

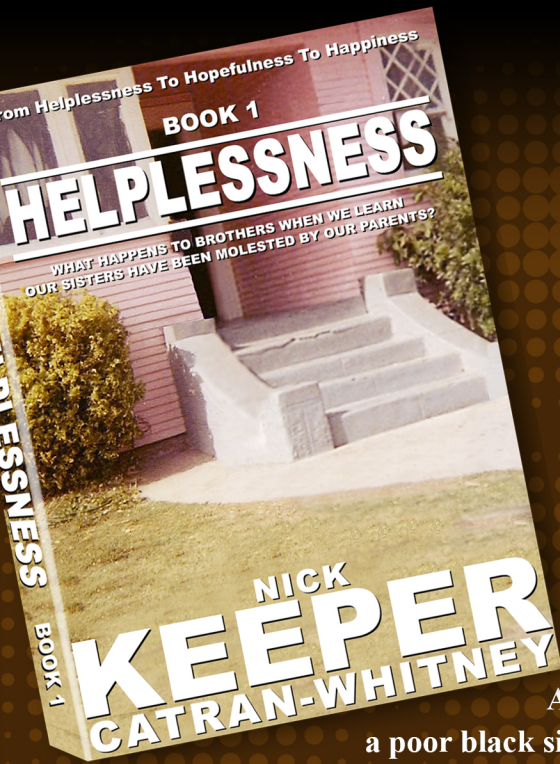


FROM HELPLESSNESS TO HOPEFULNESS TO HAPPINESS

BOOK ONE

HELPLESSNESS

WHAT HAPPENS TO BROTHERS WHEN WE LEARN
OUR SISTERS HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED BY OUR PARENTS



taleflick



“Rarely are authors able to imbue their stories with as much heart, pain, and passion as Keeper. Audiences are not ready for the depths that this work chronicles.”

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A true story of one family’s trauma. HELPLESSNESS follows a poor black singing family, stepfather Henry, mother, four boys, and four girls, on the cusp of music stardom as they are torn apart after their stepfather’s unyielding sexual predation of his stepdaughters. Years later, a fateful stepson decides to dive into his family’s trauma, all while bracing to stand up to his predator stepfather once and for all.

A key strength in this work is the author’s voice— Keeper’s narration stands out as exquisite, haunting, and robust with its emotion and reflections. Rarely are authors able to imbue their stories with as much heart, pain, and passion as Keeper. Audiences are not ready for the depths of depravity that this work chronicles. Nor are they ready for the kind of heinous, monstrous villains this work presents. All in all, this work contains pulse-pounding drama in excess, and one would be unwise not to take a closer look, that is, if they can bear it.

Free Book/Memoir Excerpts - Sixteen-Part Audio Podcast of “HELPLESSNESS: This Is For The Brothers” - Eight-Part Video Podcast of “HELPLESSNESS: This Is For The Brothers” - Chapter Readings – Featurettes - Video trailers of the podcast - Video Interviews - Media Kits - Media interviews - Image gallery - “What People Are Saying - Resources for Sexual Assault Victims.

www.KeeperCatranWhitney.com

“There is a saying in screenwriting that a good movie is three good scenes and no bad ones. Here, Keeper seems to have more than a handful of great potential scenes, and they are led by the epic, gut-wrenching family meeting where the assault revelations come out, followed by the pulse-pounding final confrontation between Keeper and the tormentor stepfather, Henry. All in all, there is plenty here to level the audience with this work’s high stakes drama and harsh truths.”



During a family meeting in the Fall of 1977, my three brothers and I excitedly entered the living room, ready to hear when our family, The Whitney Family, would sign the Motown Records contract. Instead, what we heard was not what we were expecting. What we heard was that our two oldest sisters had been sexually abused by their stepfather for years! And our mother knew all along. She never once intervened, thereby granting our stepfather, Henry, permission. After the exposure, the sexual abuses continue secretly for another nine years. All this, eleven years after our babysitter sexually abused my older brother and me almost daily for six months--yes, our mother knew. In a ten-minute span in 1977, everything I believed my family to be, a wonderful black family - a model for other black families was destroyed. There was no coming back. The people we brothers needed to speak to, our sisters, told us we could never talk about what we heard - EVER! Our sisters didn't realize not only were they molested and broken, but so were their four brothers. This is my forty-five-year journey of abandonment, betrayal, guilt, trauma, shame, regret, and my unceasing drive for revenge, to reclaim the honor and respect of my four sisters. It is the story all brothers go through in silence. It is our greatest nightmare. This is the story about what happens to brothers when we learn our sisters have been sexually abused. This is the story of how I lost myself and how I spent four decades trying to recapture myself - any part of myself. It is a story of finding retribution and revenge forty-five years later in the most unlikely of places in front of over one hundred people - a church! It is a story about a brother looking for and finding love and respect from my sisters. It is a story to other brothers, so they know they are not alone in their grief, shame, and guilt at not being able to protect their sisters.

Word count: 208,231

Genre: Drama, Memoir

Audience: Age: 18-34,35-54,55+

Core Theme: Trauma, Family Retribution

Themes: Mature Audience, Incest, Sexual Abuse, Language/Profanity, Extreme Violence

Target Group Specific: Brothers, sisters, families, religious groups, social groups, schools, law enforcement, clinical, psychological, and political.

Time Period: 1960s & '70s, 1980s & '90s, 2000s

Comparable Titles: Precious, The Color Purple, Yelling To The Sky, Angela's Ashes

"It is one of the most absorbing, educating, and humbling morality roller coasters I have ever read. I immediately called my sister after I finished, and we talked for two hours about how your book impacted me. I told her what our pastor did to me one summer."

- Richard G, TV and movie actor

"I can't imagine living and surviving the way this family had to. I think this book will become a critically acclaimed piece of work and I'm only halfway through it."

- Naomi, B.

"You get it, unlike any man I know. You are one of the team. The women's team."

- Mrs. Cook

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