

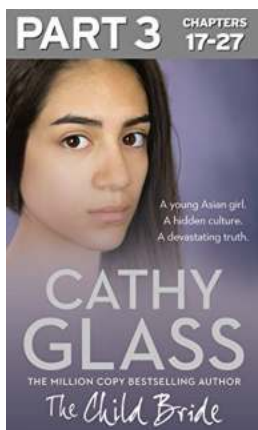
The Shocking Reality of Child Brides: Unveiling the Dark Side of Tradition

It's a tale as old as time – innocent girls being ripped away from their childhood and forced into a life of misery, all in the name of tradition. This is the brutal reality of child brides, a issue that continues to plague societies around the world. In this article, we delve deep into the heart-wrenching practice of child marriages, seeking to shed light on the issues that perpetuate this abhorrent phenomenon.

The Heartbreaking Statistics

According to UNICEF, every year, approximately 12 million girls are married before the age of 18, with one girl being married off every two seconds. These statistics are alarming and paint a grim picture of the immense scale of the problem. Child marriages predominantly exist in developing countries, where poverty, cultural norms, and gender inequality prevail.

Such marriages not only deprive young girls of their fundamental rights but also jeopardize their physical, psychological, and emotional well-being. They are often subjected to domestic violence, sexual abuse, and health issues such as early pregnancies, which pose serious risks to both the mother and the child.



The Child Bride: Part 3 of 3 by Cathy Glass (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3136 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 148 pages



The Root Causes: Tradition, Poverty, and Gender Inequality

Child marriages are deeply rooted in tradition, perpetuated by social norms that prioritize family honor, dowry traditions, and attempts to prevent pre-marital sexual activity. Poverty plays a pivotal role as well, with families marrying off their young daughters in exchange for monetary benefits, reducing the financial burden of raising them.

Additionally, gender inequality plays a considerable role in the continuation of child marriages. In societies where women have limited opportunities for education and employment, child marriages are seen as a way to secure a girl's future by shifting the responsibility onto a husband, regardless of his age or suitability as a life partner.

The Consequences for Child Brides

The consequences for child brides are devastating and far-reaching. These young girls are forced to abandon their education and aspirations, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and dependence. Their dreams are squashed as they are thrust into the role of a wife and mother before they are physically, emotionally, and mentally prepared.

Child brides often face a lifetime of abuse and oppression. They are at a higher risk of experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, and psychological trauma. The lack of autonomy and decision-making power further exacerbates their vulnerability, as they are unable to escape the circumstances forced upon them.

The Global Efforts to Eradicate Child Marriages

Recognizing the urgency to tackle this global crisis, organizations such as UNICEF, Girls Not Brides, and numerous governmental bodies are working tirelessly to end child marriages. Education, advocacy, and empowerment of girls are at the forefront of these efforts.

Efforts are being made to raise awareness, change cultural norms, and implement legal frameworks that protect girls' rights. In some countries, the legal age of marriage has been raised to mitigate the practice. However, more comprehensive interventions are necessary to address the underlying socioeconomic factors driving child marriages.

The Trauma and Resilience of Survivors

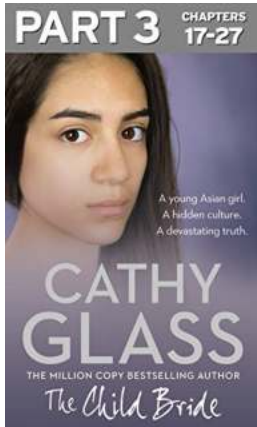
Despite the haunting memories and hardships endured, many survivors of child marriages find the strength to rise above their circumstances. Through various support programs, they are given opportunities to rebuild their lives, access education, gain vocational skills, and find financial independence.

Organizations focused on survivor recovery stories and their empowerment are helping to shed light on the resilience and determination of these young girls. By amplifying their voices, we can inspire change and accelerate efforts towards the eradication of child marriages.

Looking Towards a Better Future

Child marriages are not an issue that can be simply solved overnight. This deeply ingrained practice requires collective action from governments, communities, and individuals alike. By addressing the root causes of poverty, gender inequality, and cultural norms, we can pave the way towards a better future for young girls around the world.

Together, we can break the chains of tradition and give these children the freedom, education, and opportunities they deserve. Let their childhood be filled with laughter, dreams, and hope, rather than being marred by the inhumane practice of child marriage.



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The Child Bride can either be read as a full-length eBook or in 3 serialised eBook-only parts.

This is PART 3 of 3.

You can read Part 3 one week ahead of the full-length eBook and paperback.

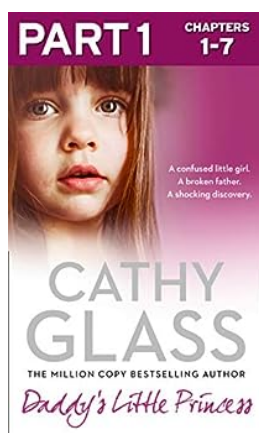
Cathy Glass, international bestselling author, tells the shocking story of Zeena, a young Asian girl desperate to escape from her family.

When 14 -year-old Zeena begs to be taken into care with a non-Asian family, she is clearly petrified. But of what?

Placed in the home of experienced foster carer Cathy and her family, Zeena gradually settles into her new life, but misses her little brothers and sisters

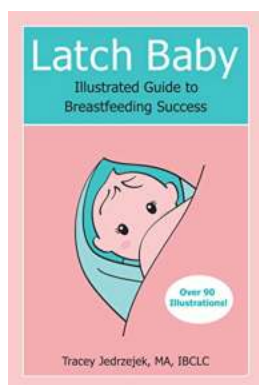
terribly. Prevented from having any contact with them by her family who insist she has brought shame and dishonour on the whole community, Zeena tries to see them at school. But when her father and uncle find out, they bundle her into a car and threaten to set fire to her if she makes anymore trouble. Zeena is too frightened to press charges against them despite being offered police protection in a safe house.

Eventually, Cathy discovers the devastating truth from Zeena, and with devastation she believes there is little she can do to help her.



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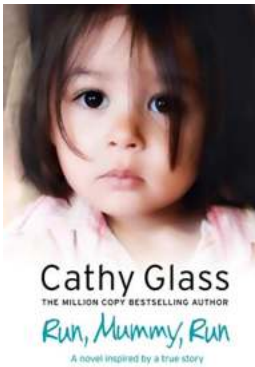
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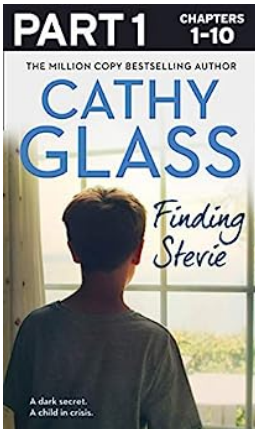
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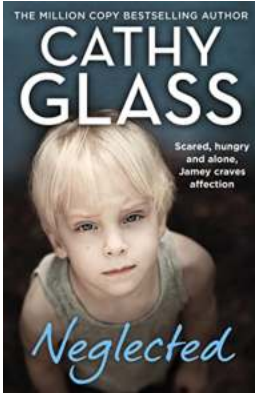
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