept like a baby, so thanks for the commercial interruptions you built into the book that allowed me to stop crying long enough

to finish the book. Thanks for standing up in a world that would rather have you sit down.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

From my book review blog: ElectricBookworm.com

By Cynthia Romaker

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Every once in a while, a book comes along that is so powerfully written, it has the ability to cause you to change how you think, how you feel, and maybe even: how you act.

For me, such a book is Girls Like Us: Fighting For a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale, by Rachel Lloyd.

I recently completed a 60-hour training course on Crisis Intervention, in order to work with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or elder abuse. One of our sessions focused on human sex trafficking, and this book was recommended by our phenomenal presenter, who works with victims of such trafficking.

The session opened my eyes to the "top layer" of misconceptions around sex trafficking -- especially with regard to children. For example, I think many (most?) of us believe that only women from other countries are forced into prostitution here in the United States. Reading the book opened my eyes to the entire landscape of a devastating underworld that is closer to home than most of us realize.

Over 70% of all those forced into (and I do mean forced) sex work in the United States are Americans. This book, written by such a victim, who now works tirelessly as an advocate for these voiceless victims, puts a bald but factual face on the many "myths" surrounding those in the "sex trade." Just a few examples: that prostitutes choose "the life" (as it is known in the vernacular), that prostitutes are from low socio-economic backgrounds, that prostitutes are runaways, that prostitutes "do it because they like it," that prostitutes stay in the life because of the money they can make, especially when they have no other skills, that prostitutes are "asking for it" when they are beaten/raped/humiliated by their "johns" and/or pimps because after all: they should have known what they were getting into when they "became" prostitutes.

I read this book from cover to cover in two sittings, unable to turn away from it. It is passionately and compassionately written by a woman who has successfully led the fight to pass critically important legislation regarding sex work. One of the latest developments we learned about in our training was that - nowadays -- minors (boys and girls under the age of 18) do NOT have to prove they were "coerced or forced" into the trade. And this is because: by definition, a minor does not have the necessary resources or skills to resist being lured into the sex trade, especially when they are convinced they have no other option.

If you possess an open mind and an open heart, I promise this book will change you, and in very important ways. Even if you finish the book and simply change the vocabulary you use when referring to people in the sex trade, it will be a major step forward in the fight to stop human sex trafficking.

I am not a political person, and I rarely get up on a soapbox, but I will make an exception here. Tomorrow, Valentine's Day, is one that will be marked all over our country by people who are standing up against sex trafficking and violence in that world. It is called the "One Billion Rising," an international call to action that focuses on ending violence and sexual assault against women all over the world. For more information, please go to VDAY.org. The name of the event derives from the fact that human sex trafficking is a \$1 billion/year business.

This is the first time since I began this blog that I am going to give a "current" book a 5-Worm Rating and believe me: it's not just because of the interest and passion it has stirred in me, but also because it is remarkably well written. I promise you will not walk away from this story untouched -- and in a hopeful way.

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