



Liverpool Miss

Helen Forrester

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The second volume of Helen Forrester's powerful, painful and ultimately uplifting four-volume autobiography of her poverty-stricken childhood in Liverpool during the Depression. The Forrester family are slowly winning their fight for survival. But fourteen-year-old Helen's personal battle is to persuade her parents to allow her to earn her own living, to lead her own life after the years of neglect and inadequate schooling while she cared for her six younger brothers and sisters. Her untiring struggles against illness caused by severe malnutrition and dirt (she has her first bath in four years) and, above all, the selfish demands of her parents, make this a story of amazing courage and perseverance.

Liverpool Miss Details

Date : Published January 28th 1982 by Fontana Paperbacks (first published 1979)

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Author : Helen Forrester

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From Reader Review Liverpool Miss for online ebook

Redfox5 says

This second instalment of the life story of Helen Forrester was just as good as the first one.

It had been so long since I read the first one, that I had forgotten that they came from a well to do family who had fallen on bad times, rather than just being born into poverty.

Helen's parents really annoyed me. They were awful to her. It's pet hate of mine, when parents have kids and then expect older siblings to look after them. She was responsible for everyone and was trapped in that house for so long. Her parents kept spending all the money on crap rather than food, even though their children were starving. And even when they finally let Helen have a job, the small essentials she buys for herself get nicked by her own mother! The worst was when she just needed a pound for the holiday. And her mum doesn't tell her until an hour before the train is about to leave that she's spent it. So cruel.

Although I loved reading this, it did just end without any sort of conclusion but it does leave me pretty desperate to read the next one.

Barbra says

Everyone should read this moving account of poverty.

Back Cover Blurb:

The continuing story of Helen Forrester's poverty-stricken childhood in Liverpool during the Depression. The Forrester family are slowly winning their fight for survival. But fourteen year old Helen's personal battle is to persuade her parents to allow her to earn her own living, to lead her own life after the years of neglect and inadequate schooling while she cared for her six younger siblings. Her untiring struggles against illness caused by severe malnutrition and dirt (she had her first bath in four years) and, above all, the selfish demands of her parents, make this a story of amazing courage and perseverance.

Nikki Bywater says

Following on from the first novel, Helen is still stuck in poverty and when a job opportunity comes up for Helen, she must fight for her independence with her mother. Helen is determined to go out to work and to improve her lifestyle, only to find her life made harder by her family circumstances and illness brought on by living in poverty.

Set in the 1930's Depression, Helen Forrester writes her own true life account of growing up poverty-stricken in Liverpool. Following on from the first novel Twopence to Cross the Mersey, this is a very moving and heart told story. You really do feel for Helen and all she has got to go through, it is a quite remarkable story, well worth the read.

Paula Liebe says

This book was given to me by friend. I had never heard of the author, but I'm glad I found her, and I'm sorry she has passed away, because now I can't tell her how much I liked her book. Although it wasn't the page turner that the 'Glass Castle' was for me, I kept picking it up over a period of 6 months. I really like Helen's style of writing. Not overly poetic, but a beautiful clear and honest style. I love memoirs like these; the incredible poverty and parents who are out of touch with reality, and the incredible determination of the heroine to get out of her misery with her desire to work and educate herself.

Rena says

This Helen Forrester series of books consumed me for a few weeks until I finished the series. I cannot believe that this woman lived the life described in these books and turned out to be quite normal. I just wanted to grab her and take her to a home with caring parents. I wanted to slap her mother and shake some sense into her. Both her parents were nuts. But the story Helen tells about her life was beautifully written.

This series was very popular among the teen girls of England back in the 80's.

Yvonne Vankosky says

Again I really enjoyed Helen's writing. Her account of her life during the tragedy of the second world war is amazing.

allbooksnoheart says

I devoured this book. I first read Helen Forrester's first book in this series, Twopence To Cross The Mersey when I was about 11 and loved it, I have often reread it since, but back then I was of an age with the book Helen and I could understand her world, the sequels however as they are for an adult audience I struggled with as I was too young and naive and just not in the right place in my life to get them. Now I do and I find I loved this one almost as much as the first!

Bonnie says

Recommended I read. Won't say by who, but I know why and agree with her reasoning. Not saying I would recommend to others.

Hannah Polley says

3.5 stars really.

A sad story of poverty that the author endured as she grew up in Liverpool.

As the eldest of several children, and with parents who had irresponsible spending habits, Helen had to try and keep the family going, often going without herself.

A sad story but also an inspiring one.

Diana says

I absolutely love her writing, it's brilliant.

Her parents, in particular, her mother was cruel and an awful human being. I'll never understand how Helen continuously forgave her and even felt compassion for such a selfish individual.

Helen has become one of my favorite authors, even though I have to wait for interlibrary loans to receive a book, as my city library doesn't carry them.

Fazackerly Toast says

I simply cannot believe how appalling her parents are. The other thing that strikes me is what a difference the smallest gesture and piece of human kindness is to the poor struggling soul.

Alison says

Third book in her autobiographical series, looking at the time of Living in Liverpool after hardship and poverty and trying to make the most of it. Still having to help her family, and working low class jobs in order to survive, this has been a remarkable series about resilience, poverty and prejudice along with the reality of survival in a country where it shouldn't have been such a large issue in the 20th century. A must read series.

Angela Wilson says

Set in Liverpool during the Depression it is story of a young girl's perseverance in a time of great hardship. It continues, from her previous book 'Twopence to cross the Mersey' about the childhood of the author in the poverty- stricken city, her efforts to improve her education by attending night-school and her first job.

Anna says

This is a true story. Wow. Very sad, but so touching. You really learned the thoughts of the main character and her feelings and how she dealt with her extreme poverty growing up as a child to a young woman. It made me feel bad for ever complaining about being tired when I work...at least I get three good meals every day...she didn't even get that.

Josephine (Jo) says

The second book in the quartet of biographies by Helen Forrester. I have read them all before and find them so touching and inspiring. The fact that Helen managed to survive the dreadful physical and mental neglect of her childhood is nothing short of a miracle. Her feckless parents, unable to manage in their new reduced circumstances, put themselves and all the other children before Helen when it came to the handing out of any small amount of food or clothing. Helen survived only because of her own tenacity and her desire to try and educate herself! I have so much admiration for a young girl who, used to having all the good things in life, suddenly found herself plunged into life of dire poverty. These books would give hope to anyone who feels that they are unable to better themselves and rise out of a world of poverty.
