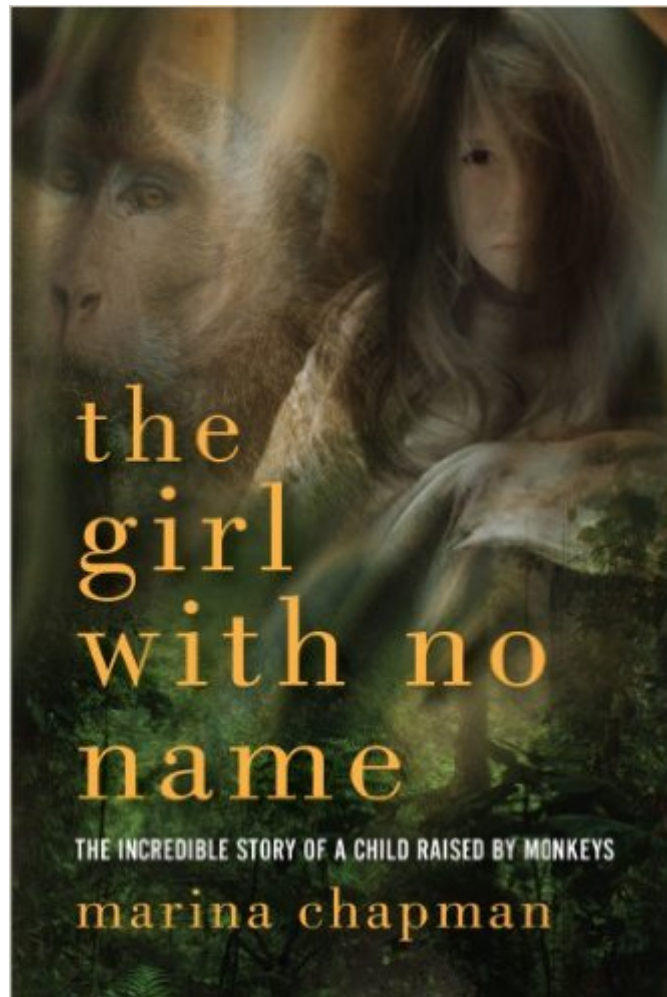


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The Girl With No Name: The Incredible True Story Of A Child Raised By Monkeys



Synopsis

The poignant story of a girl who overcomes unique hardship and deprivation - growing up with a troop of capuchin monkeys - to find ultimate redemption. In 1954, in a remote mountain village in South America, a little girl was abducted. She was four years old. Marina Chapman was stolen from her housing estate and then abandoned deep in the Colombian jungle. That she survived is a miracle. Two days later, half-drugged, terrified, and starving, she came upon a troop of capuchin monkeys. Acting entirely on instinct, she tried to do what they did: she ate what they ate and copied their actions, and little by little, learned to fend for herself. So begins the story of her five years among the monkeys, during which time she gradually became feral; she lost the ability to speak, lost all inhibition, lost any real sense of being human, replacing the structure of human society with the social mores of her new simian family. But society was eventually to reclaim her. At age ten she was discovered by a pair of hunters who took her to the lawless Colombian city of Cucuta where, in exchange for a parrot, they sold her to a brothel. When she learned that she was to be groomed for prostitution, she made her plans to escape. But her adventure wasn't over yet... In the vein of "Slumdog Millionaire" and "City of God," this rousing story of a lost child who overcomes the dangers of the wild and the brutality of the streets to finally reclaim her life will astonish readers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a pleasure it is to write the first review of this book. I finished it in just over a day because, among its many strong points, *The Girl With No Name* reads like a novel. The further I got into it, the

more impatient I was to find out what happened next. I've always enjoyed stories that involve a clash of cultures. When people of different classes, religions, or countries are thrown together and faced with the challenge of living together despite their differences, the door opens to all sorts of insights, humor, and character development. And this account--whose truth I don't doubt for a moment--takes that plot device to the max, because it's not just about the meeting of two cultures, but two species. Marina Chapman was abandoned in the jungles of Colombia as a four-year-old, and forced to survive for the next five years without the help or companionship of other humans. As the title suggests, she did so by taking up with a troop of capuchin monkeys. And the culture clash to which I refer happens not just once, but twice in the course of the story--once as she learns to live as a member of her new-found monkey family, and then five years later, as she tries to adjust to living in civilization, having long ago forgotten how to be human. As you can imagine, there's a tragic side to this tale. Many of her relationships--those with other people, that is--were filled with cruelty and abuse. But there's also joy, great strength, and tenderness to be found here. I've long been intrigued by how humans relate to animals. It seems to me that we have a sense of superiority that's unwarranted. How can one species say that it is fundamentally better than another?

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