

The Story of my Life (Classic bestseller)

By Clarence Darrow

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The novel is narrated in the first-person from the point of view of Alison Poole, "an ostensibly jaded, cocaine-addled, sexually voracious 20-year-old." Alison is originally from Virginia and lives in Manhattan, where she is involved in several sexual relationships and is aspiring to become an actress.

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- Published on: 2015-07-05
- Released on: 2015-07-05
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Helen Keller would not be bound by conditions. Rendered deaf and blind at 19 months by scarlet fever, she learned to read (in several languages) and even speak, eventually graduating with honors from Radcliffe College in 1904, where as a student she wrote *The Story of My Life*. That she accomplished all of this in an age when few women attended college and the disabled were often relegated to the background, spoken of only in hushed tones, is remarkable. But Keller's many other achievements are impressive by any standard: she authored 13 books, wrote countless articles, and devoted her life to social reform. An active and effective suffragist, pacifist, and socialist (the latter association earned her an FBI file), she lectured on behalf of disabled people everywhere. She also helped start several foundations that continue to improve the lives of the deaf and blind around the world.

As a young girl Keller was obstinate, prone to fits of violence, and seething with rage at her inability to express herself. But at the age of 7 this wild child was transformed when, at the urging of Alexander Graham Bell, Anne Sullivan became her teacher, an event she declares "the most important day I remember in all my life." (Sullivan herself had once been blind, but partially recovered her sight after a series of operations.) In a memorable passage, Keller writes of the day "Teacher" led her to a stream and repeatedly spelled out the letters *w-a-t-e-r* on one of her hands while pouring water over the other. This method proved a revelation: "That living world awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away." And, indeed, most of them were.

In her lovingly crafted and deeply perceptive autobiography, Keller's joyous spirit is most vividly expressed in her connection to nature:

> Indeed, everything that could hum, or buzz, or sing, or bloom, had a part in my education.... Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of the lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror....

The idea of feeling rather than hearing a sound, or of admiring a flower's motion rather than its color, evokes a strong visceral sensation in the reader, giving *The Story of My Life* a subtle power and beauty. Keller's celebration of discovery becomes our own. In the end, this blind and deaf woman succeeds in sharpening our eyes and ears to the beauty of the world. --*Shawn Carkonen*

From Library Journal
More than a 100th-anniversary reprint, this book was reedited by literary scholar Roger Shattuck and Keller biographer Dorothy Hermann to include excised material.
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Review

The Scopes Trial of 1925 pitted against each other lawyers William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow-in an American court case that tested a law passed on March 13, 1925, which forbade the teaching, in any state-funded educational establishment in Tennessee, of "any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals." This is often interpreted as meaning that the law forbade

the teaching of any aspect of the theory of evolution; however, the Butler Act forbade public school teachers in Tennessee to deny the literal biblical account of man-s origin and to teach in its place the evolution of man from lower animals.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joseph Sutton:

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the headline The Story of my Life (Classic bestseller) suitable to you? Typically the book was written by well-known writer in this era. The actual book untitled The Story of my Life (Classic bestseller)is the main of several books in which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this reserve. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world within this book.

Lee Erbe:

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Marina Tijerina:

The actual book The Story of my Life (Classic bestseller) has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

Scott Smith:

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