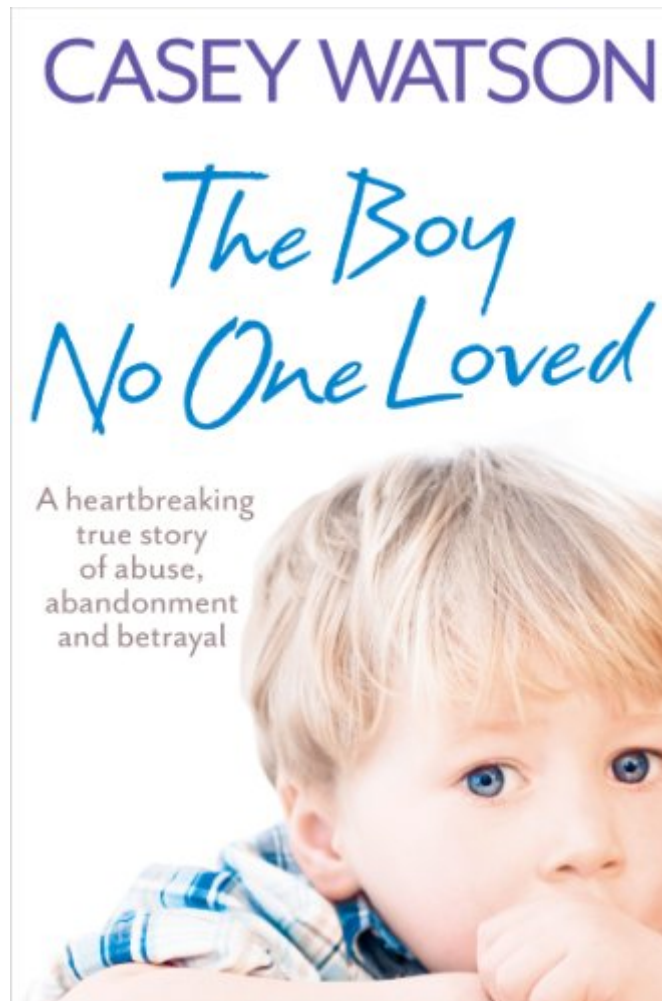


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The Boy No One Loved: A Heartbreaking True Story Of Abuse, Abandonment And Betrayal



Synopsis

Sunday Times bestselling author and foster carer Casey Watson's first heartbreaking memoir. Justin was five years old; his brothers two and three. Their mother, a heroin addict, had left them alone again. Later that day, after trying to burn down the family home, Justin was taken into care. Justin was taken into care at the age of five after deliberately burning down his family home. Six years on, after 20 failed placements, Justin arrives at Casey's home. Casey and her husband Mike are specialist foster carers. They practice a new style of foster care that focuses on modifying the behaviour of profoundly damaged children. They are Justin's last hope, and it quickly becomes clear that they are facing a big challenge. Try as they might to make him welcome, he seems determined to strip his life of all the comforts they bring him, violently lashing out at schoolmates and family and throwing any affection they offer him back in their faces. After a childhood filled with hurt and rejection, Justin simply doesn't want to know. But, as it soon emerges, this is only the tip of a chilling iceberg. A visit to Justin's mother on Boxing Day reveals that there are some very dark underlying problems that Justin has never spoken about. As the full picture becomes clearer, and the horrific truth of Justin's early life is revealed, Casey and her family finally start to understand the pain he has suffered. Includes a sample chapter of Crying for Help.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Casey Watson and her husband Mike (psuedonyms) take in, for one year, a profoundly damaged boy and work miracles in his life. This is a gripping story, at times very difficult and painful to read. Throughout the book I was appalled by how dreadfully "the system" had failed this child and his biological siblings. When a mother sells her five-year-old into prostitution in order to procure drugs, ALL of her children need to be removed to a safe place by social services, not just one of them! The sluggish responses and lack of advocacy for these children, documented in painstaking detail throughout the book, are truly horrifying. Clearly the birthmother's home was not a safe environment for any child; why the lack of appropriate action on the part of responsible adults? Why the lengthy unsupervised visits with a violent, drug-addicted parent? It made me so angry to read of this child's unnecessary suffering. Once involved, the Watson family provides the basics: shelter, routine, stability, affection, fun, commitment, caring. And what an amazing person Justin turns out to be, as he begins to heal, and then to thrive, in the safe environment they create for him. It surprised me very much to learn that a child as troubled as Justin was initially, with a history of violently attacking people, was not at any time under the care of a psychiatrist. The foster mother/author was left to deal with terrifying situations alone and unaided, such as (SPOILER ALERT!!!) being threatened with a knife on one occasion, and a staplegun on another. At no point were the police or mental health professionals on the scene, and I found that odd. It also struck me as odd that the Watsons were willing to risk introducing a dog into their family, given Justin's history of animal cruelty.

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