



From Cradle to Grave: The Short Lives and Strange Deaths of Marybeth Tinning's Nine Children

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She drove a school bus in Schenectady, New York. She even worked as a nurse's aide in a pediatric ward. But this seemingly normal woman killed her ninth child by smothering it and is suspected of doing the same to her other eight children--while escaping suspicion for more than a decade.

From Cradle to Grave: The Short Lives and Strange Deaths of Marybeth Tinning's Nine Children Details

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Sarah says

I wasn't very pleased with the writing in this book. The author wrote on a 9th grade level. It was hard to follow sometimes. The story itself is CREEPY! I'm not sure why I read this book when I am pregnant. This lady is psycho! I'm not sure how anyone could do this to her children. I was more disgusted by the behavior of the people who knew Marybeth Tinning. How could they go all those years and all those children without making a bigger deal about the deaths of her children. Why did it take her 9th to bust her? Her husband is also STILL married to her! CREEPY!!!!!!!

Sandra Swartz says

These true crime novels never cease to amaze me. The capacity we humans have for evil can seem endless. There is no doubt in my mind this woman is guilty and I am glad she is in jail where she belongs!

Rachel says

I found this book interesting, but definitely not easy to read. Mostly I found it shocking and frustrating. Nonfiction about a woman who over the course of fourteen or so years, killed eight of her nine children. She was reported to the Child Protective Services (or whatever it was called back then) by family members and coworkers, but nothing came of it. She was even allowed to adopt a child, who didn't make it to the age of three.

Janette says

Creepy as hell, very disturbing look at a mother who killed ALL of her babies! I was interested in reading because it takes place in Schenectady NY near my sons' homes. Couldn't put it down, it made me think of this woman and her husband for quite awhile after reading. They seemed so normal, yet she was a serial killer and he probably knew it.

Kaaron Warren says

Reading this book is difficult. Marybeth Tinning's story is upsetting in the extreme, as she kills baby after baby. Egginton tells the story journalistically, with little emotion, reporting the facts. These facts speak for themselves. She shows us interviews with the many, many people who suspected Tinning of murder, and gives us glimpses into the processes.

It does make me feel ill to read it, but I am fascinaed at the same time.

Fishface says

Grim tale of a multiple infanticide. Well worth your time.

Juli says

POTENTIAL SPOILERS:

It seems odd to give a rating of "I really liked it" to a book written about the suspicious deaths of 9 children in the same family. It was well written by Ms. Egginton and that is from where my rating stems.

I consider myself a rational person and can only see things from my perspective of rationality - I can not possibly fathom how someone could watch child after child die and not want to know why - why no genetic testing, why did the couple continue having children, why did it take 9 deaths before a real investigation was launched?

This book doesn't give a great deal of insight into the mind of Marybeth Tinning - mostly due to her lack of participation and honesty. What can be learned about her is gleaned from former friends, co-workers, neighbors and family members. But ... you can learn a great deal from people's impressions of her and why they all (with the exception of her husband and a few family members) eventually pull away.

Brandon says

The dispassionate actions of this unwell and sad woman are much more disturbing than the bulk of fictional works I've read. 4 stars due to the writing and the depth, not because it was "fun" to read.

Jessi says

Egginton does an incredible job of relaying this story. Absolutely fascinating.

Debbie says

The story of a mother(Mary Beth)who kills 8 of her 9 children. It shocks me that it took so long for them to actually do something about all the deaths of those babies. She loves all the attention she gets when a child dies which I've heard is typical of MSVP, she also did work in a medical facility which a lot of the times is the case too. Most of the residents who knew her in her small town in New York, believed her story of her

children having a genetic disorder.

Courteney says

It's not really possible for me to rate this book, it's just too heartbreaking to like. I started the story because I was interested to find out what kind of person could do something so horrifying to her children, and finished it only with the sense that I could never understand someone like this. They defy all logic. Marybeth Tinning maintains that she loved her children, but if this is true why did she bury all of them long before their natural lives ever would have been over? The only child we can say with certainty that she didn't have a hand in killing was her third child Jennifer, and even then it's suspected that the meningitis the baby got in utero that did kill her was caused by Marybeth attempting to induce labor. What kind of fractured personality does it take for someone to kill her children and then say with complete certainty that she had nothing to do with it? After reading this book I have more questions about this woman's mental health than the answers I was looking for.

Emma O'Shea says

What goes through someones mind when they are writing something like this. It is an incredible story about a woman (I cannot bring myself to call her a mother, sorry) who has Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. She killed nine of her own babies, without detection until the end!! What was going on with the authorities!! Anyway, do not read this book while pregnant or with young children it'll be far too upsetting.

Victoria Brown says

As much as I hate a book about a mother accused of killing her children...this was an excellent book. It follows the life and trial of Mary beth Tinnings who was accused of killing 8 of her 9 children before she was finally arrested. This of course is a sad story and you keep reading and reading about friends..doctors and coworkers who wish they would have done something after each child. Heartbreaking...it took forever for anyone to stand up and speak out. This book is very well written..flows well and keeps your interest through out. Its a longer book but goes very fast. I would highly recommend this book to anyone.

Roos Boum says

I read the book in Dutch: En toen was het stil.

Zelf overlever zijnde van een moeder die kindermishandeling door Münchhausen by proxy pleegde, moest ik dit boek gelezen hebben. Het boek is een rapport van een onderzoeksjournaliste. Het leest dan ook bijna documentarisch. Zeer goed weergegeven en vooral voor mensen die het niet zelf bij de hand gehad hebben, moet het ongelooflijk zijn dat iemand 8 eigen baby's en 1 geadopteerd kindje kan vermoorden eer er iemand erg in heeft. En het gebeurt nog steeds en het zal blijven gebeuren als er niet veel meer bekend wordt over deze vorm van kindermishandeling.

Kortom een heel erg goed boek dat een zeer duidelijk beeld geeft over Münchhausen by proxy.

Debbie says

Saying that I like a book like this one feels a bit weird. I don't like dead babies, I just enjoy reading about the disturbed lady who had so many of them.

This is a scary account of a typical woman next door, who just so happens to have nine children, all of whom mysteriously died. This book was detailed and well written. Some of it was dated, not surprising since it was written in the late 1980's. For instance, I don't think disassociate disorder as described within the book (basically multipersonality disorder, Sybil style) is accepted by most psychologists today. It still is a fascinating account. It made me wonder about what darkness hides inside everyone and what sorts of trauma can make it appear in such a hideous way.
