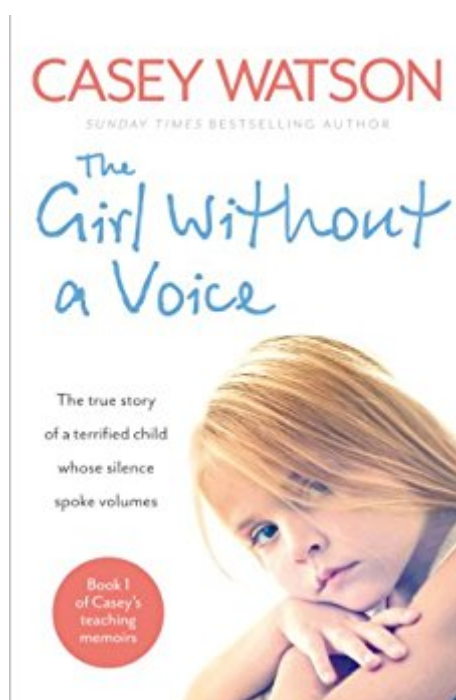


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The Girl Without A Voice: The True Story Of A Terrified Child Whose Silence Spoke Volumes (Casey's Teaching Memoirs)



Synopsis

Bestselling author and foster carer Casey Watson tells the shocking and deeply moving true story of a young girl with severe behavioural problems. This is the first of several stories about difficult children Casey helped during her time as a behaviour manager at her local comprehensive. Casey has been in the post for six months when thirteen-year-old Imogen joins her class. One of six children Casey is teaching, Imogen has selective mutism. She's a bright girl, but her speech problems have been making mainstream lessons difficult. Life at home is also hard for Imogen. Her mum walked out on her a few years earlier and she's never got on with her dad's new girlfriend. She's now living with her grandparents. There's no physical explanation for Imogen's condition, and her family insist she's never had troubles like this before. Everyone thinks Imogen is just playing up except the member of staff closest to her, her teacher Casey Watson. It is the deadpan expression she constantly has on her face that is most disturbing to Casey. Determined there must be more to it, Casey starts digging and it's not long before she starts to discover a very different side to Imogen's character. A visit to her grandparents reveals that Imogen is anything but silent at home. In fact she's prone to violent outbursts; her elderly grandparents are terrified of her. Eventually Casey's hard work starts to pay off. After months of silence, Imogen utters her first, terrified, words to Casey: 'I thought she was going to burn me.' Dark, shocking and deeply disturbing, Casey begins to uncover the reality of what Imogen has been subjected to for years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Prior to becoming a foster carer with husband Mike, Casey Watson worked in a specialized unit at a comprehensive school. It was her job to help troubled children and try to sort out their issues so they could be returned to mainstream classrooms. When 13-year-old Imogen arrives in Casey's classroom, she is said to have selective mutism, meaning some trauma or stressor caused Imogen to retreat into herself and not speak. Casey is determined to get Imogen speaking and interacting with classmates again. However, she must first unravel the mysteries of Imogen's young life. She knows Imogen's mother left the family two years earlier, and that Imogen's father has since remarried, sending her to live with her grandparents. The grandparents, however, insist that Imogen's problems are not family-based, but rather due to peer bullying over her red hair. Casey isn't so sure, but she's determined to get to the bottom of it all. While this book isn't what longtime readers may be used to, the typical focus on a severely troubled foster child, and the story goes back to the mid-90s, meaning the intersecting anecdotes about the Watson's home life are about her own children still as teens, it's still a good read. Above all, the format is similar - a troubled child struggling with her world, and Casey determined to help.

Up to now all of the books I have read by Casey Watson have been of caring for Foster Children in her home, so this gave me the background to understand how she went from the classroom and caring for special needs children to fostering children. I would recommend this book to my family and friends, because it is so good.

This was truly a book that I couldn't put down. I am so glad that she found away to voice what was happening to her. Children can be very easily read, yet it is hard to get them to open up. Yet I think again that could be the same for anyone, not just adults.

Well written. The unfolding story had a lot of information about selective mutism. I was happy that

this girl's trigger was found and proper action taken for a positive outcome.

good book

This story was ok. I've read most all of Casey Watsons books. Some of her other books have interested me more but that's just my opinion and my likes. I love the special gift she has for understanding troubled children. She is a blessing for them. She gives so much insight to those of us who are interested in the cause and effect of human behavior..

Casey is an excellent writer and a God gifted caregiver for the children. This testimony is another one of her gentleness with the children and perseverance in helping them. She does not give up. And is another example of how easy adults can damage children. God has many rewards waiting for her. I highly recommend this book and 'all' her books.

I would recommend this to young and old. What heartbreaking stories that had a good ending. The type of work this organization does in this story is so wonderful. We need more of this type of help for our young ones in this world.

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