



Real Beast: Abused

Brian Arthur Levene

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What becomes of a marriage to someone who has been sexually, physically, and emotionally abused for fifteen years by their own father? Real Beast: Abused is a gripping and compelling true story of two people whose love becomes corrupted by their past, family ties, cultures, and their Muslim and Christian religion. The strikingly beautiful Laila, a Pakistani Muslim's life is plagued by every type of abuse from a young age, which leaves her distorted, conflicted, and questioning her sexual identity. Her husband Arthur, falls victims to Laila's attempts to replace her own culture and religion with a material and carnal way of life. Soon he realizes there's a hidden side to Laila's long term agenda which may not involve living a heterosexual lifestyle.

Real Beast: Abused is a must read for anyone with an urge to observe the long term effects of abuse and the melting of different and often opposing culture's ideals on Sexuality, Loyalty and Love.

From The Editor: Brian Arthur Levene's fifth book, Real Beast: Abused, is the true story of the marriage between a beautiful young woman, who struggles to break free from her own middle-eastern religion, culture, and ethos of sexuality and an American who has different ideals. The conflict transforms the couple's capacity to love, nearly destroying each of them in the course of their lives together. The immersion of Laila into the materialistic and carnal ideals of the western world is also her escape from an abused past.

Neither her striking beauty, the purity of her husband's devotion and love, nor the birth of a son is enough to overcome malicious desires to consume her adopted culture and its trappings. Money, and her submission to sexual deviance cultivates this insightful story of the inescapable and inseparable psychological realities of abuse, love and culture—vices that bring out the Real Beast.

Real Beast: Abused Details

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From Reader Review Real Beast: Abused for online ebook

Heather Stanley says

I fell into reading this book, I was not really sure what to expect but was will to read it and see where that took me!!! I'm glad I did!! WOW is all I can say, just WOW! The main characters are Arthur and Leila and their lives are true craziness. She is a pakistan muslim that has been abused by her family and he falls in love with her. Everything that follows is the extreme highs and lows of that love. When one loves so much and the other has been raised to use that only bad can come of it!! The style of writing is an interesting and belieable way to get across what is happening. This was a fast read for me because I had to know what was going to happen next!! I was left with many questions that I hope I'll get answers to!!! Pick it up and read it you wont regreat it you will be that drawn in!!!

Theresa says

I received this as a gift from the author Mr. Levene. I got it for joining a party on FB. This is based on a true story. This story takes u on a very different kind of ride. Has u feeling thing u some might never feel. This is a story of Arthur and Leila. Arthur was raised by his loving mother in a normal home. Leila was raised in a family of incest and had hateful things done to her. She was brainwashed and molested. This story had me feeling so many emotions. I really cant describe how I felt while reading this book. MR. Levene deserves 5***** just for putting his he'll on paper. A MUST READ.

Marlene Santos says

I received this book through Goodreads giveaway. I didn't know the author , so I didn't know what to expect.

The book is the true story of the author's marriage and it is written with lots of emotion.

I found it sometimes difficult to follow in places, especially due to the jumpy nature of the timeline and sometimes the truth of the story made stop reading because it was really painful to believe someone lived those situations and survived to tell it...

I enjoyed reading the book and would recommend it only to adults who have an open mind and a high self-esteem...

Karey Smtih says

This book has so many twists. The main characters are Arthur and Leila and talk about the epitome of true dysfunction. She is a pakistan muslim that has been sexually abused by her family . Arthur falls in love with her and they have some extreme relationship and it makes their marriage go thru high highs and very low lows. Good book and quick read!!!!

Heather says

This is not an easy book to read.

First, I praise the author for being very brave to talk about a horrible and personal time in his life. He was in an addictive, passionate, and poisonous relationship that he couldn't escape. His life was out of control, and he struggled to get through. It is not easy to openly put the worst part of yourself out in the open for people to read and criticize and judge. I always applaud people who are brave enough to do this.

Real Beast is the story of an abused woman who was abusive to the author who then became abusive to her. I have read plenty of autobiographies and fiction from the perspective of an abused person. I have rarely read the same from the perspective of the abuser. It is hard to understand how one becomes an abuser. The author tries hard to let us know how this happened to him. Reading about abuse and the toll it takes is not easy to read.

The structure of this book makes it difficult to read. It is not written in chronological order, more as a chaotic flow of thoughts. This is an excellent metaphor for how the author was feeling during this time in his life. But reading the string of seemingly unorganized thoughts makes it hard for the reader to keep up with what is going on and when it happened. The reader is left to figure out how and when things transpired. I got a little frustrated with this and wanted to stop reading because of it.

I did not stop reading, though. I really wanted to know what happened. I wanted to know and read about how the author broke free from being abused and being the abuser. Every victim's story is different and how they survive is different. This is true for the author.

This book is worth a read. The author has some really beautifully written descriptions at times. He often has a great way with words. And if you are interested to know more about the woman in his relationship, he has another whole book dedicated just to her story. Maybe I should have read that first?

Laurie says

I received this book through the Goodreads giveaway.

Wow, this is an intense memoir. The author tells the story of his rollercoaster marriage to a woman who was sexually and mentally abused as a child and how it has left her damaged and crippled their relationship.

I really enjoyed this book. My life story is very different from the author's, but I could still relate to him. I understand how he felt, if he just loved his wife enough, somehow it would correct her defects. From my own personal experience it was not a good strategy. I truly hope all the players in this book eventually find peace and happiness. I feel this story is going to stay with me a long time.

Elizabeth says

I won this book off goodreads. and WOW - this book is crazy! - Talk about a dysfunctional relationship. Even though the cover says it is a true story, I hope that this book is fictional. I have never read anything like it - It is a good read and I finished it quickly. I will look for the next installment as I am interested as to what happens to these characters.

Mia says

I received a free paperback copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway in exchange for an honest (facultative) review.

REAL BEAST: ABUSED is a brutally honest memoir about the author's relationship with his wife, who is a victim of child abuse. The author describe in details the nonsense going on in their relationship, from Laila's twisted view of her own sexuality to her episodes of madness. Brian A. Levene doesn't hesitate to admit even his own actions that would be considered "wrong" but that are consequences of living with someone whose mental health is so deeply unstable. I am very curious now to read Brian A. Levene's previous book about Laila's past and what has been done to her.

At some points in the book I found it difficult to figure out where in time the events were happening. The only other downside is that there are many ortograph mistakes, but that doesn't make the story any less good.

Thank you for the copy of this book!

Shadow says

I wasn't sure what to expect. You jump into this couples lives, learn who they are, what they've experienced, and you end up feeling like your the one put through the wringer. More than once, my emotions for this couple was all over place. Empathy, for both Leila and Arthur. Leila, subjected to terrible abuse growing up, and not very trusting, with herself or others. Arthur, so selfless in a lot of ways, used, abused and taken for a ride. I couldn't help but feel for both. Reading this, i couldn't help but want to help both characters and smack them...

If you like a couple working through problems, differences, ones from today and past, cultures, abuse, roller coaster emotions, family drama, etc. This is one you'll want to grab!

Its a fast read, quickly draws you in, throws you curves and leaves ya with questions...ones you can't wait to find answers to!

Cynthia Cene says

This is a true story about a man who is married to someone that was abused growing up. It's not for the weak at heart.

This story was a real eye opener. It made me sad, happy, angry, and confused. But it also taught me some

stuff. Try as you might but you can't help or change someone unless that person wants it. You can love someone till you are blue in the face and become blind to the world. When you finally open your eyes and everything crumbles around your feet it may be hard but you can always find the strength in yourself to pick up the pieces and rebuild. The most important thing I learned was don't lose yourself while trying to save someone else.

This book is intense but I have to thank the author for being strong enough to share one of the darkest times of his life. I would love to know more on what happened and if he were to continue with telling us his story I would read it in a heartbeat.

Neja says

*This review has spoilers.

When I began reading this book I thought the story will be about marriage with mix religions and problems that may occurred because of this. We all know that being a Muslim or being a Christian is something completely different. Well, the story is not about that. It's actually strange to review this book because the story is true. So it's like commenting someone's personal life and choices. It's especially hard because I don't agree with a lot of things. I'm just going to be brutally honest.

If I comment the writing first... I like the style but it is true that the book has some typos and it is confusing reading it at times, because the author jumps from one timeline to another. Like for example when he writes that they were just students but his daughter is 20 years old.... I was really confused..but okay I later realized he returned to school later and it was taking him 8 years already by then.

All of the people mentioned in this book are one big mess. All of them. Not one of them is normal. None of them live their life normal, have their values and priorities in check, know how to love, respect, value, what's wrong, what's right. A lot of them belong to prison for some time and all of them need psychiatric treatment. I mean oh dear God.. so much incest, mental, physical, sexual abuse, lies, beating, insults, teenage behavior, yelling, going back and forth... It's just nonsense and I feel like I need therapy after reading this, it was so exhausting.

It's very obvious that Arthur blames Laila for all this mess. She was abused basically by everyone in her family so she is damaged so she is to blame. Well, I don't agree. Yes, she grew up in a fucked up family and she obviously doesn't have any role models of how a human being should act, love, live... She should be psychiatrically treated for this and not be involved in any kind of love relationship before she recovers.

Arthur doesn't make wise choices ...at all. The first time he met her, she needed alcohol, really bad. Umm, isn't that a red flag right away? Why start a relationship with an unstable person? I don't understand that. Like you want troubles in your life. And no, you shouldn't make a decision based on dreams of a beautiful girl that looked like Laila. Plus I'm sure there were hundreds of red flags right at the beginning.

And then a bunch of problems start. And again, I don't get why would anyone stay in a relationship like that. If you do, you are responsible for everything that happens, because you let it happen, you didn't end an unhealthy love relationship. Arthur basically always jumps from one relationship to another. And not only that, he gets married and has children with them. Marriage with Laila is his third or forth marriage and I think he has children with three of them, so he doesn't take care for his kids, they don't have their father in

their everyday life. This is wrong on so many levels. I think it's fine to jump from one relationship to another and be on and off with girls and to have a temperamental relationships full of passion and fighting..when you are a teenager. Because you learn through this kind of experiences and you let it out of your system. But I think you have to get your shit together by the time you're .. I don' know thirty. And then you don't repeat your childish mistakes and you can be a partner to your partner that knows how to love, cherish, respect, support, admire, uplift, make laugh, motivate... this is how a relationship should look like. And THEN you have kids..and you choose a good partner to have kids with. Having kids is something you should think through not act on a pulse. Because these kind of kids suffer so much in life, because they don't have the family, the parents they should have and deserve. And they grow up in adults that have a bunch of problems and they just repeat the cycle.

Arthur knows how she was treated in her own family and yet, when times get tough and they are in the middle of major blow out and fight..he beats her, calls her a bitch and basically rapes her. But it seems that this doesn't bother her, because she actually enjoys when someone treats her this way, which is logical, because this type of victims start to enjoy in it after some time. Well not everyone, but it is common. For someone that wants to become a clinical psychiatrist he should know better. Plus I would expect from my clinical psychiatrist (if I needed one) to have their personal life in order. Because how can you treat people if your personal life and choices are so unhealthy?

Plus he runs away as soon as things get tough...(in previous relationships) and in this relationship too in a way. And he fucks a jogger after one fight. And exchange sex texts with a reader of his books from another country. I find it weird that although he finds out that Khalid (a married man) wants his wife and is "in love" with her, they (Arthur and Laila still move in Chicago near to him and actually hang out with him. I mean..really? What do you expect to happen? This Khalid guy is full of pathology too. Like all of them. He later hits on Arthur's 20 years old daughter. The daughter, Shianne has her own weird things going on. She searches for women on Craig's list. And it seems that Laila and her flirt a lot. Laila wants to fuck her. And she wants to have sex with women (nothing wrong with being a lesbian but here are some other things that are totally wrong) and she wants to have sex with some beautiful, young girl. I mean... Have I convinced you already that they are all messed up? I guess Laila wants to abuse some girl like she was abused. She of course doesn't see it this way, for her is something erotic, something that turns her on. Again, very common for abused victims to abuse other people. It's the horrifying cycle if the victim doesn't receive treatment.

And all this gambling in Casinos. That's not healthy either. And it doesn't matter how much money it brings. It's not normal to live like this.

Laila was abused by her own father, aunt, stepmom and has inappropriate relationship with her brother and she also slept with her sister. The only normal thing Arthur should do when he met her was (even though he didn't know the whole truth about her past) to make sure she gets some help and to just be her friend.

And the threesome is another big mistake. And all this back and forth and then sending her the "perfect" text. How he won't repeat any of theshit that happened and they will both get their life in order...just a bunch of unrealistic things that remind me of a teenage act. A teenager thinks that you can just erase everything that happened, hide it under a rug, pretend it never happened and they will never make a mistake again. Reality doesn't work this way and of course nothing changed for them. And it bothered me how easily he just left his young son and daughter to leave with Laila. Both Laila and Shianne were totally unstable and that didn't bother him? It really is obvious he doesn't care very much what happens with his kids. He says one second how something he did wasn't right and that he needs to stop doing all this self-pity but it all stays with words. Nothing changes. Like his mother said, less words, more action.

I think that everyone that has a lot of unsuccessful relationships should stay single at least of a year or two. Work on themselves, get their life in order, adopt a healthy lifestyle and only then, when the person knows how to love, finds a partner.

Alice says

I have won this book, and am looking forward to reading this book when it arrives.

I received a copy of Real Beast: Abused thanks to Goodreads First Reads (Thanks Brian!)

a_tiffyfit says

This was a rollercoaster ride for me as a reader: ups, downs, twists, turns, I wasn't quite sure what could possibly come next. It's narrated by "Arthur" as he is disclosing the mental anguish he experienced through the course of his relationship with his wife, "Laila." Laila, a Pakistani muslim immigrant, is young, beautiful, and so emotionally disturbed due to the abuse she suffered at the hands of family members as a child. Arthur falls in love with Laila and is determined to prove the world wrong: that their love can transcend two opposing backgrounds coming together. It is more than a religious difference, but also a cultural divide that these two are fighting along with the demons of Laila's past that affect her every day life, the way she approaches her marriage, and causes her to act out in destructive, and self-destructive, manners.

If you've ever kept a journal or a diary, I'm sure your entries are much like this narration -- totally based on emotion and tends to jump from one horror to the next to the elated times, etc. The narration jumps in time from recollection to recollection and, at first, it was a bit difficult for me to keep up with. With the prelude, you can tell the narrator is expecting complete and full sympathy for what he experienced. And in the first part of the book, you question that greatly. I really expected to be fully sympathetic based on the blurb, forgetting that the narrator is also a human and would not react perfectly to the situations he finds himself in.

As the relationship continues and develops, highs and lows, deteriorating, rebuilding, and disintegrating again, I went from sympathy to cold distance to holding my head and thinking that this could not possibly be real. Laila not only destroys the love and hope Arthur holds for her and their future, but she also manages to manipulate, cajole, corrupt, and damage his college-aged daughter.

I have to say: this is a difficult read because of its subject matter and the utterly raw emotions portrayed, plus the choppy continuity. Author Brian Levene does a marvelous job at capturing the disjointed thoughts and memory-jumping we do when distraught and when trying to figure out what happened, where we went wrong, etc. Our memories are never linear; we tend to jump from strong memory to strong memory and that is exactly what he wrote. The arguments between Laila and Arthur sometimes didn't make sense, but as you read on, you might find yourself turning back the page to that argument with an "ah now I see" moment.

While I realize this is a memoir, I found myself hoping for a "naaaaaaaaah this is just fiction" at the end. Sadly, not so. Phew. I cannot imagine living through such a gut-wrenching scenario.

Edited to note: I have cleared my rating on this book because I was asked to do a proofread. I felt leaving the rating up would be ethically questionable since I have now been contracted to do a proofread. I am leaving

the review up, however since it was written before I was contracted! ~TKH

Elizabeth says

This was a sad but a truly amazing story of abuse but how it affected the authors marriage. What a great story and you can see how much the author cares for his wife. I won this book free from Goodreads FirstReads Giveaway so thank you!!

Nancy Steinle gummel says

This book, Real Beast: Abused by Brian Arthur Legend was a very somber book. It's depressing and dark. The material is hard to swallow, no pun intended. It mainly deals with Laila, Arthur (the author) and Shianne. Laila is Arthur's wife and Shianne is his daughter, Laila's step daughter. Laila is unable to feel or give love. She was sexually abused by her father and aunt, mainly her entire family. She was also physically and verbally abused. Her mother did not interfere. Arthur thinks that giving her unconditional love he can heal her. They have a four year old son, Sammy. She takes but doesn't reciprocate. You wonder if she has any feelings for Sammy other than to keep him away from his father. Laila and Shianne have an incestuous lesbian relationship. Shianne's head gets screwed royally by Laila. They all seem to feel money can buy them happiness. This is just a sad story. This is a first reads win and I have given my honest opinion.
