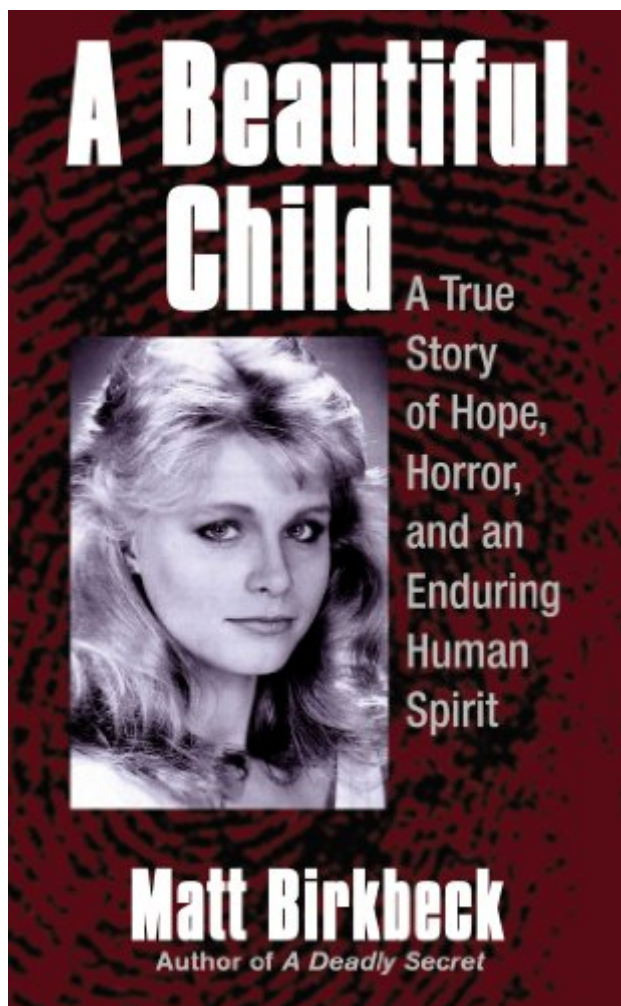




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A Beautiful Child



Synopsis

Sharon Marshall was a brilliant and beautiful student whose future was filled with promise. But her murderous, fugitive father had drawn her into a lifetime of deception that became one of the most baffling cases in the annals of American crime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was an extremely well-written and cohesive telling of an almost unbelievable true crime story. It is obvious that the author did extensive research including interviews of people who were witnesses to this tale of generational kidnapping and murder. The reader comes away with clear portraits of the book's main characters as a result of a well-constructed telling of a story that developed over 25 years. One will have to "Google" the book's chief character, "Sharon Marshall", to learn her true identity, not confirmed until late 2014. The author also offers some eye opening information about the historical difficulties of tracing "missing" children, modern day efforts to improve reporting and tracking, and the efforts of some lawmen dedicated to providing answers for the parents of the missing. One can only hope that future events provide answers to the mysteries of the

disappearances of her brother and son. This is an absorbing telling of an astonishing story that leaves the reader wondering how such injustices, personified in the conduct of one man, could go unidentified and unreported for so long.

I rated this book a five because of the depth and detail of the author in telling this complex, winding story. He hooks you into the plight of poor, beautiful Sharon and the evil rained upon her by Franklin Floyd from the get go. It is a disturbing story-- absolutely heartbreaking. Birkbeck brings Sharon to life. I don't think anyone could read this story without feeling terrible pain for the suffering of Sharon and her son at the hands of a monster. Hopefully, it will also make mean-spirited, judgemental types rethink the plight of young girls forced into the sex trade businesses. We never know what others face in life when we haven't walked in their shoes. I don't think I will ever forget Sharon or Michael or the Bean family or "Stevie" who all crossed paths with the psychopath Floyd. I wish I could forget Floyd because he doesn't deserve one iota of attention. He is the devil. It is beyond tragic but Sharon is finally free of him.

Cannot get this story out of my head. The author is new to me and I'll most definitely read his other book and keep an eye out for new work. He had a way of bringing this young woman to life through his writing style, almost as if he sensed how she was feeling (joy through her son and her rare friendships/at same time the dread and despair as a constant backdrop. This book read like a unique hybrid of true crime and a memoir (although I get a memoir is telling of one's own story) just using that for lack of a better word. Seemed more personal than a True Crime Biography. This angel could have been ANYTHING with her intelligence and beauty had she not been absolutely destroyed by this monster. Although the ending is no secret, I kept hoping there would be some miraculous last minute twist where she and her boy would be living happily ever after. The author did a great job researching and giving her a voice, in my opinion. He appropriately gave detailed facts without exploiting the hell she was in during her life.

Very well written and such a sad story of a little girl turned into a tormented woman ... It is now 2017 and I will do follow up to see if there is lore answers

This story was well written. Most true crime book get caught up in uninteresting facts. This will keep you from beginning to the end. Truly a sad story with hard to believe events. The killer is a monster!

This was a good book however it skipped around way too much and didn't hold my interest as much as I would've liked it to. By skipping around it was hard to keep track of the people and I had to keep referring back to previous chapters as to who they were. I probably wouldn't even read it again or recommend it to anybody.

This book clearly supports the necessity for educators to remain vigilant at all times and be on the watch for the red flags that point the way to child abuse.

Hard to believe this is a true story. The book is an addictive read. The story will stay with you long after you have finished the book. Unsettling and frightening, *A Beautiful Child* is just so sad.

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