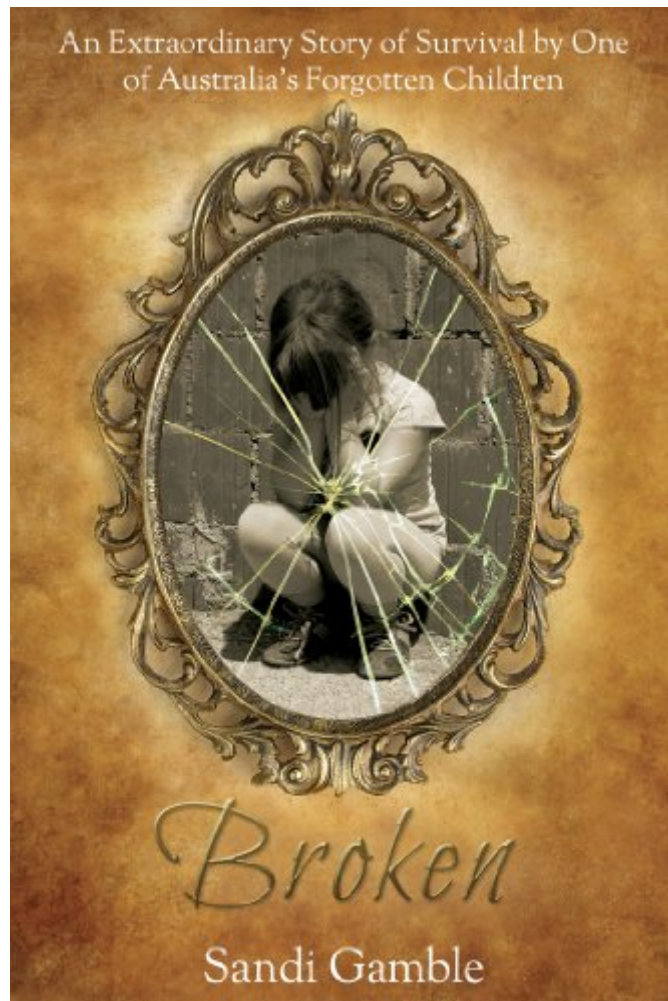


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# Broken: An Extraordinary Story Of Survival By One Of Australia's Forgotten Children



## Synopsis

An Extraordinary Story of Survival by One of Australia's Forgotten Children. Be prepared to be shocked. Broken is candid and raw. When Sandi Gamble heard the Australian prime minister on TV apologizing to 500,000 Forgotten Australians for the abuse and neglect they had endured as children in 'care' in the post-World War II era, something within her cracked and she began to cry. The former Magdalene laundry orphanage inmate, who never felt she fitted in, realized she was a Forgotten Australian. Thus began Sandi's journey back to her broken past. She had to reacquaint herself with Beverley, the girl she had left behind when she changed her name to Sandi. The painful memories started flooding in; the memories that held the key to her life-long struggles with depression, alienation, anxiety, suicidal tendency, obsessive compulsiveness, and passivity when dealing with manipulative or authoritative people. Broken began as a diary to process the memories of the little girl who was abandoned by her gambling, spendthrift father, and then her mother. Left at home for hours unattended while her mother worked and drank her misery away, little Beverley was left to her own devices to survive. This is the story of how one woman faced her shattered past, looking it squarely in the eye. Sandi Gamble shares her story for all Forgotten Australians, their families, and those seeking to be inspired by an extraordinary story. Australian author Sandi Gamble reveals the struggles and triumphs as one of the many forgotten Australian stories in Australian history. \*\*After the graphic descriptions of her pain and abandonment Sandi honestly expresses moments when the hurt was just too much and it would have been easy just to give up, but she never did, either for herself or her children. Broken is an important book | it is one woman's search for herself. It shines the light on a period of our history, when children were not safe from predators, when the system did not support women struggling with mental illness and addiction, and where all too often, labelling and isolation corroded desperate families. Senator Claire Moore Shadow Minister for Women Shadow Minister for Carers & Communities Manager of Opposition Business (Senate) \*\* "When I started investigating the history of abuse that had been long hidden at St Aidan's Orphanage in Bendigo, Victoria, one woman stood out for me. Sandi Gamble's determination to tell the truth of the horrors that went on behind the convent doors, reflects her courage, courage that has overcome pain, humiliation and adversity. Her memoir Broken will leave you heart broken. • Dianne Dempsey Journalist Bendigo Weekly Book reviewer Fairfax Media

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

What an amazing woman Sandi Gamble is, to endure the pain and suffering and come out the other side with hope, love and understanding. A truly must read for anyone wanting to deal with their own hidden secrets or just want to step into the head of someone who has lived a life that many would or could ever imagine will ever happen to any child/woman/person in this or any lifetime. A truly inspirational woman with a past that cannot be forgotten like the rest of the Forgotten Australians. A MUST READ. Thank you Sandi Gamble for sharing your life with us..

A gripping story about the all too true ravages that Sandi and so many other children are put through in this world we live in. This book helps shine light on the impact that childhood abuse has on a person's thinking and behaviors as they try to navigate into adulthood. Sandi's strength and hope should be a beacon for others who have experienced abuse, and a lesson in love for everyone who reads her story.

Well written book I read it till it was finished I laughed, I cried, I got angry, I smiled every emotion was bought out this book was so well written, that it had me living the book with her. Well done

Sandi Gamble.

Very frank and descriptive biography of a neglected childhood and life in a convent that has long lasting repercussions that affect the authors life to this day. At times can be a little confronting, that is trying to grasp the reality of the abuse. Over all a very good read.

This book is amazing, it is a raw, honest and heartfelt journey of a very extraordinary woman! As one of the Forgotten Australians, Sandi discusses the trials and abuses she suffered while as a child. The book reflects how those experiences and the horrifying abuse at the hands of certain adults both in and out of institutional life shaped and affected her character, her relationships and her life. Sandi reflects on how she was able to move forward in a life of suffering that she experienced as a child and adult with an awe inspiring strength of character. While reading this book I felt like I was on her journey with her as she shared her story of pain and ultimate triumphs. From the beginning of this book I could not put it down! Sandi's ability to survive in what can only be described as appalling and unimaginable suffering is truly remarkable. Her spirit and tenacity and ability to trust and love again despite all her circumstances is breathtaking. While describing and retelling the experiences of a broken life, Sandi's story is also about extreme survival and hope. I cannot sing the praises of this book enough! Thank you Sandi for sharing this heartfelt and fascinating book of your life and your story as a Forgotten Australian. I am proud to call Sandi my friend and I hope this is the first of many more books to come!

Most people deal with one or two adversities in their lifetime but for Sandi it was one adversity after another. I don't understand how one person could go through so much and still come out of all of that as such a loving and compassionate human being. Every person has a story but Sandi's story is more than just that. At times Sandi's story is difficult to read and at times very confronting. I have known Sandi for more than a decade and in that time I have known Sandi to be a very strong, intelligent, loving, supportive and understanding person and such a great friend. It shocked me to read what happened to Sandi, I knew so little about Sandi's history as a child and young adult. I am in such awe of Sandi, I was before reading the book but after reading this book I have an increased respect for her. What an amazing story, what an amazing woman. I had no idea that my friend had to endure such a traumatic start to life. Sandi lies her life out there bare naked for everyone to share. This is a really well written documented journal of Sandi's younger years. This book will without a doubt inspire others that have experienced adversity in their life, it

will show these people that it is possible to pick yourself up and become the person you have always wanted to be.

It is hard to comprehend that people could treat a child in such a vile fashion. I kept wondering why I was so fortunate to have a normal loving family and childhood and Sandi drew the short straw in some horrible lottery. I found myself wanting to whisk the child away and protect her, to give her what I was fortunate to receive myself. As you read this you will experience many emotions, principally anger and hatred for those who betrayed her. She writes in a simple, heartfelt fashion... you will keep turning the pages and experience wonderment that she survived all the travails that life sent her way. You may also find yourself feeling a little guilty, if like me, your childhood innocence was unblemished. Sandi wrote this though, not to evoke sympathy, but to give a lesson on how to lose the "victim" mindset and move on. Essential reading for anyone who has suffered physical, emotional or sexual abuse! An eye opener for those who haven't!

Most Australian children were as I was also, sexually abused by someone they trusted. We all knew it was wrong and therefore avoided the particular people. I never told my Mother either. This lady needs to move on. I got through 20% of this book and wished I had saved my money. It is very badly written with so much of it being repeated. My apologies to the Author but I could not finish it!

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