



Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell

By Gitta Sereny

Download now

Read Online 

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny

England's controversial #1 best-seller.

What brings a child to kill another child? In 1968, at age eleven, Mary Bell was tried and convicted of murdering two small boys in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Gitta Sereny, who covered the sensational trial, never believed the characterization of Bell as the incarnation of evil, the bad seed personified. If we are ever to understand the pressures that lead children to commit serious crimes, Sereny felt, only those children, as adults, can enlighten us.

Twenty-seven years after her conviction, Mary Bell agreed to talk to Sereny about her harrowing childhood, her terrible acts, her public trial, and her years of imprisonment—to talk about what was done to her and what she did, who she was and who she became. Nothing Bell says is intended as an excuse for her crimes. But her devastating story forces us to ponder society's responsibility for children at the breaking point, whether in Newcastle, Arkansas, or Oregon.

A masterpiece of wisdom and sympathy, Gitta Sereny's wrenching portrait of a girl's damaged childhood and a woman's fight for moral regeneration urgently calls on us to hear the cries of all children at risk.

 [Download Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mar ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of M ...pdf](#)

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell

By Gitta Sereny

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny

England's controversial #1 best-seller.

What brings a child to kill another child? In 1968, at age eleven, Mary Bell was tried and convicted of murdering two small boys in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Gitta Sereny, who covered the sensational trial, never believed the characterization of Bell as the incarnation of evil, the bad seed personified. If we are ever to understand the pressures that lead children to commit serious crimes, Sereny felt, only those children, as adults, can enlighten us.

Twenty-seven years after her conviction, Mary Bell agreed to talk to Sereny about her harrowing childhood, her terrible acts, her public trial, and her years of imprisonment—to talk about what was done to her and what she did, who she was and who she became. Nothing Bell says is intended as an excuse for her crimes. But her devastating story forces us to ponder society's responsibility for children at the breaking point, whether in Newcastle, Arkansas, or Oregon.

A masterpiece of wisdom and sympathy, Gitta Sereny's wrenching portrait of a girl's damaged childhood and a woman's fight for moral regeneration urgently calls on us to hear the cries of all children at risk.

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #278081 in Books
- Published on: 1999-04-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.54" h x 1.39" w x 6.56" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

 [Download Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mar ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of M ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell* By Gitta Sereny

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In 1968, cases like that of Mary Bell were almost unheard of. Two little boys were dead, and the two accused killers, Mary Bell and Norma Bell (no relation), were 11 and 13. Norma was acquitted, but Mary was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Almost 30 years after her conviction, Mary Bell was able to tell her story, from her troubled childhood to her eventual release from prison as an institutionalized young woman and her awkward attempts to build a life for herself in a hostile world.

In *Cries Unheard*, Gitta Sereny coaxes out Mary's story without becoming an apologist. She is blunt about the brutality of these crimes, and doesn't attempt to dismiss them as the acts of an ignorant child. When Bell gives explanations that don't ring true, Sereny pushes on, refusing to accept the easy answers. The questions raised are wrenching: Can children understand the finality of death? Are they capable of evil? Did Mary Bell understand what was happening to her in the courtroom where she was declared a "bad seed," a child so innately evil that she would have to be locked away for the rest of her life? Was she responsible for her actions at all, or were those responsible for her to blame? While *Cries Unheard* can't answer all these questions, it dissects Bell's unthinkable acts to the point that we can almost understand them. --*Lisa Higgins*

From Publishers Weekly

In a searching examination of how children become violent criminals, and how the judicial system treats them, Sereny focuses on the case of Mary Bell. At age 11 in 1968, Bell committed the motiveless murder of two boys, ages three and four, in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. The British tabloids demonized Bell as a "born killer" and "vicious psychopath." But Sereny, who extensively interviewed Bell, her therapists and social workers, portrays Bell, at the time of the murders, as a cauldron of repressed rage and anguish who lived in a grotesque fantasy world dissociated from reality. A prostitute's daughter, Bell was forced to watch as her mother was whipped by clients; she was also sexually abused by her mother's customers. Sentenced to life in prison but released in 1980, Bell, according to Sereny (who covered the trial in a 1972 book, *The Case of Mary Bell*), today feels profound remorse, sees a parole officer regularly, has a stable relationship with a caring man and is raising a daughter. Sereny's account of Bell's 12-year incarceration is disjointed and overwritten, but it offers a scorching look at British women's prisons as cesspools of drugs, abuse and coerced sex. Sereny (Albert Speer) proposes that children under 14 should not be held criminally responsible and should be tried by a specially convened panel instead of by jury. Her harrowing inquiry, marked by a rigorous and by no means easy exercise of sympathetic imagination, will compel people to rethink how to deal with children who kill or commit other serious crimes.

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [The New Yorker](#)

Cries Unheard reminds us that understanding and accountability can coexist, that we need not choose between them.... In Gitta Sereny's competent hands, the faces of the guilty become distorting mirrors in which we are forced to acknowledge skewed but still recognizable versions of the faces we have seen, and lived with, all our lives.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Green:

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to decide on book like comic, limited story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not seeking Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world much better then how they react toward the world. It can't be stated constantly that reading habit only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to become success person. So , for all of you who want to start examining as your good habit, you are able to pick Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell become your own personal starter.

Dennis James:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell can be the response, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

John Morris:

You can obtain this Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell by browse the bookstore or Mall. Just viewing or reviewing it can to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for the knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only by written or printed but additionally can you enjoy this book by means of e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own personal ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still update. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

Natalie Althoff:

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a publication. They are directly felt this when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose typically the book Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading talent is developing when you like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the sensation about book and studying especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to start a book and study it. Beside that the e-book Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell can to be your brand new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of their time.

Download and Read Online Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny #3KCP7AG4H5S

Read Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny for online ebook

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny books to read online.

Online Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny ebook PDF download

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny Doc

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny Mobipocket

Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny EPub

3KCP7AG4H5S: Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill: The Story of Mary Bell By Gitta Sereny