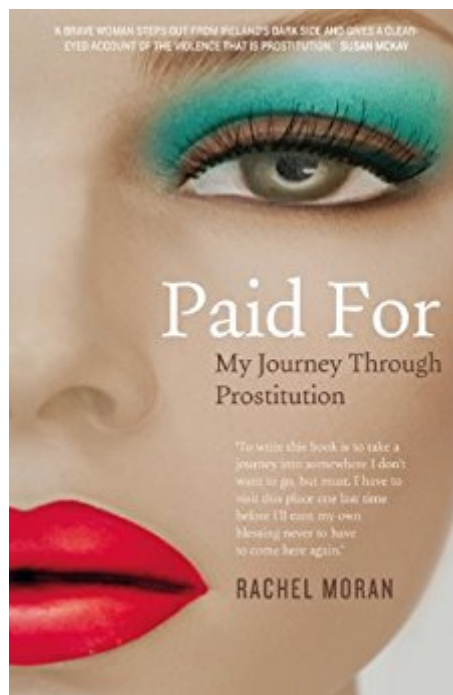


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Paid For - My Journey Through Prostitution: Surviving A Life Of Prostitution And Drug Addiction On Dublin's Streets



Synopsis

When you are 15 years old and destitute, too unskilled to work and too young to claim unemployment benefit, your body is all you have left to sell.âTHE BEST WORK BY ANYONE ON PROSTITUTION EVER.â Catherine A. MacKinnon Rachel Moran came from a troubled family background. Taken into state care at 14, she became homeless and got involved in prostitution aged 15, ending up isolated, drug-addicted, outside of society. Rachelâs experience was one of violence, loneliness, and relentless exploitation and abuse. Her story reveals the emotional cost of selling your body night after night in order to survive â loss of innocence, loss of self-worth and loss of connection to mainstream society, which makes it all the more difficult to escape the world of prostitution. Paid For reveals the raw reality behind prevailing myths about sex work: that working indoors is safer; that some forms of sex work are âclassierâ than others; that selling sex can be empowering; that a âhappy hookerâ exists. The biggest lie of all, Rachel says, is that women can choose to be in prostitution. At the age of 22 she managed, with remarkable strength, to liberate herself from the cycle of drug abuse and prostitution. She went to university, gained a degree and forged a new life, but she always promised that one day she would complete this book. Paid For is her story, in her own words and in her own name.â Striking, saturated with sad and angry detail and raw, effective analogy.â The New York Times âThis is surely the best, most personal, profound, eye-opening book ever written about prostitution â irrefutable proof of why it should NEVER be legalized.â Jane Fondaâ Rachel Moranâs Paid For should be required reading in courses on human rights, in police training and law schools, and in sex education courses that separate welcome sex from body invasion.â Gloria Steinem

Book Information

File Size: 941 KB

Print Length: 316 pages

Publisher: Gill & Macmillan (April 12, 2013)

Publication Date: April 10, 2013

Sold by:â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C7735X8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #349,589 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Pornography #96 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Women in Politics #101 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Pornography

Customer Reviews

Moran began the process of writing this book a few years after exiting the sex trade, and eleven years later, she offers us lengthy first-hand insight into the feelings of women both in and out of the sex trade. Moran notes that the question people first ask upon learning she was in prostitution is, "Why?" This is a hard question for women to answer, and as with most "why" questions it puts the person being asked on the defense. And as Moran notes, there's never one easy answer for it. (Perhaps so many women say "the money" because that is a socially acceptable answer). If you are looking for titillating sexual stories, this is not the book for you. (And perhaps you should ask yourself why you are searching for titillating stories about women being violated).

However, plenty about Moran's life is shared. Indeed, Moran's account of her experience as a homeless youth has dramatically changed the way I interact with homeless people today. Although prostitution did end her experience of homelessness, it is not a course she wishes she had taken, nor would she advise anyone else to take. If she had not taken this path, who knows what other way she might have found to escape homelessness? In point of fact, by the time Moran is offered a chance to stay with a foster family, she feels too impure for the opportunity they offer. This is an example of how prostitution changes a woman's internal image of herself; she may have felt like shit previously, but now she can say she really is shit "isn't that how she is treated and viewed?" I especially recommend Paid For to would-be readers who are conflicted about where they stand on prostitution. Moran takes apart pro-prostitution arguments from an insider's perspective.

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