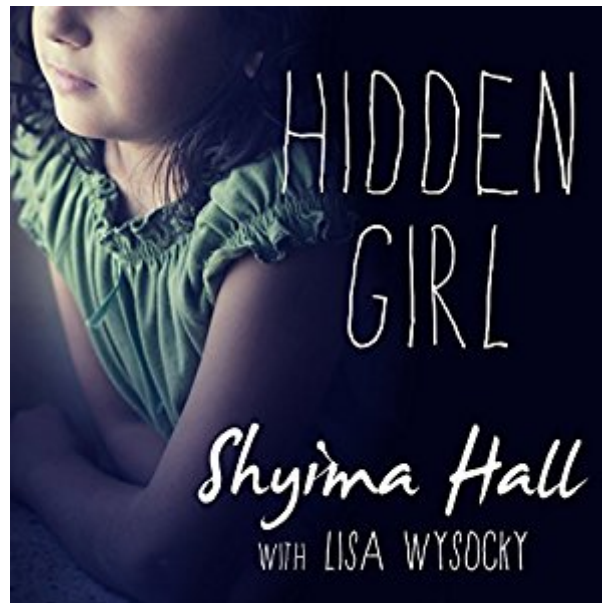




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Hidden Girl: The True Story Of A Modern-Day Child Slave



Synopsis

Shyima Hall was born in Egypt on September 29, 1989, the seventh child of desperately poor parents. When she was eight, her parents sold her into slavery. Shyima then moved two hours away to Egypt's capitol city of Cairo to live with a wealthy family and serve them eighteen hours a day, seven days a week. When she was ten, her captors moved to Orange County, California, and smuggled Shyima with them. Two years later, an anonymous call from a neighbor brought about the end of Shyima's servitude - but her journey to true freedom was far from over. A volunteer at her local police department since she was a teenager, Shyima is passionate about helping to rescue others who are in bondage. Now a U.S. citizen, she regularly speaks out about human trafficking and intends to one day become an immigration officer. In *Hidden Girl*, Shyima candidly reveals how she overcame her harrowing circumstances and brings vital awareness to a timely and relevant topic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I remember reading about Shyima Hall in the news: a girl kept as a family slave, literally right under everyone's nose. It's one thing to hear about such things happening. It's quite another to have it so close to home. (She was in Irvine in Orange County. I was living in Tustin, an adjacent city, during the time.) Some years later, when I heard about her memoir, *Hidden Girl: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave* (Simon & Schuster, 2014), I was eager to have a chance to read her side of the story. The book begins with Shyima's younger years in Egypt,

her family plagued with financial difficulties. While the author doesn't excuse her parents handing her over to work for another family, the book does show the reader why they probably felt they had no other choice. Kept as a slave, eight-year-old Shyima tolerated substandard living arrangements, received no education, and had no time for herself. It was work day and night. She kept track of time passed by the birthdays of her owners' children. When her owners decided to move to the United States, they went to a lot of trouble to make sure Shyima joined them. Shyima's life of slavery continued over here, until someone dropped an anonymous tip about the suspicious girl to the police. Now free, Shyima's struggles didn't end. She faced court trials, foster family drama, and the struggle of trying to find her place in a very different culture. But in the end, you can see that she's happy and optimistic about life and eager to educate the American public about the modern-day slave trafficking problem. *Hidden Girl* is a great book, taking its reader through a whole range of emotions. Cowriter Lisa Wysocky did an excellent job keeping a very foreign and little girlish voice to the narrative. And it was encouraging for me to learn that the Orangewood Children's Home (with which my old church had been involved) played a positive role in helping her. The book is good evidence that "even though there's a lot of social and economic issues abroad" there are real problems here at home that need our attention too.

It started to get really repetitive towards the ending of the story. I felt so bad about her upbringing though and the experience she endured. It's scary that things like this exist in the world. I'm glad she was able to find her voice in all of this and bring to light the things that tend to happen in the world.

Please read this book. Make yourself aware of Human-Slavery. The subject matter is so important, the statistics are overwhelming, and after reading this book and finding these out, it made me want to spread the word and do more about this dreadful horrific situation. Shymia Hall has overcome so much in her short life, her early life was that of a human slave. She was dealt a very bad hand and has worked so hard to overcome her past. She should be so proud of herself, she is amazing and I hope she is patting herself on the back. She is a true example of a hero and if you need a story about a hero - this is your book and she is your GO-TO-GIRL! Good Luck Shymia & may your future be Bright~God Bless You and may you and your beloved Family ALWAYS be BLESSED!

I could not put the book down until almost the end. Her story of being a slave engrossed me

completely. I also found interesting her struggles to acculturate and obtain learning. Shyima's will to improve her lot in life shows just what determined and strong people can accomplish. However, most fascinating was her depiction of her time in slavery. It's amazing to learn of how slavery still exists even in the U.S. Her plea at the end of how all of us can be more observant to help stamp out the practice really opened my eyes.

Shyima Hall wrote her autobiography, "Hidden Girl: A true story of a modern-day child slave" so that it is fast paced. While she goes into depth about her time as a slave and the next stages of her life, so much is happening that you as a reader become engrossed in the story. We are rooting for her the entire time as if we are right behind her hoping that the next stage in her life will be better than the last. As a reader, it is truly amazing as we get to watch her grow emotionally and academically to become a functional person in society after her years as a slave. While the vocabulary level isn't as high as most young adult books are, it was well written. She is telling her story as if she were simply talking to a friend. Which makes the book that much more compelling to read. Even though this book is intended for young adults, that is not the limit on who can read it. Anyone that wants to know about modern day slavery or wants to read something inspiring should definitely put this book on their list. It travels through her life through all her struggles and shows how she over comes being beaten (physically and verbally) and broken down on a daily basis by her captors.

This book was very eye-opening because I'd heard about these situations, but had no idea how widespread they still were today. The author is incredibly strong to share her story in this way, and to have come so far. I'm so glad to hear she's doing well today and that her captors were caught. For many others this is not the case, so I hope this will inspire others to speak up and report when things seem amiss.

This was one of my favorite reads of 2014. I had caught wind of Shyima's story in the news, so when I found that she had written a book detailing her experience, I was compelled to buy it. It is written so simply, from a child's point of view. Also, as English is not the author's native language you can tell that she has chosen her words very carefully. It is a tale of a very sad experience, and you can't help but cheer on the author as she works to overcome her situation and see her abusers punished. She is a survivor, and you will find yourself willing her to keep on. An excellent book!

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