



Through The Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World

Lynne Spears

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We all want our children to succeed. What happens when they do?

Britney Spears wanted to sing ever since she was a little girl. But the years of sacrifices, auditions, performances, albums, fame, and paparazzi left the little Louisiana family swept up and spun around, and nothing turned out the way anyone ever imagined or wanted. Now Lynne shares the inside story of the Spears family as only a mother can.

Through the Storm takes readers outside the narrow orbit of the Hollywood glitterati. Lynne shares how fame forever changed their family; her regrets letting managers, agents, and record companies direct the lives of her children; the challenges that shaped Lynne and Jamie's failed marriage and how they affected Bryan, Britney, and Jamie Lynn; the startling events that led to Britney's breakdown; the aftermath of Jamie Lynn's pregnancy; and how the family has tried pulling together to recapture a sense of hope and purpose.

Through the Storm, says Lynne, is "the story of one simple Southern woman whose family got caught in a tornado called fame, and who is still trying to sort through the debris scattered all over her life in the aftermath. It's who I am, warts and all, with some true confessions that took a long time to get up the nerve to discuss."

Through The Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World Details

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Author : Lynne Spears

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From Reader Review Through The Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World for online ebook

Maranda (addlebrained_reader) says

I became interested in this book because I recently became addicted to the Britney Spears “Womanizer” song. I know! You do not have to say it...I know. Anyway...

When I read the introduction to the book I was hopeful that it would be a heartfelt memoir from a mother who loves all her children unconditionally. Lynne Spears begins the book by asserting that this book is dedicated to her children and she wants them to know how much she loves them, no matter what horrible things have happened in their lives. She goes on to state that this book will not be gossip about her children but is instead her own memoir and thoughts on the fame and tabloid stories her daughters have experienced.

The beginning of the book is about Lynne’s parents, her childhood, adolescence, marriage, and relationships with her sister and friends. The deeper into the book I delved the more annoyed I became. Lynne constantly mentioned Britney’s and Jamie Lynn’s situations throughout her own history. Though she mentioned her first born, Bryan, in the beginning and throughout the book his part seemed to be an afterthought that was added in later when she realized he should be a part of the story.

I felt as if Lynne Spears was “name dropping” throughout the book and making herself seem more important than she actually is. She mentioned her own heartache by watching Britney’s career and its downward spiral. Including how devastated she was as she watched her middle child shave her head on television.

I also noticed that throughout the story she made excuses as to why she could not be with Britney in certain instances. She did not travel with Britney when she recorded her first album. She was not with Britney when her children were taken away. She was not with Britney when she spiraled out of control and infamously shaved her head. The book was riddled with instances of how she was needed elsewhere.

All in all, I believe this book was Lynne’s attempt to clear her name in the public eye and make her children out to be victims of fame and fortune. The book was erratic at best and followed no true timeline or direction. I am glad I did not purchase this book as I would have been disappointed by the loss of money. But then, who am I? Each reader forms his or her opinions independent of my thoughts or perceptions. But if you choose to partake in this “narrative” be wary of the strategies that went into this book.

Holly (2 Kids and Tired) says

I liked this book more than I thought I would. I figured it would be some tabloid-esque piece of trivia. What I found, instead, was a thoughtful book written by a loving mother. Lynne shares her story and that of her famous family. She shares the ups and downs as well as her fears.

An incredibly easy book to read and while somewhat shallow and trivial, I came away with the impression that Lynne was very naive and trusting when it came to allowing her daughters to pursue their dreams of entertaining. She blindly trusted too many people, rather than educating herself about the entertainment world and taking an active role in her daughters' careers.

I also understood her fear and distrust of the media. I believe very little of what I read and hear reported by media outlets. I think that the entertainment media, especially, have a distinct lack of integrity in their reporting.

I don't follow Britney Spears in the media. I really don't care about her or her life. I did, however, appreciate the viewpoint her mother gives about how difficult life in the public eye can be. I'm sure that Lynne Spears is a loving, concerned mother just like the rest of us. Parenting itself is difficult, parenting in a fishbowl must be a nightmare.

Elizabeth says

Source: I own a copy of this book.

Note: These are my personal opinions. I received no outside person comments or opinions.

Let me start out by saying that I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I am a fan of the Spears family and reading this book, I felt I got a better look into who they are.

Plain and simple: The Spears family are just that. They are people. The tabloids do a good job glamorizing and trashing celebrities, but they forget that in the end they are people with lives and history like everyone else.

Lynne Spears is one strong woman. She did a fantastic job detailing her version of who the Spears family really are in this book. From dealing with an alcoholic husband and divorce, to almost losing a child, losing many family members, dealing with bankruptcy, to the rise to fame her daughters achieved and all the struggles that came along with that, Lynne Spears has had quite a life.

What this book is not:

1. A tell all gossip book about her famous daughters.
2. A book story told to make you feel sympathy for the family.

What this book is:

1. A book detailing the life of Lynne Spears.
2. A book detailing the struggles and setbacks the Spears family faced throughout their lives.
3. Details briefly what Jamie Lynn and Britney went through while accomplishing their dreams.

Do Not buy this book if you are looking for gossip. Its not in these pages. While Lynne touches briefly on the show biz aspect of her daughter's careers and their struggles with their lives, Lynne mainly focuses on her life and her struggles and how she dealt with everything that happened.

Kristen Wampner says

Book Cover: I thought the cover was nice with a good picture and good/appropriate book title. *STAR*

Author: I thought Lynne Spears had a creative way of writing by incorporating in her own personal poetry from a journal she has kept through the years. *STAR*

Story: I felt like this story overall was more or less as dedication to Lynne Spears sister though she does a good job of telling her side of the story and how she viewed things. I kind of got the feeling that she held back and danced around certain topics. No Star

Characters: In the midst of this book you wonder to yourself what would you do in the position of Lynne Spears and I think she really comes full circle after all is said and done and realizes that she could have and should have supervised and managed differently but at the beginning of the book I had a feeling of fake character if you will like all for show. No STAR

Cleanliness: There was nothing bad in this book *STAR*

Overall Review: This book was an interesting ok read but nothing I would brag about. Lynne Spears does share a lot of intimate details of her personal life. When I first started reading it I had a fake impression of character but it got better the more I read. I don't know that I would read it again but it was an ok read.

Eva Leger says

A simple southern schoolteacher. A Simple southern mama. A Simple this and a simple that.

That's all good and fine- but actions speak louder than words. None of the the simple southern people I've ever seen, besides Spears of course, are seen "dripping in diamonds"- I should note here that the diamonds she's dripping in aren't real- they're fake. Hmmmmm. Not buying it.

I went into this with a *very* open mind. I'm not ashamed to have bought the book myself. I'm not ashamed to like Britney- I like her a lot actually. But the book itself is really very mediocre. Lynne was trying to get the world to believe her and not the media. I would do the same I'm sure. The only problem is that Lynne doesn't come off as being honest. In fact, she fails miserably.

Don't get me wrong- there were some parts that were okay. The parts where she talked about how she loves being a mother struck home and struck me as real- because *I* love being a mother.

I had a problem with the parts- and there were many- where she put the blame on anyone else- *except Lynne Spears*. Then, at the end, she tells us mothers to embrace ourselves and not to live with regret, that we all make mistakes we wish we could have a chance to do over. Well, everything else she wrote in the book went against that.

She never did this that the media portrayed, she never did that. She never let Jamie Lynn sleep with that boy, she never was going to have Britney locked up, she never "wanted" Britney to become so large, she never took money for an interview- matter of fact, she never even *gave* an interview. All the 'exclusives' we've all seen have come from her innocent words to strangers in public places. Yeah, I guess that's normal...I always air my dirty laundry to the woman behind me at Dunkin Donuts.

I wish I could have done this review as I was reading but my computer was down yesterday and it's a fast read- it only took me about a day and a half. (Keep in mind I was reading it for 25 points for my Spring

Challenge also.) I've forgotten a lot of the little things I wanted to mention.

That's neither here nor there because anyone who has read or who does read the book will of course come to their own conclusions. It's really not very hard to see at all what Lynne tried to do. She wants the blame on anyone else but herself. Whatever, that doesn't effect me so I can't honestly say I care. She could have tried to be a little more compelling though in my opinion.

I like the woman really- moms do make mistakes. Being pushed into sudden fame of that magnitude had to be crazy. I probably would have thought the industry people knew better than me also.

Another thing I didn't like that didn't get too bad until the end was the religious aspect. The entire book it was there but kind of in the background which was cool. We actually share the same religion and most of the same beliefs....but....I still don't like anything religious being shoved down my throat and at the end there was a lot of shoving. I don't need Lynne Spears to tell me God holds me in His hand. I either believe that or I don't and nothing she does or says will change that. I don't need her to let me know that He forgives me for my sins. She really should stick to worrying about *her* sins and not what God is doing.

Laren says

You know how sometimes you're in a library with a massive migraine medication hangover and you pick out books that seem like a good idea at the time, but of course they are not? :) Well, this is one of those books for me.

The author is the mother of Britney and Jaime Lynn Spears, and she does a fabulous job of not spilling any dirt on her famous children beyond the embarrassing childhood stories which are completely harmless. I have a lot of respect for her for this, as well as for her strong Christian faith which she emphasizes throughout the book. Unfortunately, as a story, this book doesn't hang together well as a result. We don't really come to understand exactly how the events unfolded or why she made the choices she did (other than her own admission that she deferred too many decisions to the "experts" managing her children's careers and would do it differently if she could). And in some places this vagueness is very unsettling, as in the part where she tells of a car accident where she was driving and someone in the other car ended up dead. She avoids saying directly what happened, saying only that the victim "was hit". My overall impression is that this is a woman who lets life happen to her rather than taking control of it. So she has no real advice to offer anyone for anything - this book is just a vague story and nothing more.

Literarily Disturbed says

"At some point, children are going to make their own choices, regardless of the parenting they received." - Lynn Spears

I wholeheartedly agree with this quote. Not because this is one of the points Lynn tries to make in this book, but because it seriously bugs me when parents are blamed for their children's mistakes.

Anyhow.

I enjoyed this book - but like 90 percent of my enjoyment was because I'm biased - I was a huge fan of

Britney and Jamie Lynn growing up (which is the only reason I picked up this book).

On that note - the point of this book was to illustrate how fame and the tabloids affected the Spears family. I feel that she spent a bit too much time talking about her parents lives and her life and marriage pre-kids and pre-fame, her friends... Etc. Like, it's not really relevant. It was annoying. It has nothing to do with anything.

I don't want to complain about her writing style because she's just a mom telling her story. But even ignoring that- why the poems? Why the snippets from her journal? So many time she said "if you've ever experienced x then you've felt x and know what I'm talking about" - UM yes we all know that's how things work.

The stories of her children were quite vague or under-detailed summaries of events. I mean, I can understand no juicy gossip - but any other stories would've sufficed. It was mostly "oh my kid did this thing and I was furious but by the grace of God we will get through this"

Toward the end of the book- the last few chapters discussing Britney post-2007-meltdown but pre-comeback - Lynn's trauma of that situation is reflected so well on those pages - and just her writing style in general got better - if she wrote a mystery/suspense novel like that I would eat it up!

I realise that this review doesn't make much sense. Oops.

Becky says

I am a huge fan of the family, and I could not wait to read this book. Let me just say, it is to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Unless you've been hiding under a rock, this explains little about her children that the media hadn't already told you. But Momma Spears

can give you an insight to why she wanted more for her daughters. She is keen to spit she wasn't a pushy stage parent, but from this book

you do wonder that she did push, she just did not want her kids to have the same life that she did in tumbleweed town.

She says that Britney saved her marriage, but that only preludes that Britney was to be the life force of the family and had to do everything for them.

Lynne was addicted to the shine of encouraging her daughter out of a tinpot town and probably the prize money with it.

This book is pretty much a rebuttal on what the public think of her, though she does little to explain otherwise, asked about Britney's breakdown in 2007

she claims she 'doesn't know' what happened. And she couldn't communicate with her daughter for as much as a year with no explanation.

To any fans, 'Inside Britney' by Steve Dennis is a more accurate read of events.

James E. Robinson, III says

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book for review.

Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World from Thomas Nelson Publishers is

nearly an autobiography of Lynne Spears. Mother of Britney and Jamie Lynn Spears.

Why read this book? If for no other reason than to glean some wise words from a mother who has rode waves that few of us will ever see. I believe that is reason enough. If you are a pop-culture addict, this will likely give you a fix too. I'm pretty pop-ignorant so several issues were new to me.

The book is an easy read; set aside a mere four hours to make it cover to cover. It is well written and is formulated similar to a screenplay -- a foreshadow perhaps? The primary story arc is about Lynne, with a second encompassing the eldest daughter; however, there are other subplots which are diverse and interspersed enough to keep you engaged. The book has thirty chapters and i only found myself frustrated with a couple of them (ie. screaming move along).

Lynne is a mom who loves her children and is forced to deal with some surreal circumstances that sound sadly familiar coming from Hollywood land -- the Sheen/Estévez family comes to mind. While Mrs. Spears is quick to tell you where the media was wrong in their portrayal of her in the many public sagas, she makes no attempt to paint herself as a perfect mother.

Lastly, i had no idea that paparazzi is the plural form of paparrazo.

J says

Picked this book up as a light, silly read. It did not disappoint. It was interesting in ways the author probably did not intend. If you can take the author's view of reality with a grain of salt, it is an entertaining read.

By page 13, you can see the makings of a train wreck waiting to happen. On page two, she talks about her happiest days when Britney was building her a "grandeose" home. She contrasts this with her lowest point - when Britney shaved off her hair. Interestingly, she doesn't include her sister's death or Jaime Lynn's pregnancy as a low point. Later, she also admits to killing a young boy (she hit him with her car), but this only gets a couple paragraphs and is not included in any of her great regrets.

She tellingly writes that she has spent her entire life seeking someone who would take care of her as well as her "daddy" did. Note: As a Northerner it felt very weird to read a grown woman address her parents as "daddy" and "mama". Reading in between the lines, it is easy to tell the family had to constantly manage Lynn and her emotions. She spends much of this book discussing her emotions and obviously has a very high regard for them.

I found it very interesting how a women with such a storied past can talk so self righteously about herself and her family. She seems to be open and honest about her past (or at least her perception of it) but has no shame about anything. For example, she says she doesn't believe in divorce while talking about how she married a previously divorced man and then eventually divorced him herself. She doesn't see the contradiction between her statements and her actions. She definitely espouses a philosophy of relativism.

She also has a weird understanding of spirituality. It made me cringe that Lynn Spears frequently referenced her faith and the bible. She bends religion to suit her desires and gives Christians a very bad image. She uses her faith as a shield against responsibility and an excuse for her actions. For example, she repeats a couple times that God opened the doors for Britney's stardom, so she can't be faulted for allowing the family to

“walk through a door God himself opened”.

I did read the entire book. It was refreshingly short and had nice chapter breaks. It was very readable in terms of writing style. Reading this book was like a blast from the past, reminding me of a time when people cared about Britney and were scandalized by her.

Suzy says

This book is far from a tell-all book and it is rather on the short side. It doesn't tell you that much different than what you can pick up from the Internet. There are no major revelations, new information or sordid gossip about the Spears sisters. It is however, a good read about a mother's perspective of living with daughters with phenomenal fame. I think the purpose of the book is to let people know that as a mother she didn't allow things to happen to Britney, she isn't an irresponsible mother, she isn't a showbiz mom and that she has her both her daughter's (as well as her son/grandchildren's) interests at heart. But the book also talks about Lynne's upbringing, family, stormy marriage and tremendously supportive friends.

The most interesting part of the book for me was the discussion around the first Rolling Stone cover shoot and showed how sharks in the industry appeared to purposefully sexualise their daughter by praying on a young girl who wasn't aware of what was going on. Lynne and Jamie come across as very naive parents, thrown into fame without warning or knowledge of how to act or handle very hostile and precocious situations. I also found the part about Britney's breakdown interesting, not that it really tells you all that much. Just Lynne's observations - nothing juicy.

I would say this is only an interesting read if you have followed Britney's career. For fan's (like me) it doesn't tell you much new, more like a different perspective.

claire says

I really struggled with how to review this book. On the one hand, the writing is atrocious. I can't even begin to explain how bad it is, needless to say there are lots of exclamation marks.

On the other hand, I couldn't put it down. It was like watching a train wreck. So that means there must've been something worthwhile about it.

Bryon says

Book title: Through the Storm
Author(s): Lynne Spears, Lorilee Cracker
Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2008
Number of pages: 206

Lynne Spears sets the record straight. She is not the insane “stage mom” the media says she is. Out of the chute, Spear's book takes the defensive posture of a woman used to dodging rabid paparazzi.

Despite pre-release press reports, this book does not attempt to give advice about parenting. That's good because as I write this, tabloid covers in check-out stands across America announce Jamie Lynne Spears, 17, the youngest of the Spears brood, is pregnant. Again.

The book is a great read if you enjoy memoirs (as I do) or you are a pop culture junkie. Whether you think Lynne Spears did a stellar job raising her kids or not, you'll find yourself emotionally involved in the Spears family story.

As much as I enjoyed the narrative, I was continuously under the impression that Spears saw herself the victim of circumstances. Her husband's alcoholism, Britney's meteoric rise to fame, bad choices, ravenous press and paparazzi, and a young daughter that deceived her about the fidelity of her teenage love all converged to create a perfect storm. Lynne Spears could barely keep her head above water.

The story would read better if Spears owned some of life's outcomes. She visited, briefly, some bad choices she made, but readers are better served when shortcomings and failings are owned and learned from. I was distracted by constant blame-shifting. I kept thinking what if you did this or that? Here's an example: Mom supported Britney pursuit of her dreams. She was ecstatic when Britney's debut song blew past expectations and Baby, One More Time topped the charts. Baby, one more time do what? Spears confesses that she didn't think Britney's song would get very much recognition (she hoped it would get a little), but this kind of song is a formula for making one's daughter a sex object and a record company money maker. This is not a new phenomenon in American culture.

What I don't want to do is discount the faith of Lynne Spears. Everyone I know has regrets about how they've engaged their children with faith in Christ and living life in the real world. Incredible tension exists between the two. No one is exempt from second guessing their choices. Spears brings that out. Ultimately, I respect her for hanging on to her faith. She continues to pray for her grown children and sow the seed of God's Word into the lives of her children and grandchildren. For that reason and for the many interesting twists and turns the Spears story takes, I'd commend this book to anybody with teens in their home or young adults launching out on their own. It will force the reader to think beyond the moment as future decisions are made.

<http://mondokblog.blogspot.com/2008/1...>

Trupti Dorge says

hmmm...what can I say about this book. Let's start with what I already knew and what is it that I know now.

What the book is about: This book is an autobiography of Britney Spears mother, Lynne Spears. As the front cover put's it, the book is 'A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid'.

What I already knew: Whether you like Britney Spears or not, no one can deny that almost everyone knows her. I knew a little about her career graph, her breakup with Justin, her first marriage fiasco, her second marriage to Kevin and also that she has 2 sons. Recently I read that her younger sister Jamie was pregnant (I didn't know she was in showbiz too) I had read a little on Sam Mufti but wasn't too familiar with him and his relationship with Britney. I liked Britney and I do like her even now (I know). There is something about her that does not make me hate or dislike her. I just feel really bad about her life and what it has become.

My impressions on the book: When you read a memoir or an autobiography it is very difficult to separate the person from the book. Judging the book is judging the person writing it. I'll try not to but it might be a little difficult here.

When I saw Britney's shaved head splashing on the television all I could think was, 'poor girl, why is she doing this? Where is her family?' Specifically, 'Where is her mother?'.

I knew absolutely nothing about her mother. This book is more about her life and how she faced the difficult times. She clears at the beginning of the book that this book does not contain any gossip. I did not start this book in intention of getting any inside scoop, I just wanted to know how an extremely successful pop star who had everything could throw away her life like this. As I said I really like Britney Spears.

Lynne Spears was born in a small town in Kentwood, Louisiana. She was very close to her mom who was a war bride from London. I think she had one sister Sandra and a brother Sonny. There is in fact a lot on Sandra in the book. Lynne married Jamie Spears and gave birth to Brian after a short time. After that she had Britney and 10 years later, an unplanned child Jamie Lynn(named after herself and her husband).

Jamie was an on-off alcoholic and Lynne had to struggle with managing the finances and also worrying about her relationship with her husband. Although I have read a lot of reviews which said she tried to blame Jamie for many things that went wrong, I don't see it that way. Living with an alcoholic is very difficult and something that has permanent consequences on any family. I don't think there was a blame game as far as Jamie was concerned.

Britney was very talented and loved performing since she was really young. Although the tabloids said she was a stage mom and wanted to gain fame and wealth through her daughter, Lynne Spears denies it. She says she never pushed her daughter into something she didn't want to do. As she puts it, 'doors opened and we just walked in'. As Britney became famous after her single 'baby one more time', she lost control of her daughter. She left everything to Britney's managers and the record company.

After a while, she and Britney were estranged. She does not really go much into why and how. When Sam Mufti came into the picture she decided to take control of the situation with the help of her husband persuaded the court to put a restraining order on him. I felt really uncomfortable and sad after reading the section on Sam Mufti. I never liked him in the first place and reading the book has intensified my dislike.

Lynne does not give any more information on Britney than the tabloids did and that's something I really liked about the book. She has also written some really disturbing incidents concerning the media which were really shocking. She says although she knew fame comes with a price, she didn't know how big the price would be.

Conclusion: This book is a good reminder of what a perfectly normal, close knit family from a rural American town can go through when they are thrown into sudden fame and scrutiny. I think the real purpose in writing this book was to clear her side of the things (although Lynne says it isn't), but that's how the book comes across. From the way I see it, Lynne and her family was incapable of handling the package that fame comes in. The only accusation I'll throw on her after reading the book is being too passive and naive. She trusted other people and even her daughters too much. I think she did her best with whatever she had and the only way she knew how to. I have a more compassion towards Britney and her family now and I really hope that Britney manages to come out of it.

P.S: The writing is bad but the book is an easy read, good to breeze through.

Bridget B says

Yes, yes I did actually read this book, and it was exactly how I thought it would be. My interest in the story was born of the fact that I was in ninth grade when Britney Spears become the second-coming of teen-pop in 1999, and I've always been somewhat fascinated by exactly how much a tidal wave of fame and excruciating scrutiny played in how she and her sister grew up. I was honestly never a big fan, but some of her singles are indisputably catchy, I did buy a few of her albums as a teen, and I even went to see "Crossroads" with girlfriends in the theater in 2002. I remember feeling sad for B-Spears when she seemed to really struggle for a few years. There was some tearful, primetime interview with her once, where she said something to the effect of "I'm from a small town and all of this is really hard," and I recall thinking, that person is really struggling and we're all watching her like hyenas.

I digress--that, in summary, is why I was like, "yeah, I am *actually* going to read this book."

As for the book, itself (written by B-Spears' mother, Lynne), there are parts that are interesting, but at least for me, much of those parts were about small-town life in Kentwood, Louisiana, as I have an affinity for, and great interest in, Louisiana and all of the things that make it so. The stuff about the Spears' family troubles with finances, alcoholism, the loss of a beloved aunt to cancer, and what Lynne Spears describes as B-Spears' postpartum depression, provides some humanizing context to the culmination of B-Spears' public struggles that began in roughly 2007.

I think the other engaging piece of this book was the explanation of just how much work B-Spears put in to becoming famous, and, if you believe her mother, was not pushed into putting in all that work. The woman earned her spot by showing up and winning people over, and, as it seems, would eventually suffer from the fame that came of it. Also, Lynne Spears really likes Kevin Federline--who knew? K-Fed is described here as a solid, A+ Dad, so good for that guy.

The book has some egregious typos, and I'm not a particularly religious person, so all of the connections to God didn't resonate with me as they might with other readers, but I knew going in that that was the kind of book I was picking up. The author is entitled to say it like she sees it.

I can't "recommend" this book to anyone who doesn't share the same sort of anthropological/personal interest in the subject matter, but if you've ever once felt like the Spears women were raked over the coals a bit too heartily by the collective pack of wild dogs that is America, I don't know, you might read this book some afternoon?
