



Thin Wire: A Mother's Journey Through Her Daughter's Heroin Addiction

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Thin Wire is an honest and intimate account of heroin addiction told by both mother and daughter. Amber is introduced to drugs and becomes addicted without her mother's knowledge. She meets a dealer who feeds her habit. Whilst living together, they are raided by the police. Bailed to her mother's address with a £200-a-day addiction, Amber doesn't think her family will accept her back when they discover the truth. When she's charged by the police with dealing class A drugs and accepting stolen goods, she fears she'll go to prison. Trying to feed her habit alone, Amber meets a fellow addict who offers to introduce her to prostitution. The prospect terrifies her, but will her mother help her?

An unflinching story that looks at drug addiction from two sides. The book's concluding section offers two sets of personal guidelines; one for addicts, the other for parents or partners of addicts, while the in-depth, harrowing real life story vividly illustrates the difficulties of overcoming addiction. In a society where 50% of teenagers experiment with drugs, Amber is every mother's child. She could be yours.

Thin Wire: A Mother's Journey Through Her Daughter's Heroin Addiction Details

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Amber says

I expected so much more from Thin Wire.

Through the eyes of both mother and daughter, watch a young woman struggle with her addiction to heroin. After her and her boyfriend's bedsit is raided, Amber finds her life turned upside down. She loses her boyfriend, her home, and the illusion that she's not an addict. Her mom Christine find herself wrapped up in her daughter's addiction doing everything she can to save her beloved child from the lure of gear (slang for heroin).

The story itself is intriguing. I didn't want to put it down - I wanted to find out what happened to these fragile women. But throughout the whole book, I was on edge - I was constantly waiting for Christine to realize she was enabling her daughter's addiction. I was waiting for her marriage to crack, for something more to come crashing down. How little of that actually was told is unbelievable and takes credibility from the story.

I feel like there was so much of this tale that remains untold. Yes, there are horrible things that Amber does to her family while in the throes of her addiction, but that being said, the story still reads like a cleaned up memoir of heroin addiction.

There has to be more than what Thin Wire wants you to believe. I want the rest of the story.

Marie Wallace says

Honest and revealing

You will hear two voices in this book. Amber the daughter who is an addict and Christine her mom. This is their journey together and it helped me understand addiction. They are honest about the many mistakes and success. At times I wanted to shake Christine because she was the in denial about the need for professional help. However this was her true journey and she continued to fight for her daughter.

Kenneth Maltby-Russell says

The journey

Having travelled this journey with others it was helpful to see both sides in writing not verbally where it could be manipulated. For those starting the trip read this tome to help with the dark times.

Ben says

The raw struggle of Mother and Daughter

There is no hiding from the fact that someone around you has struggles that are hiding below the surface. It is easy to try to turn a blind eye when it is something as awful as drug addiction and one of your children. Christine never knew how to really show her love to her daughter when she was young. Later in life she shows her daughter Amber a deep love by staying with her and even dishing out some tough love to help Amber fight her addiction to heroin.

This is an inspiring tale of hurt, love, and forgiveness.

Brenda says

This was an honest look at how heroin impacted one family - from the points of view of the mother and the heroin addict daughter. Thankfully I have not gone through such a thing and it was eye opening and scary to read about how easily addicting heroin can be.

Jen from Quebec :0) says

This book tells the story of a mother and daughter fighting through the addiction of the daughter- heroin addiction. It takes place in the UK, so there is some slang/terminology that is different but sets the environment nicely. The book switches POVs each chapter- one chapter from the mother's POV, the next chapter from the daughter's. The daughter began living with a heroin dealer and when the cops raided the place, she too was arrested and faced jail time, for being an accessory. She was released on probation to her mother's house where she HAD to get clean - and this is the tale. It was a good story, more so because it was non-fiction, but the book was so uneven with the mom and girl telling two parts of the same story, and as expected the sordid tales of the daughter were way more interesting than the 'Oh I am so worried about her' chapters told by the mom. Worth the read if you like stories of addiction and the descent of regular folks into a world of crime. --Jen from Quebec :0)

Natalia says

Captivating

I have no personal experience with heroin, so I was fascinated by this book. I thought it was well written and I liked the use of two narrators to tell the story from two points of view. I devoured it quickly and didn't realize until the end that this was a true story. That made it all the more remarkable to me.

Stephanie (the nerdy princess) says

Got this book free from amazon a while ago. Looked good.

Solid 3.5 stars.

This story is about a mother's journey through her daughter's heroin addiction.

It is actually quite sad, because while the mother is trying to help her daughter through this addiction, the

mother gets diagnosed with breast cancer and has to deal with that on top of her daughters addiction.

God bless the all the parents in the world who have gone through this or is currently going through this.

Very nice Read.

Ana Lourdes Barrera says

It's ok...but

It's a good story, however you are able to see how it ends...the struggle is real, so are the feelings, but it is very self a indulgent. Anyway, it will help families that go through drug addiction.

Chris Steeden says

If anyone thinks that taking hard drugs is glamorous or you can just do it recreationally then you should read this. Greasy unkempt drug dealers to junkies that completely let themselves go and are unable to do anything productive with their lives. It is no life. Money is needed to keep this habit. A junkie can't hold down a job as Amber proves so what are the options? Stealing and prostitution are the easy ways to get money.

The book is laid out with the story and thoughts of mother and daughter. We hear it from the daughters side and the mothers side which makes it thought provoking. The mother is Christina and she had Amber when she was only 21 years old and the violent father did not last 18 months until he was gone. We see Amber grow and become an addict in a small town environment. Grubby life, grubby flats and grubby people. It is not pleasant so why can't an addict stop? This is something that I am sure Christine thought constantly about. Her daughter, the heroin junkie.

Stopping is not easy as the book proves.

I thought this was going to be a thoroughly depressing book and I did think twice before reading it. I have two daughters and cannot imagine what it would be like for a parent of a junkie daughter to go through this. How would I cope? It is hard to imagine just how hard it must have been for Christine.

The book is easy to read even though the subject matter is not.

Virginia Welch says

Just finished this gripping book by Christine Lewry. I found her candid story of her agonizing efforts to help her daughter Amber get off heroin to be enthralling and highly emotional. But I'm biased: I know a heroin addict and have often wondered what this person is going through in his/her attempts to get clean.

Ms. Lewry does an outstanding job of illustrating the bondage of addiction and the impact it has on those who love the addict. In detail Ms. Lewry writes of her denial, frustration, disappointment, anger, money spent, and years of tireless effort to help her daughter. The family is from the UK and her account is set in the London area, so American readers will be introduced to some interesting new terms. I had to stop reading

a number of times to look up words on the Internet, but I enjoy learning Britishisms, no problem.

There are highs and lows in the story that keep you on the edge. The account alternates between narration by the author and her daughter, which is an interesting format, but I liked it. It kept the writing fresh.

If you know a heroin addict, you'll find Ms. Lewry's 329-page book very informative. I learned a lot from her story, facts about addiction that will help me to understand and extend compassion to others as enslaved as her daughter.

A final note: I would give the book 4.5 if I could because of minor editing issues. But in this review format I can't give it a half point, and to reduce it to 4 stars—when the writing is so transparent and thoughtful—just doesn't seem fair.

Terry Tyler says

It's hard to review a book such as this; the purpose of a review is not to discuss the subject matter, but the way it is written - in other words, it is not for the reviewer to weigh up the rights and wrongs of the situation or to lay blame, but to look at the structure of the story itself.

I did enjoy reading the book, getting out my Kindle on bus journeys, doing that "can I just finish this chapter?" thing when Him Indoors wanted to watch a film - an indication that it's pretty well written; if it wasn't, I would have stopped reading it. It certainly kept my interest; that's partly because I find tales of descent into drug and alcohol use quite absorbing, I don't know why. I liked the 'warts and all' way that the addicts' homes and lives were depicted - there was certainly no glamourising of the drug lifestyle! If this book has done anything it will have shown any youngsters who know nothing of these things what it is really like - and for that I applaud it.

I've said that it would be wrong for a reviewer to give an opinion on the situation, though in a story of this type it is hard not to; I will say that my sympathies changed over the course of the book, not necessarily just between the two main characters. One of the reasons I've given it 3 stars rather than 4 is that I felt there were some omissions, and I wondered if these were to save us from the whole story; for instance, when Amber was packed off to the Canaries for a week, in one paragraph she was getting into the bath on her first night, and in the next she was home again, with no gap in between ... maybe nothing happened, I don't know! Also, I would have liked to have known about what happened to people like Dave, and Jason. I was waiting to find out how Dave fared once he was back 'on the street' - and I never did.

Although it was the viewpoints of two people, it seemed to be written all by the same person; the 'voice' was the same, it just said different things. I know it's actually by the mother, so to give two different voices must have been difficult; it's not like writing fiction. The other thing I was not keen on was the way Amber kept referring to being 'clean', even though she was still using other substances.

Aside from those aspects of it, I'd say that if you're interested in this sort of story then yes, I'd definitely recommend reading it. I expect the lists of suggestions at the end of the book from both mother and daughter are very helpful to any person in this situation, too.

Jessica Ashe says

I was captivated by this book and the topic of addiction as my mother is an addict and I wanted to better understand from a mother's perspective vs. a daughter's perspective. I'm not sure I found the answers to all my questions in this book, but it was a heart wrenching, painful, sometimes difficult to read story that shined light upon the issues of how deep a mother's love runs (or should run), how deep the addiction to drugs can go, and how even if an addict really does want to quit their urges can pull them back under. In this particular story, it took Amber losing her best friend to an overdose for her to completely break the heroin addiction.

David Wright says

This book is incredible. Written from both the perspective of a mother discovering and then battling her daughters addiction and also from the daughters viewpoint of becoming an addict and the fallout that occurs, this pulls no punches.

The relationship between users, dealers and family and friends is both fascinating and informative. The strength that the author has to overcome her own demons and then help her daughter with hers is staggering. This book makes you think - a lot. Heroin addiction has a big stigma attached, portraying users as low life scum. This book shows that just one simple mistake can make a junkie out of anybody and gives a human face to the struggles of both the addicts and their families, ultimately proving that these people need help - but there are limits.

You may well find your outlook change after reading this book. There are some tips for help for both people with problems and families / friends who think they may know someone who is using at the back of the book.

A really well written portrayal of a difficult subject.

Jeannie Walker says

A Heartfelt Account

Each person who struggles with drug addiction is different in some ways, but the same in others. Each drug addict has a deep problem that affects them and their friends and loved ones. I especially liked how the author puts both her account and her daughter's account in the book. I only wish there had been more dialogue. But, I believe anyone who thinks they know someone who has a drug problem should take time to read this honest and intimate account of heroin addiction that is told by both mother and daughter. I personally know how hard it is and how much courage it takes to open our lives up to the world in the hope of helping others.

Jeannie Walker Award Winning Author of "I Saw the Light" - A True Story of a Near-Death Experience
