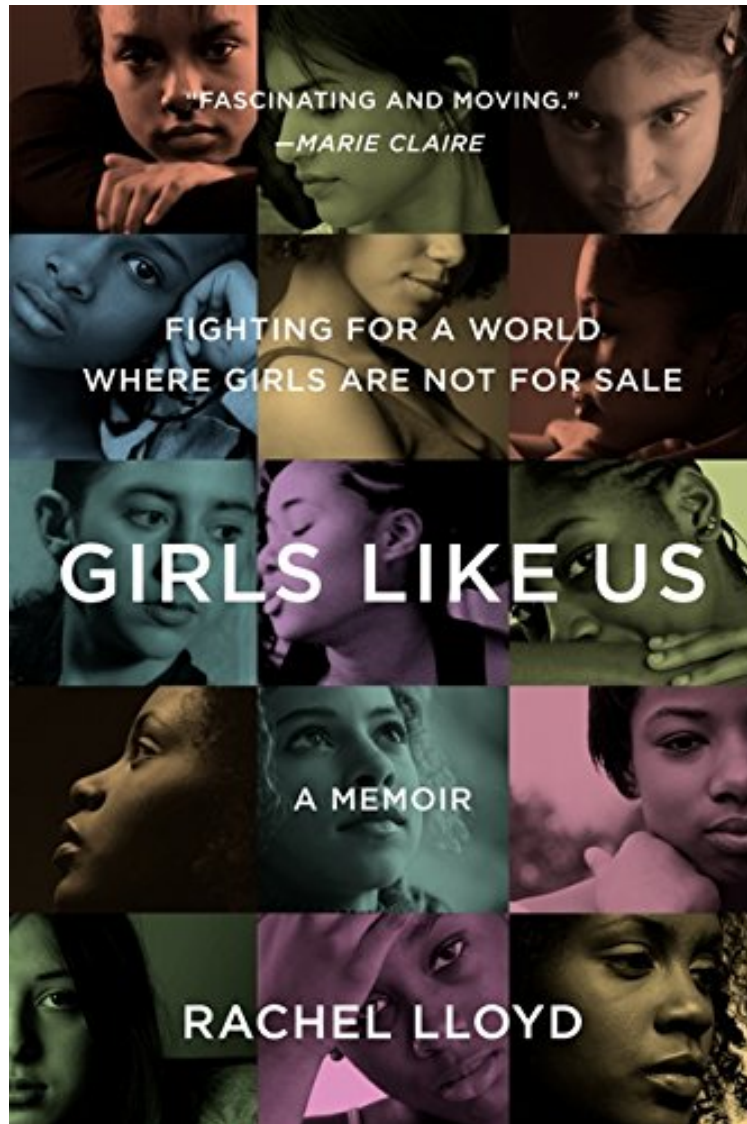


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# Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir

*Rachel Lloyd*

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#15536 in Books Rachel Lloyd 2012-02-28 2012-02-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .48 #File Name: 0061582069288 pages Girls Like Us Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale A Memoir | File size: 53.Mb

**Rachel Lloyd : Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable perspective into domestic sex traffickingBy Jessica L.

ProsperThis is required reading, period. The book exposes the huge problem of sex trafficking and the form it takes in the US; every individual needs to know the information in this book to understand the reality of the sex industry and the damage it causes young, very young, girls and boys. This is invaluable for anyone looking to volunteer or work with individuals who have suffered sexual abuse, and/or been in the life of trafficking. The author is the founder of GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services), and through her personal experience of being in the life she has had the unique ability to connect with the young women she reaches out to through the program. Most importantly for those of us who want to help, she explains the emotional background of trafficked persons so that we can avoid the insensitivity of ignorance to what they have been through and misplaced frustration at what seems to be antisocial behavior, as well as helping to have the patience and compassion to persevere even when girls return to the life. This book gives a window into the stories of the girls who have been rescued, the personal trauma they suffer, and the challenges of their journey to healing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening: this is probably happening in your city! By Jason Custer This book is about sex trafficking and how prevalent it is in our culture today. Rachel Lloyd was a victim of commercial sexual exploitation by her "boyfriend" (really her pimp) growing up, and the book tells her story and how she eventually came to New York to start a safehouse to help girls "like her" who were trapped in "the life" of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). Within each chapter Lloyd weaves her story of how she was trapped being trafficked with the stories of the girls she now works with through GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services - an organization she started to help exploited girls). The result is a heart-wrenching look at the reality of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in our very own country. Being a survivor, Lloyd gives a poignant picture of what it is like to be trafficked and what is going on in the minds of the hundreds of girls who are being exploited. It is by no means an "easy" read as she tries to present an accurate account of what happened to her and what happens to the girls she works with - but it is gripping. I would definitely encourage anyone who is unaware of the prevalence of sex trafficking (or sexual exploitation) in our culture to read this book - or others like it (The Slave Across the Street, Renting Lacy, In Our Backyard, etc). Reading about this has changed my view of prostitution, strip clubs, and pornography - and has awakened me to the amount of injustice and oppression that happens right in our own cities. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Honest, Beautifully Written By Cathi P. Beautifully written, compelling and gripping. This book shares a personal story while also giving a clear understanding of the problems concerning commercially sexually exploited children and youth worldwide. Rachel Lloyd also provides a deep understanding of what is needed on all levels of society to work toward solutions. A great read for anyone working through or with recovery or for anyone that wants to understand this problem better.

"Powerfully raw, deeply moving, and utterly authentic. Rachel Lloyd has turned a personal atrocity into triumph and is nothing less than a true hero. . . . Never again will you look at young girls on the street as one of 'those' women you will only see little girls that are girls just like us." Demi Moore, actress and activist With the power and verity of *First They Killed My Father* and *A Long Way Gone*, Rachel Lloyd's riveting survivor story is the true tale of her hard-won escape from the commercial sex industry and her bold founding of GEMS, New York City's Girls Education and Mentoring Service, to help countless other young girls escape "the life." Lloyd's unflinchingly honest memoir is a powerful and unforgettable story of inhuman abuse, enduring hope, and the promise of redemption.

Riveting. . . [Lloyd's] passionate, persuasive arguments for recognition and protection give a voice to the thousands of girls all around us who work and suffer in near invisibility. (Corrie Pikul, *Elle*) Fascinating and moving. (Marie Claire) Heartbreaking. . . . But the book is also at times funny, bawdy, and optimistic, as is Lloyd herself. (Jennie Yabroff, *Daily Beast*) Rachel Lloyd's astonishing stories of life on the street have an accumulative power that left me reeling. What makes *Girls Like Us* such an extraordinary achievement is that her storytelling is unflinchingly honest, and yet filled with a sense of promise, filled with a profound sense of hope. (Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here* and *The Other Side of the River*) This book will burn a hole in your heart. The beauty of Rachel Lloyd's searing memoir is how she exorcises the pain of her own troubled girlhood by connecting with hundreds of young women on a brutal path. (Mira Nair, director of *Salaam Bombay!*, *Mississippi Masala*, and *The Namesake*) With empathy and intellect, Rachel Lloyd brings to light the heart-breaking stories of these lost, forgotten, and abused girls. Her own life story is a source of inspiration and hope. She is an important new voice of conscience to which America needs to pay attention. (Geoffrey Canada, president and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone) Rachel Lloyd's memoir should be mandatory reading for every cop, prosecutor, judge, and john, but also every mainstream American who thinks racism, classism, and misogyny don't exist. (Sarah Jones, Tony Award-winning playwright/performer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Sarah Jones, Tony Award-winning playwright/performer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Sarah Jones, Tony Award-winning playwright/performer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador) *Girls Like Us* is a life-changing book, in every sense of the word. Rachel Lloyd changed her life in order to help change the lives of thousands of others read her incredibly powerful story, and your life will be changed too. (Janice Erlbaum, author of *Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir* and *Have You Found Her: A Memoir*) *Girls Like Us* is a powerful and eloquent recounting of the lives of children and young women caught up in the ravages of sexual exploitation. [It]

offers valuable insights into understanding the complex emotional and economic factors that contribute to the exploitation of children and youth. (Richard J. Estes, Professor of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania)From the Back CoverDuring her teens, Rachel Lloyd ended up a victim of commercial sexual exploitation. With time, through incredible resilience, and with the help of a local church community, she finally broke free of her pimp and her past and devoted herself to helping other young girls escape "the life." In *Girls Like Us*, Lloyd reveals the dark world of commercial sex trafficking in cinematic detail and tells the story of her groundbreaking nonprofit organization: GEMS, Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. With great humanity, she shares the stories of the girls whose lives GEMS has helpedsmall victories that have healed her wounds and made her whole. Revelatory, authentic, and brave, *Girls Like Us* is an unforgettable memoir.About the AuthorRachel Lloyd is the founder and executive director of GEMS, Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. The recipient of numerous fellowships and honors, including the prestigious Reebok Human Rights Award, Lloyd was a leading advocate for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth Act, which made New York the first state to protect, not prosecute, sexually exploited children. She lives in New York City.