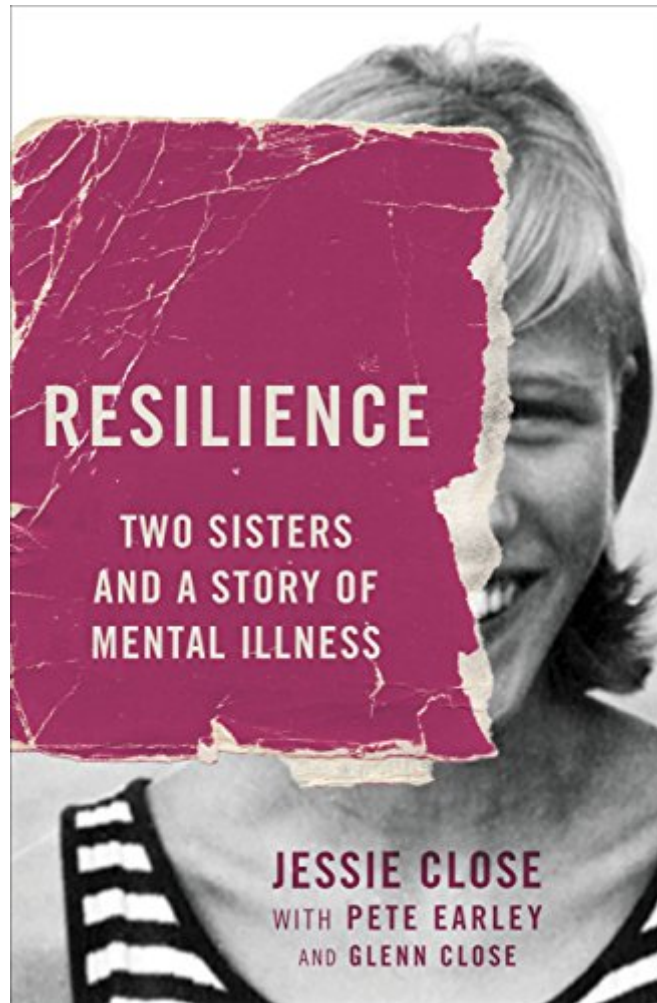


The book was found

Resilience: Two Sisters And A Story Of Mental Illness



Synopsis

At a young age, Jessie Close struggled with symptoms that would transform into severe bipolar disorder in her early twenties, but she was not properly diagnosed until the age of fifty. Jessie and her three siblings, including actress Glenn Close, spent many years in the Moral Re-Armament cult. Jessie passed her childhood in New York, Switzerland, Connecticut, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and finally Los Angeles, where her life quickly became unmanageable. She was just fifteen years old. Jessie's emerging mental illness led her into a life of addictions, five failed marriages, and to the brink of suicide. She fought to raise her children despite her ever worsening mental conditions and under the strain of damaged romantic relationships. Her sister Glenn and certain members of their family tried to be supportive throughout the ups and downs, and Glenn's vignettes in RESILIENCE provide an alternate perspective on Jessie's life as it began to spiral out of control. Jessie was devastated to discover that mental illness was passed on to her son Calen, but getting him help at long last helped Jessie to heal as well. Eleven years later, Jessie is a productive member of society and a supportive daughter, mother, sister, and grandmother. In RESILIENCE, Jessie dives into the dark and dangerous shadows of mental illness without shying away from its horror and turmoil. With New York Times bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Pete Earley, she tells of finally discovering the treatment she needs and, with the encouragement of her sister and others, the emotional fortitude to bring herself back from the edge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a volunteer crisis advocate for victims of sexual assault and child abuse I have struggled to understand why people do the things they do. In the law enforcement academy, we had crisis training on how to deal with the mentally ill. However, there simply isn't enough time study or understand the various conditions. This book has done a better job at making me understand the individuals that have the illness. I applaud Jessie's willingness to open up in a public forum about her past. That is never easy. She did something that no one else had bothered to do. She started a conversation. We're still talking. I believe that Jessie did an amazing job of describing her symptoms. The "creature" is a frightening thing to imagine. To have something in your mind saying, "kill yourself" is almost beyond my understanding. I can't say I have ever heard of a manifestation like that. After some research I've discovered that it's more common than people realize. Jessie comments that people are afraid of people with mental illness and that is true. It is a stigma and it needs to end. However, one of my first encounters as a police officer involved a man who'd taken some very nasty drugs. He was running, barefoot, in December, in the middle of nowhere speaking gibberish. At the time, I was off duty and trying to get home. He was playing "chicken" with semi trucks. It took 2 officers, 2 firefighters and an EMT to get him on the ground. It took ten more minutes to get him cuffed. He fought his restraints for two hours in the hospital. He tested positive for meth and we suspected bath salts. I now wonder if he had other issues that needed to be addressed. I believe this is part of the problem today.

Wow. Talk about honest. Jessie Close, younger sister to Glen Close is to be commended for sharing the pain she suffered with bipolar disorder in order to advocate for those who suffer with mental illness. The book is divided into several parts. The first part details her unorthodox upbringing with parents who got involved with a strange religious cult at the children's expense. The second part deals with un-medicated or "self-medicated" Jessie as her illness begins manifesting itself in her young adulthood. She is brutally honest about her promiscuousness, her drug use, alcoholism, 5 marriages and the wounds she inflicted on those closest to her. Underneath all that, I got a sense of a person who was bewildered by her own behavior and unable to find stability in life. The third part was about her children, especially Calen, her first born and his descent into schitzo-affective disorder as a young adult. Most moving was her despair when she found that he needed several

weeks in a mental hospital to find a diagnosis and a good cocktail of medicines to stabilize him and health insurance would only pay for two weeks. Fortunately, her parents were well off and she had Glen Close as a sister, so they came to the rescue financially, but she has great sympathy for those who are without the resources to help their loved ones. As she left her son in the hospital, she stated "I'd done all that I could do. Now it was up to him and the doctors. I cried so much that I wondered if a person could become dehydrated simply by weeping." "It took 8 months to find the right mix of medications without turning him into a zombie.

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