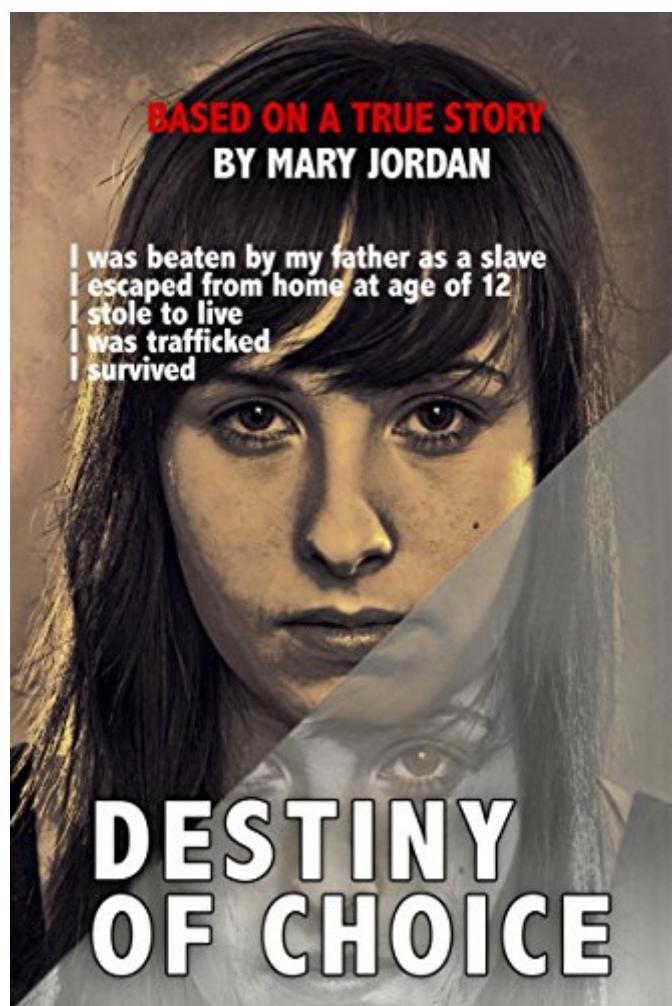


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Destiny Of Choice: I Was Beaten As A Slave By My Father, I Escaped From Home At Age Of 12, I Stole To Live, I Was Trafficked, I Survived.



Synopsis

At just twelve years of age, Ionna has already experienced a life filled with unimaginable horrors. After years of savage beatings and severe emotional abuse, she has finally left her parents' house behind. But life on the streets can be cruel especially for a young, beautiful girl. With her newfound freedom, Ionna discovers that new dangers lurk around every corner. This includes the thriving human trafficking trade—a multibillion dollar industry surviving on the exploitation of children and women all over the world. Vulnerable, starving, and struggling for survival, Ionna is just the type to get ensnared in the flesh trade's despicable practices—and as she wades through the seedy underworld of organized crime, the future begins to look even more bleak. Inspired by a true story, the award-winning author Mary Jordan pens a dark and compelling narrative that gives a voice to the millions of victims of the human trafficking trade. In partnership with several organizations, Jordan has pledged 50 percent of this book's royalties to ending forced prostitution. **KIRKUS REVIEWS** - One of the most trusted and authoritative voices in book industry writes: "Ionna never had a very peaceful childhood: "My father was particularly inventive in his punishments and in his beatings had no equal." She ran away from home after suffering "things that would make your hair stand on end," and eventually falls in with a young criminal named Krasi and his gang of miscreants. They steal from foreigners in seaside resorts, and their operation is small but very successful. However, the waves of excitement and spending come to an abrupt standstill when Krasi kills someone and must flee the country. After refusing to go with him, Ionna is left with limited money and a broken heart. She eventually finds herself part of a sex trafficking ring and becomes a prostitute in an upscale hotel catering to wealthy, foreign men. Her work is often painful and grotesque ("Even the memory of what that pervert did to me makes me feel ashamed"). How will Ionna survive such an existence? Jordan provides insight into the types of traps that might face a girl like Ionna, but although the young woman's actions are clear, much of her interior life remains opaque. Occasional flashes of personality offer captivating details (such as when Ionna encounters a videocassette recorder: "soon the film was beginning. It was called 'Ghost,' a marvellous story about love, death and human morality"), but she can feel, at times, like any other girl stuck in hard times. The book succeeds in illuminating a broad picture of shady dealings and the people swept up in them"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Destiny of Choice--an ironical title for the story of a twelve year old girl torn prematurely from childhood, driven from her home by a drunken, abusive father. The story takes place in Bulgaria. Twelve year old Ionna is crafty and shrewd beyond her years, as well as endowed with exceptional beauty; she quickly learns to use it to manipulate men. After running away from her abusive home, (her mother has been beaten into submission and cannot defend her daughter) Ionna finds that young men quickly and easily fall in love with her. Ionna left home looking for freedom, but tragically falls into the hands of mafia and is a victim of child prostitution. Her life spirals downward, but her indomitable spirit prevails. At the end of the book I learned there will be a sequel, and I look forward to it. Well done, Ms. Jordan.

Awesome book that I would highly recommend... I did recommend it to a friend who is going to download it. Thanks for a great true story book.

The strength and courage of Ionna are unbelievable. I was rooting for her the whole time I was reading the book. I h

This is the story of a young Bulgarian girl, Ionna, who runs away from an abusive family, and ends up involved in sexual human trafficking and underage prostitution. The story makes you see how easy it is for these girls to end up in terrible situations. Sexualized from an early age, these girls end up seeking sexual connections with every man they meet, until they end up meeting someone who wants to pimp them out. It is really sad that this book is based on real events. Many girls undergo even worse situations than Ionna, with much unhappier endings. The writing of the book was just ok. I never really felt very connected to Ionna, and while her story was sad, I found it difficult to empathize with her, because she just seemed so flat and one dimensional as a character. I wish the book had dug a little deeper into the psychological ramifications of a life like this.

I couldn't put this book down. I read it in one day!! I can't wait for the sequel to come out!

Very moving.....

This is poorly written hackneyed tale totally lacking in authenticity. I don't believe a word. Even so, the title has little to do with the story of a runaway truant who becomes involved in drugging and robbing tourists.

I have read this book in a hardcopy I must say it was very touching. I guess the story in the book holds a message: it doesn't mean that if it is not happening here, it is not happening somewhere else.

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