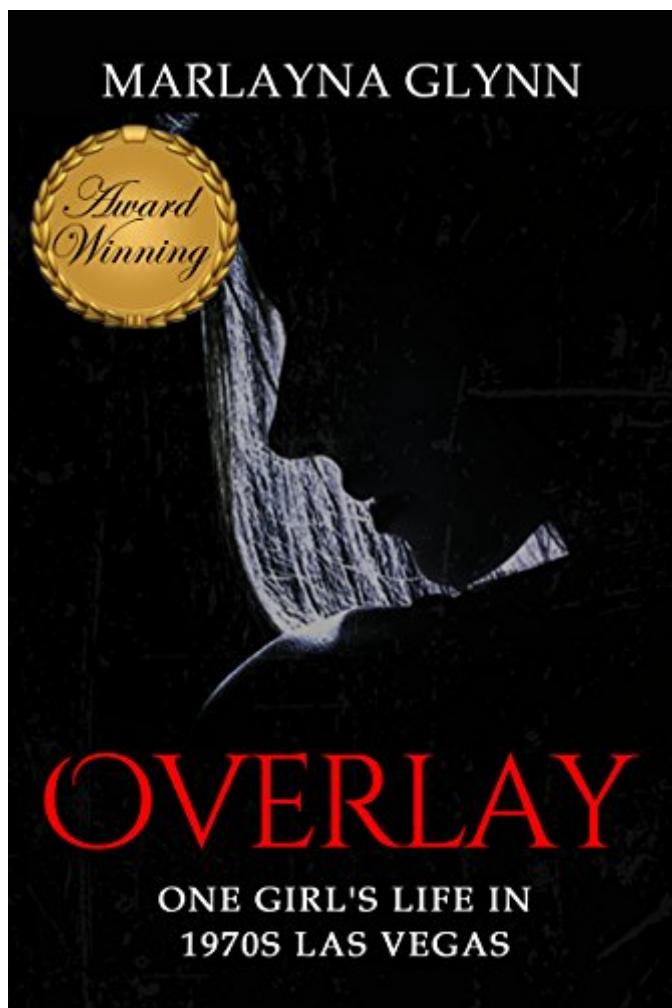


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Overlay: One Girl's Life In 1970s Las Vegas (Memoirs Of Marlayna Glynn)



Synopsis

*2013 Winner of a Next Generation Indie Book Award*Award-winning author Marlayna Glynn delivers her breakout biography - a mesmerizing memoir epic destined to become a classic. Called the "most powerful suicide prevention memoir ever written" OVERLAY is the coming-of-age story of a resilient child born into a cycle of alcoholism, abuse, and abandonment. The author develops a powerful sense of self-preservation in contrast to the fallen adults entrusted with her care. Her profound story explores the characters and events populating her life in 1970s Las Vegas as she moves from home to home, parent to parent, family to family, ultimately becoming homeless by the age of fourteen. Out of the resources of her remarkable childhood emerges a gripping inner strength that will charm and captivate readers and remain in their consciousness long after the last page of her story has been turned. Fans of The Glass Castle, Angela's Ashes and The Liars' Club will enjoy this enlightening tale that has it all: a heartbreakin story, troubled characters, and ultimate redemption, making OVERLAY an epic memoir of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I picked up this book, a part of me expected a quick read akin to the reprinting of years of diary entries. What I didn't expect was that within a few pages of the end, I would realize that in what remained of the story there was no way I was going to learn as much of her as I wanted to know. Some authors are able to help the reader create an emotional connection with the characters they create, and in so doing make the reader somewhat sad at the final turn of the page that their journey with that character has ended. Forevermore these characters linger in our mind's eye, and we imagine that somewhere, in some dimension into which the author was able to give us a glimpse, the character is alive and continuing their journey. Marlayna accomplishes the same feeling of connection with her main character, a fact that is made all the more overwhelming when the reader realizes that her protagonist is not a fictional creation; she is real. And she weaves this story with a humanity that leaves the reader feeling as if the emotions could leap from the pages to underscore particularly poignant observations. One of the things that make writing a memoir tricky (aside from overcoming the obvious question of "who would care?") is in telling a real life story in such a way that the reader feels as if the journey is shared and extraordinary, but not pedantic. Anyone wanting to know what it is like to navigate the minefield that is poverty and addiction, a task difficult enough for adults, but harder yet for children, needs to read this book. In her uniquely simple, unassuming way Ms. Brown presents her story in a fashion that leaves you with an undeniable urge to invent a time machine just to find her adolescent self, wrap her in a protective embrace and offer a heartfelt promise that "it will all be okay." And you'll mean it when you wish that you could.

This was a sad story of a young girl who had the misfortune of growing up with dysfunctional parents and mostly uncaring extended family. Marlayna's descriptions of events in her life were excellent. I found that I could really sympathise with this young girl who is close to my own age. I thought about how fortunate I was to have loving, caring christian parents who provided for me every step of the way. My dad always thought he didn't provide well because we had no excess. What he failed to see was that there was always one or two items under the tree for Christmas and my 4 brothers, my mom and dad and I were surrounded by the love of extended family. There is no better gift! I found myself recalling toys and emotions and fads of the 70s that I shared with Marlayna. I pray she found explanations for her mother's bizarre behavior (bipolar disorder) and realizes that neither that or her father's alcoholism were in any way something that she could have helped. She did the best she could with what she had to work with and was so brave and strong when she just wanted to be held and loved. Such a life should not have to be endured by any child.

If parents like this could only see that giving their child up for adoption would be in the best interest of the child and themselves...

I was hooked right away on this book. I truly could not put it down. It is a memoir about the author's life from ages 4-17. It was hard to hear of her struggles, especially knowing there are so many children with similar experiences. Her strength was very inspiring and would help others with similar struggles. I did not agree with her statement at the end that she takes responsibility for her actions. It felt as though she was putting part blame on herself which I didn't understand. She was a victim of her circumstances but she handled it the best that she could. Children in those situations have no choices-just survival.I will definitely be reading her next book.

Marlayna's story is captivating. I stayed up way too late just to find out what would happen next. She is a gifted storyteller. However, the book itself is poorly edited. Glaring grammatical errors, misspelled words, and mixed up character names are found throughout the book. They distracted me from enjoying the story. Ms. Brown is a gifted writer. She needs a better editor!

I too am a survivor of abuse and alcoholism. Marlayna's story has that irrefutable ring of truth. She is an example that just because you had tough breaks as a child does not excuse you for being a failure in your adult life. You had no control as a kid but you do get to make choices as an adult. Why not choose positive choices instead of hiding behind "oh poor me". Marlayna had numerous close calls and dangerous situations as did I. Her book is a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the Survival Instinct. The only reason that I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 is that this book needs a good editor as there are misspelled words and missing words. The reviewer is the author of the new Kindle book entitled: Sex Education for Adults Secrets To Amazing Sex and Happily Ever After Too

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