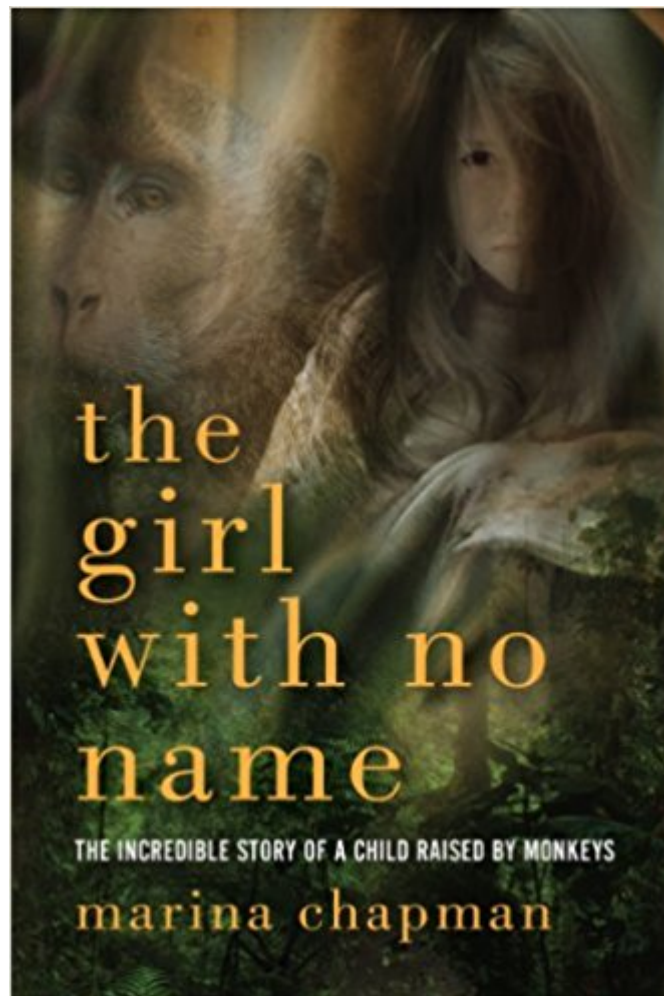




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The Girl With No Name: The Incredible True Story Of A Child Raised By Monkeys



Synopsis

The poignant story of a girl who overcomes unique hardship and deprivation - growing up with a troop of capuchin monkeys - to find ultimate redemption. In 1954, in a remote mountain village in South America, a little girl was abducted. She was four years old. Marina Chapman was stolen from her housing estate and then abandoned deep in the Colombian jungle. That she survived is a miracle. Two days later, half-drugged, terrified, and starving, she came upon a troop of capuchin monkeys. Acting entirely on instinct, she tried to do what they did: she ate what they ate and copied their actions, and little by little, learned to fend for herself. So begins the story of her five years among the monkeys, during which time she gradually became feral; she lost the ability to speak, lost all inhibition, lost any real sense of being human, replacing the structure of human society with the social mores of her new simian family. But society was eventually to reclaim her. At age ten she was discovered by a pair of hunters who took her to the lawless Colombian city of Cucuta where, in exchange for a parrot, they sold her to a brothel. When she learned that she was to be groomed for prostitution, she made her plans to escape. But her adventure wasn't over yet... In the vein of "Slumdog Millionaire" and "City of God," this rousing story of a lost child who overcomes the dangers of the wild and the brutality of the streets to finally reclaim her life will astonish readers everywhere.

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Customer Reviews

Torn from her family at the tender age of four and abandoned in the Colombian jungle, Chapman must fight to survive. This remarkable memoir, coauthored by Barrett-Lee, is based on years of

Chapman's conversations about her brutal childhood with her daughter. Her first few, horrifying days in the jungle are presented in vivid detail, as is the troop of capuchin monkeys with which she found refuge and a sense of community over the years. When she casts her lot with hunters who sell her into slavery, her unfamiliarity with basic human concepts is heartbreaking in its entirety. Fortunately, her monkey upbringing has surprising intersections with the talents of a street kid. A well-paced, cliffhanger approach to telling the story makes for a riveting narrative. Chapman's struggles, no matter how outrageous, are made relatable through the deft descriptions of her thoughts and feelings. A constant theme throughout is her strong desire to be someone. Thrilling, upsetting, and powerful, this memoir is a coming-of-age tale like no other. --Bridget Thoreson

Chapman tells the harrowing story of her being stolen from her home in Columbia in 1954 at the young age of four by unknown assailants and dropped in the woods to fend for herself. She found comfort and family among a group of monkeys, whose land she happened to stumble upon. The jungle, being an unforgiving place, forced Chapman to learn the ropes quickly, and she found solace in belonging to a group, regardless of species. In fact, as time progressed, she became more comfortable as a monkey than as a human, even being shunned by the indigenous people in the South American jungle. Throughout her time spent in the forest, Chapman learned an important lesson about belonging; Family is not just about who you appear to belong to... or who you look like... [it] is found anywhere you are loved and cared for. Unfortunately, this lesson was demonstrated again and again, as one day the little girl was taken from the jungle and began a more difficult life trying to survive the dangers of a people's world. Sold to a brothel, only to run away and become a street-hustler, then later staying with an abusive Mafioso family, life was not easy for the girl of many names, until finally one woman took pity on her and offered her to a better life. This book, which is as much a memoir about the importance of classification and belonging as it is about the endurance of the human spirit, will be enjoyed by those looking for a story of perseverance through even the greatest obstacles life brings. - Publishers Weekly

The story of the early life of a 4 year old girl abandoned in the Columbia jungle is one that is hardly to be believed. Her survival not only in the jungle, which turned out to be the easiest part of her life, but more, her survival after being "rescued" 5 years later, is unimaginable. My only regret(spoiler) is that the book ends without completing her story. I look forward to a continuation of this remarkable tale, (I hope soon).

I was fascinated by the story of Marina, once called Gloria, who couldn't remember her name as a small child. It was utterly convincing to me that she had lived with monkeys for about 5 years, and even forgotten how to speak and walk upright. With all the terrible things that it happened to her, the hardest thing to believe was that she grew up to be a reasonably normal woman that are family and that all they from her experiences did not spoil her life. This book is definitely worth reading and I am anxious to see the sequel!

It was an "ok" book. It was interesting but the author picked and chose the time frame of events that some didn't coincide with the age of the girl. I thought there was going to be an explanation of why she was kidnapped and how she had overcome all she had been through. She was married and had children but none of that was in the book. It followed her from the age of 5 to 14. I was disappointed.

Fascinating and surprising story. I was horrified by the humans that threw the girl in the jungle. It was delightful that the monkeys accepted her and gradually treated her like family. She was so smart to observe them to survive. It's interesting that as the years passed by she yearned to find others like herself. She finally found someone and then her real troubles began. Their greed and cruel nature put her through terrible times again and again. It's amazing she did not escape back to the jungle. Only her strong nature, perseverance and excellent mind allowed her to survive.

One country I do not want to visit...Colombia. This is a story of a young girl kidnapped from her parents and for some reason is abandoned in the jungle. It's amazing that she survived and how she survived. The descriptions of the monkeys, all the pretty flowers and her environment was really amazing. She wanted to be rescued and she was. But not the kind of rescuers that she had hoped for. She now had a life that was worse than being in the jungle. This book was very well written. The thought of so many children abandoned in their city streets is concerning. I know they are a third world country but this is truly sad. Good work...enjoyable read

This is a fascinating survival story of a 5 year old girl who was kidnapped and left in the Colombian jungle. However, it wasn't exactly clear why she was kidnapped and why her kidnapper left her there (ransom, sexual slavery?) The author just states that kidnapping was rampant during that time. She managed to survive with the help of a tribe of monkeys who taught her things like what to eat and what not to eat. Eventually she makes attempts to rejoin the human race, but there are surprises along the way. It's a fast read and a very unusual story.

This is an easy book to read, but the story is powerful and compelling without hyperbole. How a 5 year old child is kidnapped, deserted and survives in Columbia is fascinating enough, but the monkey years are a window into a whole different realm. Read it in one evening.

The book demonstrates truth is stranger than fiction! It is miraculous that she survived, that she overcame her feral beginnings without the help of psychologists etc.; that she somehow differentiated good from evil and chose goodness and love. She must also be extraordinarily intelligent.

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