



LOVE CHILD

A.M. TORRES



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Tommy Livan Hulette never asked to be born, but it seems like everyone wants to make him pay for it even so. His life is normal enough at first. He's content to live with his mother, and father, and his beloved sister Greta. He has dreams of playing baseball, so he's content to have his stickball where he plays with good friends. He is determined to one day play professional baseball so he could one day move his family out of the ghetto neighborhood they all despise. Tommy is hopeful especially when he meets the lovely and exciting Stephanie Mandan. Things really look up then. However his mother sinks into a deep depression which will lead her to end her life. This devastates Tommy and his life is changed forever. On top of this his father decides he cannot afford to stay with them so he sends Tommy and Greta to a cruel relative Tommy never knew about. And this relative is cruel. He hates Tommy and always has. He wants Tommy to die. He wants him to kill himself the same way his mother did. How will Tommy fight this while keeping his sister safe at the same time?

Love Child Details

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From Reader Review Love Child for online ebook

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Amy W

Book provided by the author for review

Originally posted at Romancing the Book

Author A.M. Torres delivers a story highlighting the horrors of child abuse and poverty in Love Child.

The storyline immediately triggers similarities to the Flowers in the Attic series by VC Andrews. It's a dark tale that gains momentum with each twist and turn.

To set the scene, Tommy and his little sister live in a cockroach-infested apartment with their parents. At 13, he's a devoted big brother who has a passion for baseball. The problem centers around his mother whose behavior could change in a heartbeat from loving to abusive.

Bullied at school, the atmosphere isn't much better at home. Even a potential friendship is shot down when the girl's father discovers where Tommy lives. After a family tragedy, the children are sent away to live with a couple. The revelation of a family secret rocks Tommy's life and he learns about being a love child.

At this point, readers get a glimpse of life in a beautiful mansion. However, it soon becomes evident that living with the cockroaches might have been a safer place to be.

While I give the author credit for an interesting storyline, I didn't enjoy it because there were too many distractions that easily could have been remedied by some editing TLC. The punctuation, or lack thereof, plays a significant role in setting the tone. A solid editor would tear through the repetition, leaving a truly beautiful piece of work.

As it is, though, it reminds me of a cake taken out of the oven before it's ready. The ingredients are all there, mixed properly, but it's not a finished product.

The addition of a cliffhanger ending does entice the reader to want more, but my hopes are that the second book is more polished than its predecessor.

Maryjane says

I recently finished reading "Love Child". Wow. It was not what I had expected. What horrible things people do to good kids with good hearts. Thomas deserved none of what he received. I am hoping your next book is kinder towards him. And I hope that his sister is found alive.... I am still upset over what I read because I know these things happen and we can't protect all of our children all of the time. No one or no species should be treated the way these two beautiful children were treated. My God! Then, to be dumped by your surviving "parent" - my gosh..... The only real parent you have ever known.

I also wanted to stress that the Tommy character is a strong one. He carries himself well throughout the entire book. It's interesting to see his thought process. He is quite adult for his age. I especially liked him. His sister Greta was a good character as well. She was a charming little girl. Another strong character is a rich girl named Stephanie who cares about everyone. She's kind. She volunteers in the ghetto and befriends Tommy and Greta. Stephanie turns out to be a true and brave hero.

This is my critique as simple as it is. Ana Torres, you are a good writer. Stay with your dreams..... I look forward to reading your next book.

MJ Eichinger

Helene Crawford says

I'm writing because "Love Child" is one the most emotion filled books that I've ever read. It tells of a brother & younger sister who fight together to stay alive through in comparable odds. This book makes you happy to be alive whatever circumstances you find yourself in.

Ana Torres certainly knows feelings and how to describe them - they appear real to her. This is a master piece which you loose yourself in from beginning to end.

A.M. Torres says

I am the author of this book so I gave it five stars for that's how I hope most people find it. I enjoyed writing this book and I appreciate everyone who reads it or shows any kind of interest. I am working on the next book and it's been really fun. I can't wait to hear from all of you and I hope the interest expands.

Javier says

I read the book & i thought it was very good. It was intense from the beginning til the end.. You would end up feeling sorry for the tribulation that Thomas & Greta where going through. And the Joe Sanchez character was pretty brutal. after reading how it ends it leaves you interested in what happens next & wanting a second part2(Sequel) to the story. I was a very satisfied customer & woudl recommend this book to anyone.

zoë ❁ (fallxnrobin) says

I certainly expected this to be dark but *holy shit*, the depth this book displayed was highly unexpected.

4 stars

Tommy's plight was truly heart-wrenching. **He believes that everything will be fine as long as they have each other, and that's all he really wants ? to stay together as a family. Unfortunately for him, it seems that fate is out to get him.** Their peace started to crack when his mother started to fall deeper into

depression, and it finally shattered with her suicide. And things just got progressively worse from there.

It's saddening to see how his parents just up and left him with Greta to deal with the consequences of their actions. How this "relative" hates Tommy for simply existing. It's hard for readers to not root for Tommy and Greta after all they've been through, all of which they certainly don't deserve. **They're just innocents caught in the crossfire of a bunch of adult drama.**

However, **Tommy is a very strong character.** It was his hope that as long as they stick together as a family, they can overcome anything, and he still held on to that till the end. He still has Greta, after all. Even when the whole world was against him and it seemed like he had nothing to live for, the thought of leaving Greta to fend for herself alone in this cruel world pushed him on.

Greta's unwavering loyalty towards Tommy also touched me. **She may have been showered with many expensive clothes and outings but she still chooses to stay by her brother's side.** She continues to play with the paper dolls she had when in the ghetto and treasures any gift Tommy gives her, no matter how simple it is.

With Tommy having just reached puberty, there was some romance in here but it wasn't focused on much throughout the book. For one, he and Stephanie didn't really confirm if they were actually dating till towards the end. **Their relationship felt a bit rushed to me but it was sweet nonetheless.** Even though both his parents have given up on him in one way or another, she hasn't. It was one of the things that kept him going while staying at the "relative's" house.

What I would have loved to see more of is how the time period this book is set in contributes to the book's overall atmosphere. There was a mention of how it was the time when women started seeking their own independence and of possible gender discrimination in the workplace, but that's all they are ? simply mentions. The only reason they stuck in my head was because I originally thought this was set in a more modern time period.

The writing may not be the best and truth be told, the editing annoyed me from time to time, but Tommy's story is one worth reading. It was suspenseful and heart-wrenching till the very end and is one I would recommend.

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Anneke Rader says

Suspenseful and heart wrenching from beginning to end.
