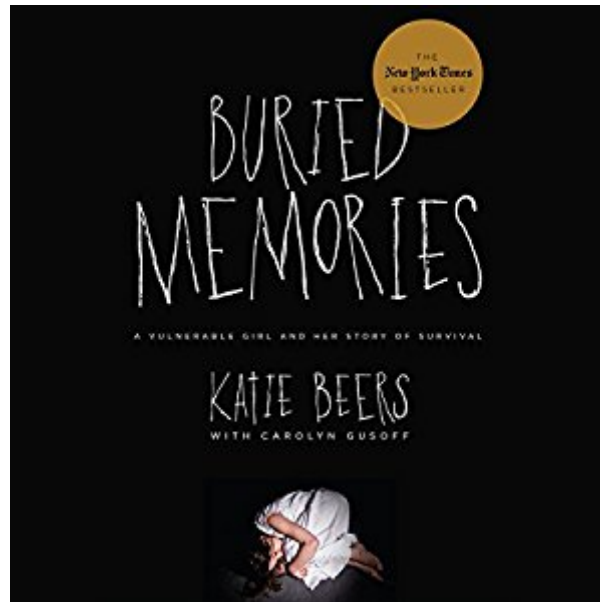




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Buried Memories: Katie Beers' Story



Synopsis

In 1992, nine-year-old Katie Beers was kidnapped by a family friend and locked in an underground box for 17 days. Katie has now come forward to tell the story that created a national media storm as reporters uncovered the truth about her prekidnapping life of neglect and sexual abuse and the details of her rescue. She shares how this experience and the recent death of her kidnapper, John Esposito, has affected her life. Despite the horrible reality of Katie's days of being chained in darkness, the kidnapping was, in fact, the climactic end of a tragic childhood and the beginning of a new life. Katie breaks her silence and reveals her inspiring healing process to the journalist who covered the story of the disappearance more than 20 years ago. *Buried Memories* is the only source that includes the complete details of her traumatic childhood, transcriptions of recordings from Esposito, a firsthand account of how Katie felt after Esposito's death in 2013, and Katie's hopeful view of the future as she looks back into her dark past.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 42 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: July 7, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00YQEDSKK

Best Sellers Rank: #142 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime #487

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Personal Memoirs #810 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime

Customer Reviews

I didn't recall much about this story other than vague memories of the evening news showing the rescued little girl in a blue jacket being whisked away from the cameras. Recently, I saw a news story of her and learned the little girl, now all grown up, had co-authored a book about surviving her ordeal. Admittedly, I purchased the book because of an interest in high-profile crimes and crime solving. I was expecting an account of the story from the POVs of the victim and a news reporter close to the story. What I was not expecting was to be so captivated by Katie's spirit and courage. I

could not put this book down. There are many details that come to light in the book that I won't spoil for the readers - other than to say it's a truly extraordinary chronicle of courage and survival well worth the time to read.

This is a very emotional read. I had a hard time reading what actually happened to Katie so I can't even imagine how she must have felt. I am amazed by her courage and her ability to overcome such horrible circumstances. I'm not one to want to read such horrific tales but I do find myself wanting to support those that have suffered at the hands of others. She obviously wrote the book hoping people would buy and read it. Therefore, I did. As I was reading this book, I kept wondering just how many students (I'm a librarian at a primary school with 650 students) I've taught that have been in similar situations. My heart goes out to all of the children who suffer at the hands of others. This is an amazing story of survival and I could hardly put it down. I wish her the best in her life.

I was very interested in this book, since I grew up in Bay Shore, L.I., where this kidnapping took place. It was very strange to know that I passed these very streets in the town so often, never knowing that so many sick and depraved people lived 5 minutes away from me, both in Bay Shore, and West Islip, the town that the Beers family was from. Oddly enough, I was moving to New Jersey for a job, on the day this kidnapping took place, so I never recalled that it happened. Carolyn Gusoff did a wonderful job in describing Katie, from her nightmare childhood, filled with unimaginable neglect and abuse, to becoming a young woman, with a family of her own, emphasizing her unbelievable strength and determination. Katie also tells us, in her own voice, what she remembers of her childhood, often recalling details that are so horrific that it is difficult to keep reading without sobbing. It also made me wonder why no one ever tried to walk this little girl back home, to see what kind of parents are sending a very young girl of 5 or 6 to walk across a busy street to get cigarettes, because many local shopkeepers had seen her in West Islip, and witnessed her looking filthy and without a coat or jacket in the dead of winter. However, many people did rally around Katie, after she was rescued from this dungeon of John Esposito's, and she received enormous support from the Suffolk County D.A.'s office, and later came to be adopted by a wonderful couple in Eastern Long Island. The love and support she received from them, and their children, a wonderful and caring local Therapist and the school system in Springs, NY, is what finally showed Katie what a normal childhood looks like. She says she wrote the book in hopes that it would help others who have suffered as she has. Hopefully, if we all took a closer look at what's going on with these children, and had the courage to get involved, and make a phone call to CPS, we would think that it

could prevent even one child from having to experience what Katie has. Unfortunately as we have seen time and time, again, the abusive caretakers threaten the children if they say anything to the case workers, and this is where the system failed Katie, as she had been threatened by Sal Inghilleri if she said anything. Maybe persistence is the key, as it is better to try, than turn a blind eye. A child does not ask to be born, to be treated like garbage, or be used as sex toy. It is our responsibility to try to break the cycle.

This book was well written and informative. I love how it comes from the view of Katie herself as well as a reporter covering the story. Carolyn and Katie did a great job together! And it is so refreshing to hear how well she is doing! It warms my heart to hear how it all turned out for the better. I literally cried my eyes out when I heard she was happily married with two kids! Being the same age as Katie (and also from LI) it was hard to listen to some of what happened to her at such a young age in detail, but like I said it was heartwarming to learn how well she is doing after all these years. I always wondered what happened to her...I'm glad she got the privacy she needed to grow from all of this. That would never happen now-a-days! The media and the paparazzi can be relentless...I wish Katie all the best in the years to come! She went through a lot but is lucky to have come out of the situation she was in and be placed with a loving, caring, nurturing family. They deserve a lot of credit for her survival. I'm sure it wasn't easy for her to adjust, but from what I read in the book they did an amazing job! Kudos to them and kudos to Katie for being so strong! A lot of people would be much worse off than her after what she endured. We can never escape our past, but we can learn to deal with it, take what we learned and better ourselves.

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