



Stay Close: A Mother's Story of Her Son's Addiction

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From Reader Review *Stay Close: A Mother's Story of Her Son's Addiction* for online ebook

Sharon Warner says

As a child, I witnessed all manner of adult F-ups. (I started to write screw-ups, but these mistakes I'm thinking of were life-changing.) Perhaps more than most young people, I weighed my own actions based on what I had seen befall those nearest and dearest. While I certainly made my own mistakes, they were not repeats; they were originals. I did not get pregnant by accident--repeatedly--for instance. Assertions that we all have to learn the hard way are quite simply wrong. Which is why I appreciate Libby Catadi's memoir, *Stay Close*. She details the harrowing history of her oldest son's drug addictions in enough detail, with sufficient honesty, that I felt I could learn a little something from the account. Thank you, Libby, for your ultimately uplifting story.

Roxanna zalesny says

This is a horrifying account of how addiction can tear at the seams that hold a family together. The story--the same as millions of others--and yet unique too, shows how addiction impacts the family and threatens to destroy hope. Yet, this mother doesn't give up. She shares her struggle to stay close in love while desperately attempting to maintain boundaries to protect herself and not aide her son's seeming suicidal addiction all the while trying to construct meaning. This family's story, like so many others, is filled with the tremendous pain that comes with loving a person with an addiction. It is filled too with real and imagined guilt and FEAR---and an honest account of the mistakes made out of that fear. Kudos to this family's willingness to bare their souls in the hope of helping another. It helped me.

Rosalind Wiseman says

All over this country every day, families that look just like yours and mine shoulder the quiet, terrible pain of living with a loved one battling an addiction. Libby Cataldi's *Stay Close* is an honest, stomach-churning account of her son's drug problems and the steps, both for better and for worse, that her family took to help him. This book is both beautifully written and difficult to read, but it is a must for anyone who works with young people, and for the innumerable amount of loved ones who've been affected by a family member's addiction.

Cheri says

Heartwrenching, Educational & Hopeful.

Jill says

I enjoyed this book. The author struggles with her son as he walks through addiction. She is torn regarding her level of involvement. I will definitely recommend this to clients' families who are struggling with the same issues. I really liked that Jeff (the self-proclaimed addict) gets a voice in the novel, as well as his brother Jeremy.

Lisa Gennusa-O'Connell says

This was the best book I've read yet on the subject of addiction and its effects on the addict and his/her family. God Bless anyone and everyone who suffers with or loves someone who suffers with this most terrible disease.

Shirley says

Heart wrenching story by a mother of an addict son. A helpful and hopeful book for anyone who loves an addict!

Kathleen Pooler says

As the mother of an addicted son, I connected immediately to this powerful memoir where Cataldi shares the story of her son, Jeff's, valiant struggle to recover from severe drug addiction from her point of view. The heartache of watching a son descend into addiction is palpable and connected me to my own story.

With raw honesty, graphic detail, and believability, Cataldi takes us through her many attempts to save him, until she comes to the realization that until Jeff decides to quit, her loving attempts to care for her son are unsuccessful. It is through her journey that we see the heart-wrenching and agonizing choices parents of addicts must face. We also learn Jeff's side of the story through his own entries and see the hold addiction has on a person's life.

Parents of addicts are often admonished to let go of their child when they are in active addiction. However, Cataldi heeds the advice of an Italian recovering addict to "stay close—never leave him, even when he is most unlovable". She learns how to set healthier boundaries with Jeff while finding ways to take care of herself.

Although every addiction story is unique, Libby's and Jeff's story provides a wellspring of hope and inspiration to those struggling with addiction. It is a story of love, courage and healing in the face of the relentless, cunning beast of addiction. That recovery is possible, despite all odds, is perhaps the book's most important message.

I highly recommend this gripping memoir to any one affected by addiction as well as to those who serve the addicted population

Penny says

This is an inspirational book because it must have taken so much courage to write - having met Libby she explained how various initial attempts which didn't get so close to the knuckle were rejected and she really had to lay bear her pain and sense of guilt - as she put it - "strip off the layer of cellophane" -to write this book.

I am not a mother so I cant know how scary her situation was but I can certainly share her pain through this book.

It is a must read for anyone who is dealing with a loved one with an addiction.

Jeromey Patterson says

Great messages and dry brutal honesty. Eye opening at points. Could not stand the author/mother (in either role) so I had to take multiple stabs at finishing. Seems to be the case with a lot of these books, unfortunately.

Stan Murai says

This story is all too familiar to any parent who has had to deal with the addiction problems of one's own child.

It is about the love that prevails in spite of the despair and sorrow that a parent suffers not knowing what to do in order to save a child's life.

No real solution for addiction is given, but the author's son does recover and allows the healing of the whole family.

It is a story of love and hope that may offer strength and comfort to those who live their lives with similar painful experiences. *Stagli vicino* , a recovered Italian addict once told the author, "Stay close" even when he is most unlovable.

Tara Howard says

I couldn't get into this book. Maybe because it's written from the mother and I was looking more for a story of the addict themselves to fully try n understand the things they go through and their thought process. It seemed long and drawn out to me. I read a couple chapters but just couldn't get into it.

Chelsea says

A true story of the author's son's struggle with drug addiction. I feel bad to rate it so low, because it truly is an amazing story. However, I have read a lot of books on the same topic, and this one just paled in comparison writing-wise. I think my problem was with the author herself - it's not my place to judge a mother, and I'm sure it was extremely hard to cope in her situation...but she kept jetting off to Italy at really inopportune moments. It bothered me.

Stacey says

Excellent! Excellent! Excellent! This book is exactly what I needed after my son's relapse.

Corny says

This harrowing account of a son's addiction, told by his mother, is deeply moving and a must read for parents of addicts. Often repetitive but devastatingly honest, the book probes the mysteries of addictive behavior and its toxic effects on the family of an addict. However, it offers a strong note of hope in describing the agony of recovery and the continuing battle against relapses. The book concludes with a helpful afterword by the psychiatrist that treated the son. Parents of addicts will recognize parallels and will be heartened by the happy ending of this story. However, they will also be shocked by the gruesome detail and by the fact that the addict in question was lucky not to die.
