



The Boy From the Basement

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For Charlie, the cold, dark basement is home. Father has kept him locked in there as punishment. Charlie doesn't intend to leave, but when he is accidentally thrust outside, he awakens to the alien surroundings of a world to which he's never before been exposed. Though haunted by hallucinations, fear of the basement, and his father's rage, Charlie must find a way to survive in his new world. He has escaped his past, but his journey has just begun.

The Boy From the Basement Details

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Tatyanna says

Charlie, the protagonist, is getting abused by his father. He was locked in the basement as a punishment after for being a bad kid, he went outside and played in the rain where the danger was and his father didn't like that and locked him in the basement. Charlie didn't have the essentials to live when he was in the basement so his mother had to unlock the door for him so he could get food and water to stay alive. One night Charlie did the things he had to do at night before going to the basement but he had to go to the bathroom so he went outside on the back porch, but what he didn't know was that the back porch door would slam close and lock. Charlie didn't know what to do because he thought he woke up his father so he ran away from the house. He went into the light and then a person took him, he thought it was his father taking him back to the house and go back in the basement, but it wasn't he was taken to the hospital.

After he was taken to the hospital he woke up and there was food but he didn't touch it because he thought this was a whole trick and his father would take him back home and put him in the basement, but that didn't happen yet but what did happen was a nice lady came into his room and started asking him questions. When the nice lady started asking questions Charlie was scared because he was hallucinating a spider, because he was sick after being in the basement for to long and not eating enough food. After a couple of days of eating and drinking water and also the nurses taking his vitals he was getting better. The nice lady asked if Charlie could draw a picture of his parents and he did that so and the nice lady took the drawings and was on the look for his parents, after a couple days Charlie heard talking in the hallway and then his parents walked in the room, he thought none of this was real he was only hallucinating them. But they were real, real people, it was his parents.

But he wasn't allowed to go with them, he went with a lady he called Mrs.H he ate there and had a brother, but Charlie was scared to play outside with his new brother because he thought his father would snatch him and take him back into the basement, but after a couple weeks he built up his courage and went and played outside with his brother, Mrs.H said she would be gone for 15 minutes top, but what Charlie didn't know is that his father was watching him and minutes later his father was holding him by the neck and just because Charlie was refusing to go with him he dropped him on his bad shoulder and broke it, Mrs.H came and save the day and made Charlie's father go away, they went to court and Charlie's father was not allowed near him, and Charlie got surgery on his shoulder and he had a new family, a good family.

I would recommend this book to people who like the new creation of a family and people getting through the tough times, but I wouldn't recommend this book to people who hate when children get abused and have to go through all the suffering and pain. This was a fiction book that could be based on a true story so the genera is a realistic fiction

Janet says

Great book for students who've suffered physical abuse from a parent.

Zhao says

This book is a very weird but cool book. It talks about this book being trapped in teh basement by his parent.

The book soon escape and got to another family that really cared about him. He got this mental problem that he started seeing this red spider. He goes through some hard time. I think that the book really bring up how sad some parent are. Treating thier own child like a wild beast, jsut trapping him in a cage. Unfortunately, these stuff does happen and it happens all the time.

Alicia says

This has been my purse book, so it's taken me a while to get through, but it was worth it. Although it's happy in that the parents were convicted and Charlie now has a new and loving home-- the story itself of a boy afraid of the outside and living confined in the basement is enough to break anyone's heart. Hello fans of A Child Called It.

Cat Noe says

In an afternoon lull following a library visit, I went to find a quiet spot to read for a quarter hour or so. They have a spot offering free books, so I glanced over the shelves before settling down to a few minutes of other reading. I picked this up for a glance-over. Interesting. Tried a page to see how the writing was.

Must have been about thirty pages in when I remembered myself and moved to take advantage of the proffered seating rather than standing like a book-holding tree or an unseasonable coat-rack in the lobby.

Yeah, it's one of those books. Remember 1984? How the government proposed to control society by controlling language? This book entire was written subtly, discretely, in child's terms, even when the events were clearly harsher than the wording. I suspect the spider analogy must be quite common; I had the same comparison growing up, though in nightmares, not hallucinations.

Altogether I found it a rather beautiful story, a broken child entering into real life...

So why four stars instead of five? Because it's a fantasy. This book is the dream of many a damaged kid. Dreams can change the world. They help push it in the right direction. Honestly, I'd like it less if Charlie had sought help on his own. The accident helped the realism.

Is insight enough? It's a good start, but kids like this get forgotten every day, and are expected to cope with life despite it. I'd like to see a move to empower such developing people, not by the placebo that seem to be the current trend, but by actual recognition and opportunity.

Megan B. says

This book was very depressing but very good. It's also symbolic and makes you appreciate what you have.

Lauren says

I really loved the book, im not a fan of fiction but when i read this i really fell in love.

Kantorfan96 says

The Boy from the Basement, is a great book for all people seeking to be introduced to the "Child Called It" series". Although it is a book of abuse, it is not graphically detailed. Susan Shaw mastered the art of characterization by adding new characters to the book. Unlike other books, every few pages a new character is introduced, although these characters may not become main, I do like the style. She is also very creative. She doesn't seem to like the same settings and characters, she likes to mix it up. The setting is done beautifully, throughout the book we go through 3 different settings which I found to be very entertaining. Shaw has no down side everything she does is VERY professional. Especially the dialog between Charlie. She describes Charlie's internal and external speech, giving us a taste of Charlie and his conscience.

Pages For Thoughts says

This book is quite short, 198 pages, but full of emotions and intense scenes that will move you to tears! I loved the symbolism of the spider and what it meant to Charlie, as well as his mentality of "punishment." The Boy From the Basement is very sad and inspiring. Unfortunately, it is a true story for many kids in the world. The character development of Charlie is extraordinary. He wants his parents back, and for the longest time he doesn't understand that what he went through is wrong. He is afraid of his father, but loves him, too. He goes from blaming himself to realizing that he can be independent and gains a self-worth and confidence that is incredible and inspiring. Read more of my review at <http://pagesforthoughts.blogspot.com/...>

Cait S says

A fast read, obviously a sad one from the summary alone. I don't know that I came out of it satisfied with the answers given, but as it's told from the point of view of the abused child who really doesn't have the vocabulary for those answers, that's just the way of it. So positive stars for length and speed of reading. Negative for feeling like the plot was never really fleshed out.

Sherry Guice says

My 8th grade boys were completely engaged in this book! Lots of opportunities for inferential thinking and discussion...

Courtney says

This book is about how some parents abuse their kids but then lie to them and say they are protecting them. For Charlie the only way out is accidentally locking himself out of the house because he is delirious with fever.

Faith says

I never really thought much about abusive parents before this. I knew it was bad, but this took you into their mind set. This book starts out with a boy who's father put him in a basement for years. The kid develops a fever, and accidentally runs away. He is found by some neighbors, and brought to the ER. He meets a friend, and starts on the road of recovery...

Samantha says

This is not a young adult novel...it's a "how-to manual" on how to pscyhologically and physically abuse your kid(s).

Katelyn says

I thought this book was really good. It was really sad though. The poor boy did not even know what school was. He did not know anything about what normal people do. He thought everyone's parents abused them, he thought it was normal. He also kept imagining a spider coming after him, and he really thought it was real. I like this book a lot.
