



Finding Gloria ~ Special Edition

Marianne Curtis

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Author Marianne Curtis reveals her own personal, heart-wrenching, and, ultimately, inspiring story in *Finding Gloria*. Her past is laid bare in achingly honest detail, and her willingness to share her story will resonate with readers everywhere.

Pouring her own hardships out onto the page, Marianne Curtis recounts her experiences growing up as an adopted child: adopted at birth, she was raised in a household where she was subjected to terrible and heart breaking forms of abuse. Her adoptive mother repeatedly tried to break her spirit, insisting that she was worthless and unwanted. In a desperate attempt to escape her circumstance, Curtis fled, as a teenager, to another city.

Desperate for acceptance and love, she married at age eighteen, and, by twenty-four, had four children. Her insecurities from her traumatic childhood followed her, however, and eventually led to the dissolution of three marriages and her own mental breakdown.

Finally, after the death of her adoptive mother, Curtis searched out her birth family, found them through Facebook, and eventually came to a place of love, healing, peace, and acceptance through the family she had not known for more than four decades.

An inspiring story about rising from the ashes of our pasts, Marianne Curtis' memoir is written in a pure, vivid voice, and draws readers in with her will to survive despite the seemingly insurmountable struggles that she faced. *Finding Gloria* is one woman's incredible story of love, loss, redemption, and forgiveness, even in the face of devastating events. A beautiful and moving tale, Curtis' raw emotion and fragile hope is revealed through her candid prose and unbreakable spirit.

Finding Gloria ~ Special Edition Details

Date : Published November 23rd 2012 by Emerald Publications (first published April 3rd 2012)

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Author : Marianne Curtis

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From Reader Review Finding Gloria ~ Special Edition for online ebook

Jennifer says

I bought this book for my kindle. I gave it 5 stars because it is a very inspirational story..although the author faced a lot of challenges she managed to pull her life together and prove her adoptive mother wrong. I am glad she shared her story because there are other people out there who have had the same experiences as her. I hope that they will get their hands on this book and see that they too can come through it as we'll!

Newbee (JoAnn) Brown says

This was a bit of extra reading in the beginning, letters etc from people. But after the the stoy gets started it is hard to put down.

Several times I got goose bumbs relating to what was said.

When I started raising my children I was so afraid of making mistakes that would mess them up for life. My mother in law told me... I'd make mistakes,we all do, but children are resilient! Mine turned out good.... And from reading this story I can see just how resilient children can be.

Thank you for sharing, this put a lot of things in perspective for me in my own life!

Well written and worth reading.

Michelle Camire says

Life can be unfair and awful things can happen, how we strive forward and change and grow is what counts. Finding Gloria puts you into that emotional rollercoaster, a very touching moving story.

C.J. Bolyne says

Finding Gloria is a powerful biography revealing Mariann's tumultuous life as an adopted child. I found it heart wrenching to read about her feelings of rejection and her self worth being so low. With such a difficult start in life and abuse suffered, we cannot imagine how it affects a child's and later an adult's psyche unless we've experienced it ourselves.

Kudos to Mariann for her bravery to expose her story to the world. I am so happy that her life has turned out for the better.

Highly recommend reading this story.

Carrie Kellenberger says

A personal memoir written by a woman who was given up for adoption and placed in an adoptive home where she was starved and beaten until she runs away from home as a teenager. Given away by her birth mother and rejected by her adoptive mother, the author grows up believing that she is completely worthless and unloved. These feelings of unworthiness stay with her for the rest of her story.

It's a sad story, compounded by the fact that even though she has the strength to run away and change her situation, she still thinks nothing of herself; she repeatedly makes mistake after mistake while trying to find her real purpose in life. Married at 18 and a mother of four at 24 years of age, Marianne outwardly looks like she's doing well, but her personal life is in shambles. She goes through several failed marriages, a cancer scare, she gets hooked on anti-depressants, and she lives with her children in utter poverty, yet she is determined to create a better life for herself and for her children. She also perseveres in establishing a better relationship with her adoptive mother (and adoptive family) and she works incredibly hard to change the path that she's on. 40 years after she was given away for adoption, she finally reconnects with her birth mother and finds the family, love and acceptance that she has been searching for so desperately all her life.

My only complaint about the book is how poorly the Kindle edition has been edited. It's rife with spelling and grammatical mistakes. It would be great to read more books by this author, but I hope she's able to find a better editor before she does so. I also wasn't big on the spiritual journey that the author embarked on towards the end of the book, but it helped her to get her point across. A triumph, indeed, for Marianne Curtis. Good on you!

Lynn says

This book was a hard book for me to read, causing me to relive abusive situations and the hardships endured raising my own two children on my own. It was a good thing though, it isn't good to dwell on the hurts of the past and Finding Gloria has helped me realize that I am in charge of my own personal healing. I would recommend this book.

Mitsy says

This is a hard story to read. Ms. Curtis provides just enough detail to keep this a very fast paced book. It brings out every possible emotion except happiness. I don't believe anyone can feel happiness even with the ending. Relief, maybe. :) When you read this, have a box of tissue nearby. I wrote that right after I finished the book, which is sometimes my mistake.

Finding Gloria is an inspiring story of a child, teen and woman who is knocked down countless times, yet keeps getting back up. She keeps fighting. She shows a resiliency that is so admirable. She teaches people hope, strength and to never give up no matter how bad life gets. She shows remarkable patience in certain situations where I know I would have not had that patience. She has an openness about her that is so lovable. Hers is an amazing story.

Marianne says

This is a special edition complete with photos. I invite you into my life and realize that no matter how bad life may be, there is always hope. It is our choice to live our lives and be free from our pasts.

Debra Robinson says

This is a really good book. Not only does it bring you into the world, heart and mind of an abused child, it follows the child into adulthood, truly highlighting the long-term effects of abuse on a person's psychological development.

The stories are heartbreakingly fascinating—especially from the point of view of anyone who has suffered abuse themselves. Its "happy ending" shows how Marianne has triumphed over her past, her power of forgiveness empowers the reader and shows there is light at the end of a long tunnel.

I loved the book and hope Marianne will consider writing more memoirs of her time as a child—as there are usually many different aspects that can be told of an abused life and its outcomes. Marianne's book is a great gift to all of those who've ever been abused, and her triumph over her past gives us all hope, abused or not.

Patricia Hamill says

Heartbreaking and inspirational...

Finding Gloria is the true story of a young girl who grows up in an abusive home and how that experience shapes her adult years. Although this book could have easily focused on nothing but the horrors the author experienced, it takes a more constructive approach. Reflections of both the good and bad, brought into context with insights gained at great cost throughout her life, build a picture that is at times hard to read, but always well worth the effort.

I think one of the things that most hit home to me is how candidly the author catalogs her experiences. I can only imagine how difficult it would be to write such an account, let alone publish it for all to see. For someone haunted by low self-worth and trust issues, as Marianne admits in her book, it is quite a feat. I could relate to Marianne, as both someone who experienced bullying and someone who grew up with a mentally disordered mother. While my experiences were never as bad as Marianne's, they helped me understand her perspective and made me grateful for my own mother, quirks and all, who always supported me even when she didn't know what to do with herself.

As the author states up front, this book is hard to read at times, but the ending is a happy one. It was great to see that even after everything she lived through, Marianne was able to find love and acceptance and to raise four wonderful children. The pictures at the end were an added bonus.

I recommend this book for anyone who likes inspirational books and memoirs and especially for those who had a tough childhood or who suffered abuse.

Tracey Peake says

I must say I was shocked, saddened and overjoyed for Marianne all in one book. She has shared the most personal moments and still comes out smiling at the end, it truly teaches you that no matter what you deal with in life, nothing is impossible to overcome. Thank you for sharing your story, it is one that I will never forget.

Rhonda Rae Baker says

This memoir was a three for me because of editorial issues and redundant as well as missing information...could use a total rewrite and something I notice with several self-published books.

However, the content and story value deserves four stars because the message is important. I don't know if all readers will understand the tragedies and difficulties of this author because of the presentation, which is sad. I understood the layers here and have respect for the author because I've been through similar circumstance and the rest my children have experienced.

There is so much here...if you can get past the lack of polished prose, I am sure the message of hope will come through. I will be digging into this story again...deconstructing for greater understanding. Great job Marianne...thank you for reaching out and helping others by your message of victory.

Leila Summers says

A brave and extremely honest recount from a woman who, despite having been told that she was worthless, remained determined to make something of her life. Marianne's story is heartbreakingly honest, and at times her decisions are exasperating, yet her resilience shines through. There were some typos in the first edition and I felt there were a few missing details, but overall this is a well-crafted story of determination, rising above the odds, forgiveness, love, and hope. The ending is powerful. Thank you Marianne for sharing your story, which I am sure will be healing to many others besides yourself.

Liberty Forrest says

This is a powerful story of triumph over tragedy as the author takes you through a life of abuse, loss, and pain that ultimately led her to a place of healing, hope, and recovery.

With such honesty and clarity as you will find in these pages, it is impossible not to feel every bit of this emotional roller coaster.

It is a valuable teaching tool that demonstrates many of the consequences of living in a toxic environment - and that also demonstrates the strength and courage that we can find within ourselves, if we would only look for it.

Irene says

Words to describe Finding Gloria: Captivating, Tragic, Inspirational, Moving. The author pours her heart onto those pages and it shines through!

Here is a blurb from my blog review:

"All that said, I did love the courage, the determination, the journey to healing that Marianne Curtis showed within the pages of her novel. Her writing style completely drew me in from page one and I finished the book within hours of starting it. You could not pry my iPhone out of my hands (Kindle App...LOVE it!) One of the things I want to note is how the story flows. There is a quality to it that makes it feel as if you are experiencing it with the author. Her life's lessons and struggles are hard for anyone to swallow, but they really make you think. For those few hours on New Years Eve I felt like I was living it along side her. When she was telling her birth mothers tale, I felt the pain of that mother come through on the pages. When she spoke of desperately trying to escape her home, I was praying that she could too. When she connects with her birth family via Facebook, I was ecstatic! I have to say, one of my favorite parts of the book comes toward the end. No spoilers, but I will hint and say it is very spiritual and (in my opinion) brings things full circle."

If you are looking to read more... here is the link to my full review!

<http://reeniediva.blogspot.ca/2013/01...>
