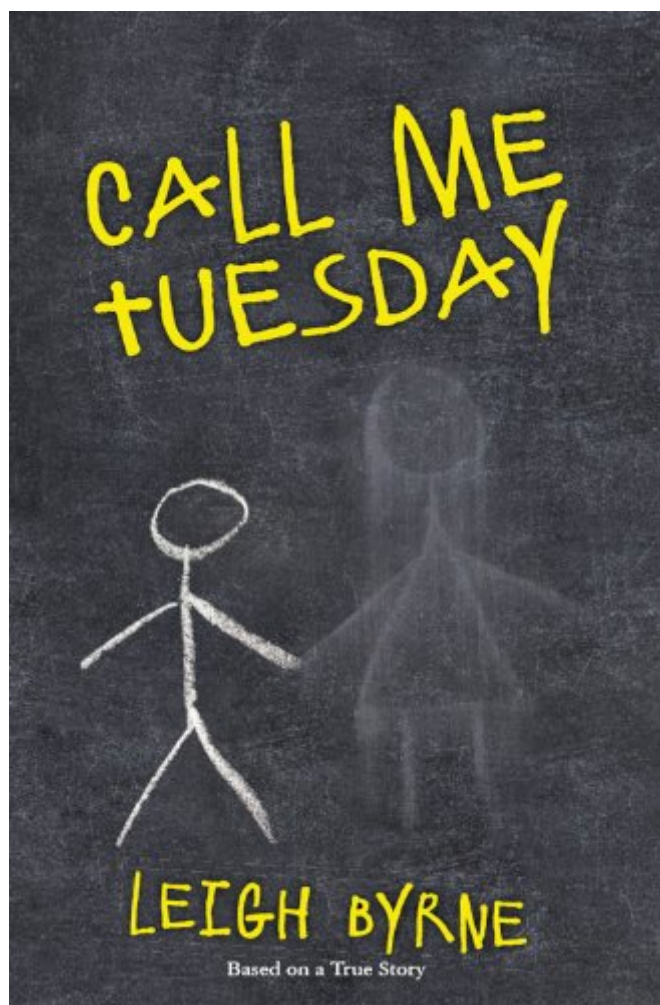


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# Call Me Tuesday: Based On A True Story



## Synopsis

At eight-years-old, Tuesday Storm's childhood is forever lost when tragedy sends her family spiraling out of control into irreparable dysfunction. Almost overnight, the loving environment she's come to know becomes an endless nightmare of violent abuse and twisted punishments, as she's forced to confront the dark cruelty lurking inside the mother she idolizes. Based on a true story, *Call Me Tuesday* recounts, with raw emotion, a young girl's physical and mental torment at the mercy of the monster in her mother's clothes--a monster she doesn't know how to stop loving.

## Book Information

File Size: 652 KB

Print Length: 328 pages

Publication Date: March 6, 2012

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007I5PYJ2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,550 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting > Morals & Responsibility #1 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Children's Studies #3 inÂ Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Abuse > Child Abuse

## Customer Reviews

This is a book which is difficult to read at times - for the pain in the writing is so poignant and artfully expressed. A pain that most people would probably want to forget and leave behind. But the author knows that she has a story to tell, a story that needs to be told, so that others may be spared the trauma that Tuesday went through. Which requires remarkable courage, in going through it all - not once, but twice - this second time page by written page. We usually view motherhood as something sacred, but in "Call Me Tuesday" motherhood is anything but that. The book begins with a pivotal event, where her mother appears as an inhuman monster and Tuesday is at the height of her

despair. We are then taken back to a much earlier time, when her mother was still a loving parent and Tuesday had not yet been robbed of her childhood. This is skilfully done, for we know that at some point in the book, we will reach that point again. But for now, it is for us to try and put the pieces together, in such a way that may somehow explain the change in her mother, and in her life. And as we go through a journey of mental and physical abuse together with Tuesday, witnessing the world through her eyes, we are unable to find the answers. Even after Tuesday has managed to break free, neither she nor we are any closer to understanding how such a thing can happen. For how can a mother abuse her child? Day by day, year by year. Mothers are supposed to protect their children, care for them and nurture them. Children trust and believe in their parents, and when a parent turns on them, the child is helpless, with nowhere to turn. In most cases, the people nearby: neighbours, relatives, teachers...

The day after I finished this book (in two sittings), a very unusual obituary made the news. In it, a dead Nevada woman's children welcomed her death and described their utter contempt for her after years of physical and mental abuse, in the hopes of getting people talking about the problem of child abuse. It was a horrific reminder that child abuse is all too real, and it happens in all walks of life. When you read "Call me Tuesday," you'll realize very quickly that you simply cannot make this kind of story up. Behind a seeming normal, middle-class Southern facade, the author, known as Tuesday (for the actress Tuesday Weld), describes an unenviable childhood that turns unbearable after severe head trauma transforms her mother into a sadistic jailer who denies not only love and comfort, but food and most other basic needs. Her mother revels in the way that other children ignore and mistreat her daughter, as it only confirms her belief, which she drums into her daughter, that the girl is ugly and defective. Even her father, who makes some gestures to help her enjoy brief moments of normality outside the home, is caught up by his own helplessness in the wake of this tornado of an abusive woman. He isn't the only adult who fails to help, either. I don't think for a moment that Rose, the mother, was "normal" to begin with. As the story unfolds, we learn she always had a cruel streak, and very likely enjoyed, Munchhausen by Proxy-style, being the pitied mother of a sickly child. It seems likely that Tuesday was always the discounted one, an afterthought (not to mention, free labor) whose distress at the belief that she was responsible for the death first of a family pet and then her polio-stricken sister was roundly ignored.

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