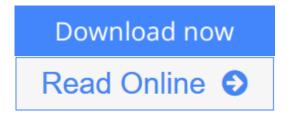


# Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood

By Julie Gregory



## Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood By Julie Gregory

A young girl is perched on the cold chrome of yet another doctor's examining table, missing yet another day of school. Just twelve, she's tall, skinny, and weak. It's four o'clock, and she hasn't been allowed to eat anything all day. Her mother, on the other hand, seems curiously excited. She's about to suggest openheart surgery on her child to "get to the bottom of this." She checks her teeth for lipstick and, as the doctor enters, shoots the girl a warning glance. This child will not ruin her plans.

#### Sickened

From early childhood, Julie Gregory was continually X-rayed, medicated, and operated on—in the vain pursuit of an illness that was created in her mother's mind. Munchausen by proxy (MBP) is the world's most hidden and dangerous form of child abuse, in which the caretaker—almost always the mother—invents or induces symptoms in her child because she craves the attention of medical professionals. Many MBP children die, but Julie Gregory not only survived, she escaped the powerful orbit of her mother's madness and rebuilt her identity as a vibrant, healthy young woman.

**Sickened** is a remarkable memoir that speaks in an original and distinctive Midwestern voice, rising to indelible scenes in prose of scathing beauty and fierce humor. Punctuated with Julie's actual medical records, it re-creates the bizarre cocoon of her family's isolated double-wide trailer, their wild shopping sprees and gun-waving confrontations, the astonishing naïveté of medical professionals and social workers. It also exposes the twisted bonds of terror and love that roped Julie's family together—including the love that made a child willing to sacrifice herself to win her mother's happiness.

The realization that the sickness lay in her mother, not in herself, would not come to Julie until adulthood. But when it did, it would strike like lightning. Through her painful metamorphosis, she discovered the courage to save her own life—and, ultimately, the life of the girl her mother had found to replace her. **Sickened** takes us to new places in the human heart and spirit. It is an unforgettable story, unforgettably told.

# From the Hardcover edition.

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# Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood By Julie Gregory Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

#### Review

- "A painful but wonderfully written memoir that should create greater awareness of a bizarre disorder... Keen self-awareness, a sharp eye for details, and an original, poetic voice."
- --Kirkus Reviews
- "This story of unfathomable child abuse is told with remarkable wit, compassion, and courage. It's a work of beauty from a beast of a childhood."
- -- Augusten Burroughs, author of Running with Scissors and Dry
- "Like some Diane Arbus photograph come to life, Julie Gregory's *Sickened* offers us a portrait of quintessential American Disturbos in all their tender, heinous can't-look-and-can't-look-away glory. A miraculous book by a woman whose very survival is itself a miracle."
- --Jerry Stahl, author of Permanent Midnight
- "Set in a southern-culture-on-the-skids world reminiscent of J.T. Leroy, *Sickened* is written with a lyrical directness that is both riveting and horrific. Julie Gregory reminds us that those who find the courage to slay the dragons of their past and stop the cycle of abuse are the true heroes of the world."
- --Ann Magnuson, actress, singer, writer
- "A stunning account by a courageous woman who journeyed from the depths of hell to reclaim her own power and worth. Julie Gregory casts an extraordinary beacon of healing. You will be hearing a lot about this one."
- --Alan Cohen, author of I Had It All the Time
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- --Sylvia Fraser, author of My Father's House: A Memoir of Incest and of Healing
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#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

# **Bobby McCabe:**

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#### Ward Beaver:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

## **Brenda Evans:**

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#### **Teresa Obannon:**

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