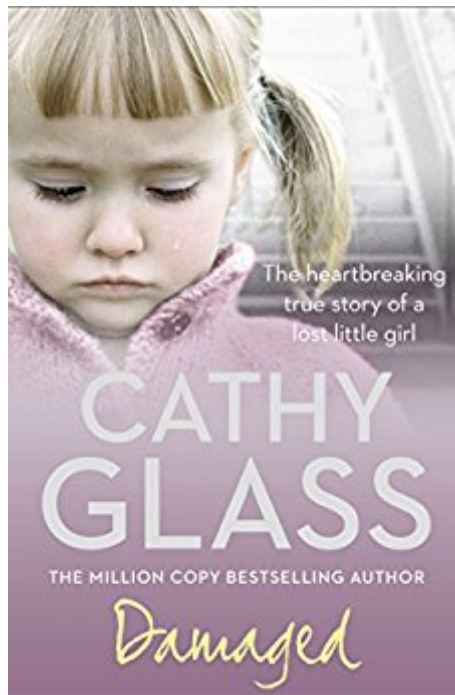




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Damaged: The Heartbreaking True Story Of A Forgotten Child



Synopsis

The Sunday Times and New York Times Bestseller. Although Jodie is only eight years old, she is violent, aggressive, and has already been through numerous foster families. Her last hope is Cathy Glass. Cathy, an experienced foster carer, is pressured into taking Jodie as a new placement. Jodie's challenging behaviour has seen off five carers in four months but Cathy decides to take her on to protect her from being placed in an institution. Jodie arrives, and her first act is to soil herself, and then wipe it on her face, grinning wickedly. Jodie meets Cathy's teenage children, and greets them with a sharp kick to the shins. That night, Cathy finds Jodie covered in blood, having cut her own wrist, and smeared the blood over her face. As Jodie begins to trust Cathy her behaviour improves. Over time, with childish honesty, she reveals details of her abuse at the hands of her parents and others. It becomes clear that Jodie's parents were involved in a sickening paedophile ring, with neighbours and Social Services not seeing what should have been obvious signs. It's clear that Josie needs psychiatric therapy, but instead Social Services take Jodie away from her, and place her in a residential unit. Although the paedophile ring is investigated and brought to justice, Jodie's future is still up in the air. Cathy promises that she will stand by her no matter what – her love for the abandoned Jodie is unbreakable.

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Customer Reviews

Overall: 5 Stars
Plot/Storyline: 5 Stars
Cathy Glass does a brave thing in this book by telling the story of one of her "failures." By "failures," I mean that the child was not "repaired" to the point of being able to enter society by finding a permanent family. This was by no means a failure on Cathy's part, as she did everything that anyone, outside of a trained psychiatrist, could have done. What amazed me about the story was Cathy's perseverance in keeping Jodie. Sure, a couple of times she admitted to wanting to "send her back." However, she never did so voluntarily, as I feel that many foster parents would have done. Ms. Glass was supremely honest in what she considered to be her shortcomings, but I considered to be her bravery and strength of spirit. Jodie's story was a horrifying one that will leave the reader gasping and crying. Unfortunately, it was also a story of something that is too often an occurrence in our society. Cathy does a terrific job of detailing Jodie's past with the knowledge that she gained from Jodie. She tells of her experiences in a succinct manner, shocking the reader without resorting to blatant tactics. I think I was most horrified by Cathy's portrayal of the Social Worker's failings.
Character Development: 5 Stars
Cathy not only does an excellent job of allowing the reader to get to know Jodie; she also reveals much of herself in the telling. I felt as though I was getting to know her as well as her charge and her family. The reader is also privy to the personalities of her children, which gives the story a more rounded effect. It particularly shows the major contrast between Jodie and "normal" children.
Writing Style: 5 Stars
As in her first novel that I read, Ms. Glass' writing style was excellent for the story. It was simply told, without a lot of fanfare. The descriptions were well done, and the dialogue was realistic.
Rating: R for Adult Themes and Child Sexual Abuse

I was not certain on how to rate this book. It is an easy read, meaning that it was not complicated. The author is from the UK and there are a few times I didn't know the names of some items but you do figure it out. It was also a difficult read to know what a young child had endured and how her foster mom with her admirable, never-ending patience slowly unearthed the truth. Despite this author writing several books of her experiences with foster children, I felt this book lacked some truth or omitting certain parts that might have helped the reader get a better grasp of the situation and not

just of the child. It felt like much was missing as I closed the book, frustrated that she didn't fulfill that feeling of being satisfied and the feeling of wanting to be more in touch with the situation. She spoke of her children throughout the book but during the last few chapters only spoke of her one child. It would have been nice to include them since they were an important part of the story. It would also have been nice to know more about this "unlikable child," she went through hell both the child and the foster mom and her family but there was something lacking in the details compared to the other books.

I originally started Jodie's story with the free sample, but I had to know more. Cathy Glass drew me in to Jodie's life, and I wanted to know what had happened in this little girl's past to cause her to behave and act the way she did. Needless to say, Jodie's experiences were far worse than anything I could have ever imagined. My heart broke as the pieces were revealed bit by bit, and my anger and disgust toward her abusers grew and grew. I know there are evil people in this world, but it is always difficult to accept that there are people that evil and depraved. I had a little difficulty understanding some of the terms because I'm American and am not familiar with British life. However, that didn't affect my reading of this story nor distract me from the true focal point of Jodie's life. I pray that Jodie is somehow leading a good, decent life. I pray she has some normalcy and can function in society. I pray that Jodie has learned to love and be loved. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the foster care system. Cathy Glass is not only an incredible role model and example, but also a truly exceptional woman to take foster children into her home and make a positive difference in their lives. Readers should be aware that Jodie's story is a difficult one to learn about and their hearts will break for an innocent little girl.

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