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Ezra and Hadassah: A Portrait of American Royalty

Heather M. Young

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AMERICAN ROYALTY

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Heather M. Young : Ezra and Hadassah: A Portrait of American Royalty before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ezra and Hadassah: A Portrait of American Royalty:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating story of a brother and sister who triumph over spirit killing circumstancesBy Arlene BallI read this book in one day because I couldn't put it down. The memoir is unique because these children were born to a mother with a serious mental illness and a handicapped father with a low IQ. They went through hell but inevitably chose love and service to others over bitterness and surrender. The beauty of

their lives is in their triumph. How they did it---what they experienced at the hands of supposedly well meaning adults is one of the most compelling stories I've ever read. Heather writes with wit and courage and total honesty about her struggle to survive her childhood and leads the reader to hope. Ezra's story will break your heart, but his never failing attempts to be a better person and serve others leaves one feeling respect and even exultation. Many lessons to be learned from this book but the story will draw you in and mesmerize you till the end. Bravo!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heart-wrenching and thought-provoking
By Helene du Lac
I very rarely write reviews, but was compelled to in this case. I heard about this book from a friend (who I believe knows the author) and it piqued my interest, but I had no idea what a heart-wrenching yet triumphant story I was starting. The story of Heather and Rex's childhood is told in what I can describe as an insightful, yet matter-of-fact, narrative that provides an understanding both of what Heather felt/thought as a child and her perception of events as an adult looking back. This is a story of children caught up in an abusive, adoptive household and their (real) parents who are caught up in the system. Yes, it is horrific on some level because no one should endure what these children (and others) did, nor should their (real) parents have been shunted to the side by the system. But it also gives me hope - both children broke the cycle of abuse that was foisted on them by their adoptive parents, though they obviously had lasting emotional scars. In addition to being a story about this somewhat heroic brother and sister, the book paints an interesting picture of dynamics within an abusive family and the pitfalls of society and government agencies of the 70s and 80s in dealing with child abuse. It is a well-written, thought-provoking read and I applaud the author for bearing her soul the way she does.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heart Wrenching and Captivating
By Michele
Your heart will break; your hope in humanity will be restored. So many themes will grip your heart - parental rights, child advocacy, the rights of the mentally ill, bullying, foster care, the value and worth of society's "freaks," and the will to survive against all odds. Hadassah (Heather)'s brave and honest truth-telling grips you with love for these precious cast-offs, torn from their parents without being asked. You will long to be like Ezra (Rex) who despite chronic oppressive abuse at the hands of falsely "good people" is powerfully gifted with forgiveness and passion to serve others. A must-read!

Ezra and Hadassah: A Portrait of American Royalty is the remarkable true story of a family torn apart by circumstances beyond their control. Born to mentally challenged parents, Ezra and Hadassah spend the first years of their lives in foster care while keeping ties with their biological parents. Everything changes when the children mysteriously disappear, leaving their parents with no clue as to their whereabouts. While Ezra and Hadassah fight to survive, their sibling bonds of love are tested to the breaking point. They forge ahead and in the process, find a power of healing beyond themselves.

Ezra and Hadassah: A Portrait of American Royalty is an extraordinary, riveting memoir that will take you through the gamut of emotions, from side-splitting hilarity to heart-rending sorrow, full-on rage to soul-searching contemplation." - more at: rationalfaiths.com/book-review-ezra-hadassah-portrait-american-royalty/