



Leader of the Pack: How a single dad of five led his kids, his business and himself from disaster to success.

Matt Sweetwood

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Leader of the Pack is the story of a man who had been going through life content and clueless, who found himself tethered to a tornado, as his marriage descended into violence and madness.

Surviving courts and cops and chaos, he (unexpectedly) ended up the only parent of five small children--from 8 years old to only 18 months--though he barely knew how to change a diaper.

It is my story.

In it, I tell how I went from sole breadwinner to sole parent, from a scared and unsure shell of a man to the strong, confident and spiritual person I am today; a nationally recognized spokesman for single dads and a successful business leader.

My feelings are the same for single father's everywhere. We are frustrated. We can't be just the backup parent; the ringer sent in when Mom isn't available. We're fighting for our kids and winning. Yet many voices are telling us we aren't as capable of raising kids as a woman.

But it isn't true.

We just have to learn to parent like a dad and one that isn't half of a partnership. Where there were two parents, now there is one and we must be enough.

Lives depend on it...our kid's lives and our own lives.

You can win custody, raise happy and healthy kids, have a rewarding career, and manage to have a big, fun and exiting life (and even sex) while doing so. I'll share how I did it and how you can, too.

Leader of the Pack: How a single dad of five led his kids, his business and himself from disaster to success. Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2018 by Kindle Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Matt Sweetwood

Format : Kindle Edition 140 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir

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From Reader Review Leader of the Pack: How a single dad of five led his kids, his business and himself from disaster to success. for online ebook

Joy Armfield says

OK, it's been a while since I read a book that I just couldn't put down ~ this is one of those books. I know Matt from High School ~ he was always such a kind & sincere guy. For one reason or another, we all have made some bad decisions in our lives. Some have minor consequences and some consume us for a lifetime. Matt fell in love when he was young and endured the high cost of loving someone with mental illness. But how much can one person endure until they hit their breaking point? This is an incredible story of one man who chose not to be a victim and took control of his life for the sake of his children. I truly appreciate his honesty ~ he is wide open with his feelings every step of the way.

In the end the higher lessons in life were learned... after all, we are all a "work in progress." He has 5 beautiful children he loves dearly, and he realized that God had been providing for him along the way with people (angels in disguise) that walked alongside him who were strong when he was not able. It's an incredible story of hope, determination and encouragement. And ultimately, God found him and did for him what he couldn't do for himself. Awesome....

Aimee says

Goodreads giveaway

Melissa T says

I won this book on goodreads first reads. This book was simply amazing. Matt is like a Phoenix, he rose from the hell he was in, to becoming a fantastic father and a person who put his kids first. Even tho he made many stumbles in life, he still came out on top.

Everyone who is a single parent needs to read this book. Heck even if your not a single parent this is a must read.

Helena says

From the moment I started this, I was completely absorbed and emotionally invested in Matt's story, and the insight he shared based on his experiences speaks to me on multiple levels. It is a very compelling read for anyone seeking to learn valuable life lessons - Matt's voice is honest and direct, and even if one's personal experiences differ from his, there is still much wisdom to be gained by reading this. I'm glad he shared his story with the world, for we can all truly benefit from it.

Kerry says

This is the story of a man who, after a whirlwind relationship and subsequent marriage, finds himself the single father of five children. He struggles to recover from the abusive behavior he faced from his ex-wife and provide his children with a stable home. He navigates relationships, single parenting, and learning to care for himself and have a positive outlook on life. His story and his outlook on life, despite the hardships it threw his way, is very positive and inspiring. He offers a lot of introspection and dives into the development of his spirituality, but in a way that doesn't come off as preachy or self-righteous, but sincere and heart-felt.

While his story is very touching and inspiring, the writing was very lacking to the point where it made it hard to feel for the author. Many points were repeated, the organization of the book was strange, and it didn't flow like I thought it should. While Sweetwood obviously faced a lot of challenges, some of the writing made it hard to empathize with him. When I first started reading I thought this was just the story of a sad man feeling sorry for himself. He was complaining about his ex-wife before the reader learned why, so he sounded a little bitter at parts. Of course he did a great job in raising his family, turning their lives around, and finding his faith, but the story didn't flow well and the writing could have used a good editor. For me, the poor writing and organization really impeded the story-telling and distracted me from what was a really great story.

TL;DR - Great story, but writing is lacking

*Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through a Goodreads giveaway for the purpose of providing an honest review.*¹

Christen says

This is a well-written memoir. It tells a compact and compelling story. The author and his family have come through several large challenges, and appear to be better off for them. I appreciated hearing of his perseverance and his ability to forgive and put away his anger. I am sure that others who have been through similar situations would benefit from reading it. But I really only just liked it. It is better than some of the other memoirs I have read recently, so probably 3.5 stars.

Harley says

Prior to reading this book, I had connected with Matt Sweetwood on LinkedIn and had read several of his articles about his life as a single parent. So I was excited to see that he had written an memoir. I found the book gave me greater insight into the author and his life experiences. He has survived two bad marriages and come through a better person. He also must be a fantastic businessman, given the amount of alimony he had to pay. I would highly recommend this book to single parents, particularly men. Matt's story illustrates the persistence it takes to overcome a bad relationship and to move on.

Grant Leishman says

Reviewed For Readers' Favorite by Grant Leishman

To all single parents out there (not just Dads) *Leader of the Pack* by Matt Sweetwood, should be required reading before you embark on your own journey of trying to raise children without a loving and caring spouse beside you. Matt, found himself in an abusive and destructive relationship when he married the beautiful and beguiling Charlotte. A man tortured by his own low self-esteem who manages to rationalise his own awful behaviour and neglect of his children's needs by assuring himself that he is lucky to have gotten Charlotte to even look at him, let alone marry him (Phew! Haven't we all been there!) It takes Matt, his family and his finances to reach the lowest nadir before he finally wakes up and takes action to deal with this abusive wife and mother. He learns a lot about himself during this long journey into the depths of "hell", but does he learn enough to stop himself from making the same mistake all over again, the second time around?

Leader of the Pack is the most powerful personal memoir I've read in a very long time. Perhaps it was because the circumstances Matt describes hit so close to home for me, but nevertheless, one can but admire the author's courage in bringing this, much too common problem, out into the light and exposing the insanity of his thought processes that led him down the road he travelled. I found the narrative of this harrowing tale so compelling I literally could not stop reading it. Readers will groan in disbelief at places and shout at the main character (Matt himself!) asking; "what were you thinking?" but all through it, the man's simple desire to just be happy and to raise his five children the best way he can, comes shining through. Although this is specifically about Male solo dads and that is part of Matt's advocacy, many of the circumstances faced by Matt are equally applicable to both sexes in a violent, abusive, co-dependent relationship. If I could give this book more than five stars, I surely would. Congratulations on such a frank and honest memoir, Matt Sweetwood.

Mary says

This book kept my interest from the first page to the last

Jo says

Thank you goodreads for sending me a kindle version of the book. This man pulled himself up from the depths of not one but two toxic relationships managed to forge a close bond with his children. I am not sure how he managed to connect with so many horrible people; I also think he could have used a better lawyer and a good private investigator. I like the way he looks at himself and his life straight on and pulls no punches and makes no excuses. His story is inspirational. The writing however is not. It was a little murky not having a better sense of a timeline for how and when events unfolded. Was it months or years? Don't really know.

Joan says

Enjoyed this inspiring story. Recommended reading.

