



Little Girl Lost

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She was a modern-day Shirley Temple, but at the age of nine Drew Barrymore was drinking alcohol. At ten she took up marijuana, and by twelve she began snorting cocaine. Here is her gripping, heart-wrenching story--a story of a childhood gone awry and a young woman battling to restore order to her chaotic life.

Little Girl Lost Details

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From Reader Review Little Girl Lost for online ebook

Kevin Fanning says

A classic of the genre, to be sure. But more than that, a book both formative and prescriptive. I read this as a young teen, and I look back now on the turning of the final page as the moment when my adulthood was forged from the ashes of my youth. My heart cried out for young, tortured Drew; I wrote her a letter (sadly, never sent) that said, in effect: *I will love you. I will remain at your side, tho' the wastrel, treacherous Hollywood wolves may lie in wait just outside your door. Allow me the honor of caring about you.*

And so this book, above all others, taught me concern for celebrities. And hasn't life been the sweeter for it!

Jasmine says

This was a phenomenal book written by Drew Barrymore. I read this in grade 7 and remember being very impressed with her story. It gave a lot of insight of what she went through as a child star her issues with drugs and how she came through the ordeal. Highly inspiring.

Patty says

I was gripped by her tale of getting into and out of addiction. Although she was only 14 when she wrote the book, it reads as if an adult wrote the account. She started drinking at age 9, smoking pot at age 10, and sniffing coke by 12. Barrymore is very candid and vulnerable, with a surprising maturity for such a young age. She doesn't feel sorry for herself or celebrate her partying days with gratuitous details. Her intention is to explain the difficulties of addiction and try to help others, as well as to give an honest account before others smeared her name with false assumptions and inaccuracies. Part of it was clearly a career move, but I appreciated it nevertheless, and I thought it was very admirable to provide such an honest and helpful admission. Plus, who better to tell the tale than Drew herself?

Even though it was written many years ago, I think it would benefit both those struggling in addiction as well as the ones who help them. I particularly enjoyed some of the journals that she shared from rehab, and her changing perceptions of her father. This piece I related to the most, since at first, she so badly wanted her father to be her hero and a faithful, loving father. In the end, she had to accept him for who he was, which offered great peace in her life. It was a good reminder for me about relationships in life. And, even if you aren't struggling with addiction, she still has some great insights about life and people that can apply to anyone.

Jennifer says

Read this as a teen and I should have taken it as a cautionary tale and learned and not repeated her mistakes.

Instead however I had to make all my own mistakes and now I think maybe I should have paid more attention to her memoir. It is so crazy since she got sober at like 15 I think that she was able to write a memoir and stay sober so long! Really quite a story and pretty inspiring.

Kim says

I have been a huge fan of Drew Barrymore for as long as I can remember. Her childhood and teenage years were unlike anything most people can imagine. To make it through all of that and become the incredible person she is now is amazing and inspirational.

Sara says

I learned more naughty stuff from this book than Are You There God...? Loved it as a preteen, I think I checked it out from the library 3 times.

Kristina says

Drew has always been my favorite actress, ever since my favorite movie, E.T., came out. I knew she was a wild child but I didn't know the extent of her addiction. This is a raw, honest look into her childhood and her recovery.

Linda (Miss Greedybooks) says

I have always liked Drew Barrymore - Even more after knowing more of her struggles. With a famous family like hers, a career that started so young, the drugs so available....

Karen says

I first read this book when I was twelve years old. Yes, I still have it. In fact, I reread it about a year ago. It is still the crappiest autobiography I have ever read, but I can never throw it out. It is like the first tangible symbol of our media culture feeding off celebrities. Also, I like to read about Drew Barrymore getting high. It cracks me up.

Hope Walls says

Update #1:

So far in the book, Drew has talked mainly about her early childhood, her family, and how she got into acting. Drew comes from a long line of actors who have gotten heavily involved with drugs and alcohol. Her parents were both actors. Both her father and her step-brother were drug addicts. Drew was introduced to acting from her mother. Her first major film was E.T. which made her famous. Drew was not prepared for the fame, eventually becoming an alcoholic and drug addict. She started writing this book just a few months after getting out of rehab.

This book has yet to really interest me. Drew hasn't gotten into the specifics of how she got involved with drugs and alcohol at such a young age. It would be interesting to know this, which I assume she will eventually get to. The book is somewhat repetitive, making sure the reader knows the loneliness that she felt at the time.

Update #2:

In the part of the book that I've read since my last update, Drew has got into a lot more detail about how and why she got into drugs and alcohol. Drew had many struggles with feeling accepted. At school, her peers would make fun of her for not fitting in, then when she tried to fit in, they would make fun of her even more. She resorted to smoking and drinking to numb herself so she could forget about her problems. She then got into smoking weed from one of her friend's parents who just gave her weed. Drew got addicted to how she felt when she smoked weed. It was the only way she knew how to have fun and get away from her problems. This book is starting to get better. With Drew getting more into the details that the reader wants to know, it gets more interesting. The book has become less repetitive than it was at the beginning. The writing style is pretty good for a fifteen year old, although she had help from an author.

Update #3:

Recently in the book, Drew was admitted to rehab. Drew had finally hit rock bottom, being into all sorts of drugs. Her mom and friends were worried about her so they drove her to a special hospital for addiction. Drew felt uncomfortable and scared. She attended multiple counseling sessions a day and met others with the same issues as her. Drew felt like she was making a lot of progress there and she didn't want to leave. She feared relapsing and going back to the same person that she was before.

At this point in the book, the story is pretty interesting. When Drew talks about how she feels being in rehab, so alone and helpless, the reader can really understand her. She uses such sensory language that you feel like you're there with her. So Drew does a really good job of getting the reader to connect with her.

Update 4:

At the end of the book, Drew feels that she can finally be herself. Drew is entering her final weeks of rehab after her relapse. She has resolved a lot of her issues and is trying her best to become a better person.

This book bored me most of the time. I would not recommend this book to others. I think that if I had been through some similar issues to her then I would be more interested in this book.

The author's purpose of writing this novel is to make others aware of the dangers of addiction. Being addicting to drugs and alcohol, Drew had to go into rehab and was not able to continue to do the one thing that she really loved in life, acting. When others hear her story, it hopefully makes them stay away from the influence of drugs and alcohol. The theme of this novel is one should always face their problems instead of running away from them. Drew's problems of not fitting in and getting bullied were too much for her to handle. She ran away from her problems by using the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Gary says

Drew Barrymore captured the hearts of the world, as the adorable wide eyed seven year old Gertie, in ET, in 1982.

Barrymore was born into the acting profession, coming from a long line of acting talent extending back nearly 200 years

Faced with an abusive father, the execrable and vicious degenerate John Drew Barrymore(it is shocking to read of the physical and emotional abuse he subjected the little girl to) , a mother who was not always there, and nasty schoolmates, she drifted into the company of an older crowd and began her descent into drugs and alcohol by nine, when she began drinking alcohol, began smoking marijuana by ten (offered it by a friend's mother),and was snorting cocaine at twelve. She also craved the approval of boys on whom her self-esteem depended.

This is her story of why she took refuge from her unhappy young life in parties, alcohol and drugs, and her difficult and painful rehabilitation. but she succeeded. I found myself really feeling Drew's pain and empathized with what she went through.

Drew wanted to be an actress by five.

I really admired how she told her abusive pig of a father to get out of her life, when she was eight, after achieving success in E.T

She also tells of her work on movies such as Firestarter, Irreconcilable Differences,Babes in Toyland and Far From Home.

Drew talks about the support given to her by Steven Spielberg who she says gave her the best advice she ever been given on acting : "Drew, you can't act your character, you gotta be your character."

She made it though and in by 16 had cleaned up her life, to go on to a string of successes in a series comedies and dramas . By the late 90's her bubbly personality made such movies as Ever After, The Wedding Singer. Charlies Angels and Never Been Kissed a lot of fun and charming to watch.

It is a sad story of a child whose life was marred by what no child should go through, but who overcame her self-destructive habits and proved those who said she was burned out at 13, so wrong. How she repaired her life is incredibly inspirational. Drew is offering advice to young actresses entering rehab these days: ""If you don't pull it together for yourself, no one else will," she says in the March issue of Vogue. "That's coming from a person who had to try it all ... and who still loves to have a good time."

Patricia says

I was hesitant to read the book at first, not wanting to think of "Gertie" as an underaged drug user and alcoholic. But the story is more than just that. Drew goes into the details of her hard and emotionally lacking relationship with her parents, and how she struggles with being honest with sobriety at the tender age of 12. It's a heart breaking story of a real-life Hollywood child star whose life spirals out of control before barely making it through puberty.

JJ Wall says

Fascinating and sad.

Jennifer Goertler says

The first time I read this book I was 14 or so. Being around the same age as Drew Barrymore, I found her life & what she had been through fascinating being so young; just as she was.

I always remembered how much I enjoyed the book, so 15 yrs later I looked high & low at the local libraries for a copy & reread it. For me it held up at age 30 just as it had as a teen.

Being 15-16 yrs of age when she wrote this, of course her writing skills throughout the book aren't that of her co-writer Todd Gold, but I feel she holds her own.

The honesty & open style of her words are what holds the reader's interest. Whether you're a fan of Ms.

Barrymore's or not, to read the words of such a young, fragile girl & what her experiences up to that point in her life had been will keep the interest of anyone that is a fan of autobiographies. The relationship she had with her wannabe actress mother & alcoholic father & the effects it had on her self esteem are something a lot of people can relate to. Not to mention the added attention that was mostly negative from her peers at school because of her success.

All in all I feel that this autobiographical account of what can happen to a young person when thrust into the spotlight is a great read. While short in length it is relatable in many ways. Dysfunctional parental relationships, jealousy of success from family & peers, & most of all trying to figure out how to come out on top through it all; which is something most of us strive for.

A definite in my top 5 for autobiographies.

Kim says

I have always loved Drew Barrymore - she's close to my age, and I've followed her movies since ET. I snapped up this book as soon as it came out in paperback and have read and re-read it more times than I can count.

I remember reading about Drew's escapades in the tabloids when I was a teenager, so I was eager to read her story from her point of view - I was, and continue to be impressed with how honest and strong Drew is. There's not a lot of sugar-coating here, and the addition of her relapse after she wrote what she thought was the last chapter showed just how difficult addiction can be to beat.

2018 update: I re-read this immediately after reading Wildflower, and found it interesting to compare the two versions of some items that came up in both books - and also how Drew characterized her time in the hospital in Wildflower. It gives quite a different impression than Little Girl Lost. Overall, this was better written (thanks to a ghostwriter), and more gripping, both due to content and the more linear nature of this story.
