

Child Advocate’s Personal Story Offers Insight and Inspiration to Help End Worldwide Epidemic of Childhood Abuse

Child advocacy groups estimate at least 500,000,000 children worldwide are subjected to abuse each year. Such mistreatment occurs in every country in the world, including the United States. Reports issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, based on cases investigated by child protective service agencies, show that 800,000 children in America are victims of abuse and neglect annually. The life-long psychological damage to children with these experiences is immeasurable. Marion Witte, child-rights advocate and author of *Little Madhouse on the Prairie: A True-Life Story of Overcoming Abuse and Healing the Spirit*, has personal knowledge of that damage. She was abused as a child in North Dakota – one of the many unreported cases of persistent child abuse that take place in our country every year.

Witte opens her story with the statement “I have learned that it is not the truth that will hurt you – it is the lies.” In her moving, incisive memoir, she illuminates the issues of abuse, neglect and abandonment by disclosing their role in her family. By revealing the secrets her family buried for generations, she opens the reader’s eyes to the devastating, long-term damage caused by childhood mistreatment. She also shares her personal journey of recovery in order to show possibilities for healing to readers who want to heal from their own childhood wounds, but may not yet have found the means to do so.

“This book tells the story of a child who was not loved, nurtured, protected and supported” Witte writes. “No child should have to live this type of life.” Her book makes it clear, however, that these circumstances can occur within the walls of a family home, regardless of the face that parents and other family members present to the world. By detailing her own experiences and their influence on her adult perceptions and behavior, she illustrates how childhood abuse impacts adult self-image, relationships, job performance – every area of adult life. She makes the case that we will be better parents if we understand our past and heal our wounds, especially if we have been abused as children. Through the process of learning to heal ourselves, we become active participants in the effort to create a better world for our children and future generations.

In telling her story, Witte’s objective is to focus more attention on children’s rights and to promote a greater understanding that without healing, child abuse does not end in childhood. It affects the person who suffered abuse for the rest of his or her life. *Little Madhouse on the Prairie* is not only a compelling story of abuse and healing, it is also an impassioned plea to create a safe and just world for the youngest citizens on our planet.

Marion Witte is the founder and director of The Angel Heart Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the advocacy for children’s rights.

Little Madhouse on the Prairie is available for purchase at www.amazon.com. Additional book information can be found at www.littlemadhouseontheprairie.com.

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Little Madhouse on the Prairie: A True-Life Story of Overcoming Abuse and Healing the Spirit

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Progress for Children, A Report Card on Child Protection, Number 8
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U. S. Department of Health and Human Resources, Administration on Children
Child Maltreatment 2008
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