



## House of Horrors

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## **House of Horrors** Nigel Cawthorne

In April 2008, in the quiet Austrian town of Amstetten, a truly horrifying vision of hell was discovered by police in the cellar of a seemingly normal suburban home. Undoubtedly the worst case in Austrian criminal history, this appalling story of incarceration and sexual abuse quickly became international news. On August 28, 1984, Josef Fritzl lured Elisabeth, the youngest of his seven children, into the cellar of their family home where he drugged and handcuffed her in a windowless dungeon. For 24 years Josef held his daughter captive in unimaginable circumstances and repeatedly raped her. Elisabeth gave birth to seven of her father's children, three of which were imprisoned alongside her, never seeing the light of day until they were released in April 2008; three others were taken to live as the adopted or fostered children of Josef and his unwitting wife Rosemarie. One infant died soon after birth and was incinerated by its monstrous father. It was only when the eldest captive child, Kerstin, was admitted to hospital with multiple organ failure that Josef's sickening web of incest and abuse was uncovered by the authorities. Millions of people across the world have been shocked, sickened, and fascinated by this horrifying crime, and as it unravels gossip has become merged with fact. Now for the first time the truth is revealed through the investigative talents of author Nigel Cawthorne.

## **House of Horrors Details**

Date : Published August 4th 2008 by John Blake (first published 2008)

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Author : Nigel Cawthorne

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## **From Reader Review House of Horrors for online ebook**

### **Andrea says**

An interesting read for almost half of the book. It is repetitive though remained interesting. About half way through, the book was basically repeated from the start and it was obvious the author was trying to 'drag' it out. This book would have been much better if it were condensed and edited professionally.

The book appears to have been written without any research outside of court notes, newspaper or other media articles or a few interviews with neighbours and tenants. I got the impression someone was trying to cash in on the story by putting into print and selling a story using statements and research from the media and other sources.

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### **Dora Santos Marques says**

Como não consigo resistir a feiras de livros com promoções, às vezes compro coisas sem ler bem do que tratam...

Pensei que este livro era o relato da sobrevivente mas não, é uma investigação feita pelo autor. Fala de praticamente tudo mas o que eu queria era a história na primeira pessoa...

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### **Berseri says**

The case described in this book is horrible, but unfortunately the author wrote it in a dry and plain manner.

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### **Bianca Ward says**

I brought this book because I was interested in the content, and sympathize with the case. However the book was poorly written the author is over doing it and repetitive, he gives everything away in the first two or three chapters then he rinses and repeats through out the entire book. The only chapter that got me emotionally bound was the one where Fritze explains his lack of remorse. The remainder of the book was just frustratingly written there are only so many words you can use for the term incestuous and only so many times you can discuss the ramifications of paternal inbreeding medical conditions. I felt like yelling out loud every time he mentioned the reason why the children had medical conditions due to the paternal nature of conception (no sh\*t you only have mentioned this reason for the last 6 children).

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### **Troy Cook says**

The truest definition of living a nightmare. The depths of depravity, Narcissism and utter lack of conscience make this so called man the very personification of evil. Yet through it all there is a story of strength and courage and will to survive that will bring tears to even the hardest of readers eyes. A story of terror and inspiration that will amaze.

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### **Masniaty says**

setelah 24 tahun dikurung di bawah tanah oleh ayahnya yang gila itu menurut aku, akhirnya elisabeth dan anaknya bisa menghirup udara bebas dan lega. selama 24 th dikurung di bawah tanah di rumahnya sendiri elisabeth telah menjadi budak sex ayahnya sendiri tanpa bisa melawan, melahirkan tujuh anak juga sendirian, sungguh aku tidak bisa membayangkannya bagaimana bisa elisabeth melahirkan anak2nya sendirian, dan menurut aku elisabeth sungguh wanita hebat. kisah penyekapan dirinya selama 24 tahun itu dituturkan dlm buku ini hingga membuat aku tercengang-cengang. ada ya orang sejahat si fritzl ini sampai mengatasnamakan nazi sebagai akibat dari perbuatannya.

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### **Kayla says**

This story was written in a very "matter-of-fact" manner and to me, read more like a list of facts than giving any real insight to the horrible crime. Would probably be a good reference for future articles.

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### **Kristina Naumov says**

After finished this book, I was completely shocked. How could this even happened in our world?! People are going crazy and it makes me sad. Living in our society, make me look at the people with different perspective. This book is hard reading and people with soft personality will not be able to function normally after finishing this book.

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### **Diane says**

This was a difficult book to rate. The facts of the true life horror that happened to Elisabeth, her siblings, and her children, is worth 5 Stars. But this book was published so close on the heels of the gruesome discovery that it doesn't even include Josef's trial, and seems to be mostly a regurgitation of facts available elsewhere.

If you don't have any knowledge of this crime, you may find this book enlightening.

3 Stars = It was okay.

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### **crashqueen73 says**

I think this was an informative read. It did the job of telling the story of the "House of Horrors"... a girl that

was kept by her father in a dungeon under his house from the time she was 18. For 24 years. And then fathered seven children with her. And made her birth them all on her own. In the dungeon. And the dungeon was so low ceiling- ed that she and one of her male children developed stoops. Some people are so so sick and depraved and cruel. And then to make excuses for their behaviour just makes it all the more disgusting!

So that is the story. The book itself gave all this information but my complaint was that it was repetitive. The same point was detailed again and again.... such as Micheal (a twin) dying at three days and being burned in the furnace by his father/ captor. (If this had been a text for school it would have been quite easy to recall information.) But as far as reading experiences go, it became annoying.

3 stars for this one.

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### **Caroline2 says**

Suddenly I stopped and had a look to the title of the book. Shock and terror is on my face. How could a father whose suppose to protect and lead us from the villain in this world yet he was the one we must fight on!!!!

Gosh, that day after my bff and me end up to the book store before we begin our noon class for national exam prep. we chat all the way for the romance corner but we made our way to the true story side. I decided to buy this book, i want to know why why why why Elizabeth must got the hell fate.

Nigel told the story brilliant, I read it but felt the goosebump every page. I hate how Elisabeth mother lack of life! she is zombie how could she let this to happen! yes! maybe she is innocent but there are many thing is not right from her husband about Elizabeth dissapeared and the next infant coming!!!!!!!, why she is not aware what happened under her roof!!!!

Elizabeth father is lucifer in flesh! much worse than evil satan, because he is rape, abuse, and torturing not only body but also mind.

I want to say, it is so damn hell what is going on there. Elizabeth survive, and not forget she is also fill her children with love and education as best as she can. The good things she does, she do not give up to live and to keep hope.

Nice work Nigel, the red cover edition is in my country Indonesia and I have it!

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### **Amanda Stanford says**

Fascinating subject but unfortunately very repetitive and badly written. You could read the newspaper clips from the time and obtain the same information in less time. A shame that the book doesn't do justice to such a horrific tragedy.

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## **Yayu Sri says**

Oh ya ampun ! Ternyata orang gila ini ayah si korban! Oh tidak, bukan orang gila, tp monster. Iya, dia layak disebut monster karena telah menyekap putrinya sendiri selama 24 thn dan memperkosa putrinya tsb selama dlm penyekapan shg membuahkan 7 orang anak. 6 orang anak yg hidup dgn membawa kelainan genetika krn lahir dr hasil hubungan inses ayah dan anak. Anak2 yg hidup dlm penyekapan jg, meski akhirnya krn alasan tertentu 3 diantaranya di rawat oleh istrinya yg notabene nenek mereka. 1 anak meninggal saat usianya 3 hari dan kemudian dg sadis dibakar oleh monster ini di tungku pembakaran sampah. Siapa bilang makhluk paling buas adalah binatang predator? tidak, makhluk paling buas di dunia adalah manusia, dan Josef fritzl adalah contohnya.

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## **Giulia Dell'Uomo says**

Buona ricostruzione dei fatti, ma non mi sono ritrovata molto nello stile di scrittura. Risulta un po' dispersivo.

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## **Mel says**

This book was written so soon after the horrific discovery that it reads more like a reporting of the issue and provides no insight on how such a brutal and horrible act could happen.

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