

# [PDF] Sickened: The Memoir Of A Munchausen By Proxy Childhood

Julie Gregory, Marc D. Feldman - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: Sickened: The Memoir of a Munchausen by Proxy Childhood

Author: Julie Gregory, Marc D. Feldman

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** The first of its kind, this compelling memoir recounts the story of a childhood affected by Munchausen by proxy disease, a.k.a. MBP, a psychological disorder in which caretakers, usually themselves the victims of traumatic abuse, "make an otherwise healthy child sick" as a way of gaining attention and approval. Set in towns of rural obscurity, Gregory's memoir movingly describes how, as a "sick" child, she believed that her constant feelings of exhaustion and

lethargy were caused by some illness in herself rather than by her mother's complicated and abusive rituals. When her mother feeds her handfuls of pills, withholds food or instructs her to "act sick," Gregory does as she is told because she wants to please her. Then, undernourished and doped up on drugs for problems that don't exist, Gregory is dragged from hospital to hospital in search of "answers." Interspersed throughout Gregory's narrative are real medical records that show the efforts of dozens of doctors, procedures and surgeries to "heal" her, efforts which instead become the source of new illnesses. Not until adulthood, when she hears a professor describe MPB during a lecture, does Gregory realize what the real problem is. Gregory's impressive and disturbing memoir uncovers the truths of this elusive and disturbing form of child abuse that is often overlooked and misdiagnosed. 22 pages of b&w white photos.

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**From School Library Journal** Adult/High School-Gregory's childhood was marred by a particularly insidious form of child abuse. Her mother used a combination of malnutrition, overwork, and prescription drugs to keep the girl in a perpetual state of ill health. They spent their spare time visiting pediatricians and heart specialists, with her mother ratcheting up the symptoms and possible cures, even begging a doctor to perform open-heart surgery. Ironically, when Gregory did need medical care after breaking a wrist, she was ignored for hours by her mother, who insisted that the injury might just be a sprain, even though the bone was poking out from the skin. It was not until the young woman moved away from their isolated family home and attended college that she was able to piece together the events of her childhood and move forward with her own life. She relays her story not as a victim but as a strong survivor. Her narrative style maintains the child's inner voice, necessary to help readers remember that she was too young to realize that she wasn't really sick. By the time she began to grow suspicious, she had a lengthy paper trail of symptoms that kept the medical profession convinced that she really was sick, despite her growing protests. The author currently serves as an advocate for other Munchausen survivors. As well as being a fascinating read, this book could give others in similar situations a lifeline back to health.-*Jamie Watson, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore*

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