



## 1 in 3: These Are Our Stories

*Advocates for Youth (Editor), Debra Hauser (Introduction)*

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1 in 3 women in the United States will have an abortion in her lifetime. The 1 in 3 Campaign is about ending the cultural stigma and shame women are made to feel around abortion. By sharing stories, we can empower others to end their silence and encourage all supporters of abortion access to publicly take a stand. The 1 in 3 Campaign is a project of Advocates for Youth.

## 1 in 3: These Are Our Stories Details

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## From Reader Review 1 in 3: These Are Our Stories for online ebook

### Molly Anna says

In the December of 2007 and at the age of 20 years old, I had the fortunate experience of adopting out my son. He is a very smart, adorable boy who lives in a lovely home with his caring adoptive parents and a younger (also adopted) brother. I'm privileged to receive yearly updates and photos, and I couldn't be more grateful for or confident in my opportunity to give him the life he is and will live. However, for many the option I chose is not the right choice. As I read *1 in 3*, I noticed more similarities in these women's stories about abortion with my own experience of an unplanned pregnancy. Every page drew me into their life decisions and reinforced my strong conviction that "what's right for you" in your situation is more important than legislation, politics, religious affiliation, stigma, and the rest of society. Only women faced with an unplanned pregnancy (no matter what the outcome is) has most likely experienced the same or similar feelings I coped with: the gut-wrenching fear and anxiety of what to do, external guilt and intense inner shame, the grounding feeling of knowing what is right for ourselves and our children, and the thankfulness in having choices. I made the decision that was right for me, and it certainly is not for me to decide or judge what is right for someone else. I implore all readers from across the spectrum to take the time to read these short accounts in *1 in 3*. It is a noteworthy, informative volume.

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### Robyn says

Abortion is always a touchy subject. I come from a Catholic background - attending both school and church. As an adult I gravitated to a looser religion as my personal beliefs varied from the rigorous beliefs of the church. I believe abortion is a personal choice but at the same time I personally do not believe it should be used as birth control. I've known women who have had abortions that I felt were appropriate for their situation and I have also known those who have had multiple abortions over the years. Reading this collection of stories which included both types of stories left me feeling sad. There was one woman who had 7 abortions over a 6 year period that had me angry. I am a woman who believes in accountability and responsibility. If you make the choice to have sex, you should go in knowing every time you can turn up pregnant later. I became a mother for the first time at 17. I later met my husband who was a single parent himself and together we went on to have 4 more children. By the time I was 23 I had given birth to 2 more children and was mothering 4 girls who were 5 yrs old to a newborn. I know how hard things can get - how hard it is to struggle, and how easy it would have been to eliminate every additional responsibility that came along. We held off having more children until I was 30 and our last came when I was 32. I really struggled with the decision to let my 19 year old and my 16 year old read this. Our older girls are already mothers, one at the age of 19 and the other at the age of 21. My 19 and 16 year old daughters are thankfully still virgins - my constant reminders of "Unless you want a baby, don't have sex - only abstinence is 100% effective" combined with watching their older sisters' struggling to raise their children have kept them wary of attempting sex.

As I said, this book has stories that made me empathize with the teller, but others left me angry with the ease their decision to terminate came. I am appalled with the casual nature that some of these women took with their abortions - as if they had stepped in poop and simply needed to wipe their shoe on the sidewalk so they could continue walking to their destination. I decided to let them read it in the end because I wanted to be able to discuss with them the gravity of the choice, to make sure they understood that if this was ever a choice that they would have to make that they should not make it lightly and that they should know that it could very well be one that they would later regret, one that could haunt them forever.

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### **Alison says**

Fantastic book. I have always been pro-choice (even though I'm only 16) but I believe that women know what is best for themselves. People who judge others for getting an abortion don't know the whole story and this book is exactly what people need. Some people just don't understand that choosing to get an abortion is painful and serious decision.

\*\*received the book for free via Goodreads First Reads\*\*

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### **Tracy says**

I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

This is a very Black & White subject. You either for it or your not. I am Pro-Choice but respect those who choose to be Pro-Life also. It's all about having that right to make that choice, right?

This one part of a story kind of summed it up for me.

"As a woman, I owe the world nothing in terms of my fertility. I am a human being and, mother or not, as a person, it is my basic human right to control, plan, a choose the size of my family. I wish this right for all people" - Anonymous

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### **Khryststina Willis says**

I received this book as part of promotional first reads. The main focus of the book is the issue of abortion, or rather the negative attitude towards it. The book presents stories of different women whose choice was abortion and how it affected their lives. Some stories are short, others are longer, but all carry the importance of choice.

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### **Mary says**

This was another First Read giveaway.

It's a slim little book with a powerful message! My copy came this morning, and it did not take long to read. It contains 40 women's abortion stories. I would recommend it to almost anyone, as it only takes a little time to read and is very enlightening. It offers an opportunity to understand instead of judge, to empathize rather than condemn. It's easy to see that the choice to terminate a pregnancy is not one made lightly. There are discussion questions at the end of the book, that also can be used for reflection.

A must-read for anyone who questions the availability of choice.

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### **Bonnie says**

When I won this book, it arrived in the mail at my work and I showed it to my coworkers. They gasped, not sure if it was in excitement or horror, I didn't ask. So I put it away and saved it to read until I got home. Well, I read it and I felt proud to be a woman. I personally have never had an abortion but I have driven two friends to the clinic for theirs. I was raised Catholic but like one of the women in the book, I was always pro-choice. Abortion is not something for me personally, but I'll be damned if someone else is going to make medical decisions for me or anyone, for that matter. I got pregnant with my son when I was 24 and I knew the moment I saw the test that I was going to have him. I knew that I was going to be alone with him, but I also knew that I would love him and take care of him better than 2 people would. I'm not having anymore kids, I got it right the first time. Again, I say that I am very proud to be a woman, a woman who can make choices about her own body. I am also proud of these women for coming out with their stories.

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### **Bob says**

Tiny book with a big message.

I received a review copy in the mail, and opened it in the car. Sat there and read through all 40 stories before going inside the house. Some are heartbreakng, some terrifying, some rather unremarkable. Some contributors expressed shame, others relief, regret, defiance. The aim of the collection seemed to be neither to shock or preach, but to drive home the point that regardless of the circumstances that lead a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy, she deserves safe access to the procedure and a right to bodily reproductive autonomy without being stigmatized.

One of the anonymous contributors to the book put it best:

"As a woman, I owe the world nothing in terms of my fertility. I am a human being and, mother or not, as a person, it is my basic human right to control, plan, a choose the size of my family. I wish this right for all people."

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### **Ashley says**

This is such an important book. Abortion is my soap box issue - the one I fight for the hardest. The book had a great variety of experiences from all different sorts of women. I will eventually have a longer review here, but for now I will say that I am very thankful that the Goodreads giveaway program gave my an opportunity to read this book. It encouraged me to get involved with the 1 in 3 campaign and to continue fighting for the right that Roe v. Wade secured for me 40 years ago.

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## **Gerard says**

Honestly, this book should be a mandatory read for American politicians, especially on the conservative right.

After reading this book, I don't understand how anyone could force their ancient "pro-life" beliefs on others, taking away their choice.

I would've liked to see some sort of conclusion at the end of the book, but all is well.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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## **Jenny Boyce says**

I was really disappointed in this book. The stories were short, I was looking for something with a little more depth. Some of the women's stories were less than a paragraph in length and didn't give much detail at all. While I understand that writing about their experiences was probably a difficult task and they had a lot of courage to do so, I wish that the stories which were picked had a little more depth to them.

That being said, the idea for this book is really nice.

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## **Yocelin Garza says**

i loved this book it really opened my eyes to the reality of abortion i didnt know it was so common. i started reading it as soon as it came in the mail it also came with this really awesome sticker (which is now displayed on my skateboard) and a really awesome pin (which is now on my backpack) i will definitely recomend this book to all my friends and family.

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## **Natlie Maples says**

It was a very eye opening book in regards to the subject. I liked the book from a psychological viewpoint. To hear about their experiences and the emotions behind; it gives a look into the mind of a woman in the process of deciding on their abortion. The emotions and reasons for these women are important to be and heard because it issue that needs to be spoken avidly about. A right to choose is important any subject especially when it comes to the body.

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## **Michelle Dodd says**

I received this book as a first read and wasn't sure what it would entail. While I was thinking it was just informational I was surprised to find that it wasn't just that it shed light on a touchy subject and how some women are shunned for their decisions when people never know the full stories. I especially felt kindred to many of these stories having been a supporter in friends decisions to go through with their abortions. This is

quite an eye-opener if you believe you know the full story about abortion.

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### **Jessica says**

I won this book as a goodreads first reads.

Abortion is clearly a touchy subject. In fact, just a few weeks ago I was asked my stance on it. In the extremely conservative area that I live in, my response of "who am I to judge?" is not the norm.

I have never been put in the situation where I might have to consider abortion- and I hope I never am. Because I've never been faced with that decision, I see the merit in reading 1 in 3. This book gives us 40 different accounts of why women choose to abort their fetuses. We may or may not agree with their decision, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't listen. I strongly believe that we should always hear both sides of the story before deciding on an issue, and 1 in 3 allows us to hear a pro-choice stance.

1 in 3 brings up good points about safety (if it were illegal, how dangerous might it be?), the stigma attached to it (if it was a difficult decision, shouldn't these women be encouraged to talk about so that they can heal?), general education about regular birth control methods (clearly this was lacking in some cases), and there were even two instances that dealt with carrying a fetus that would in no way develop full term (how can you blame these women, really?!).

I thought 1 in 3 was an informative read that leaves plenty of room for discussion (I liked that discussion questions were even included in the back). Oh, and this is a VERY fast read.

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