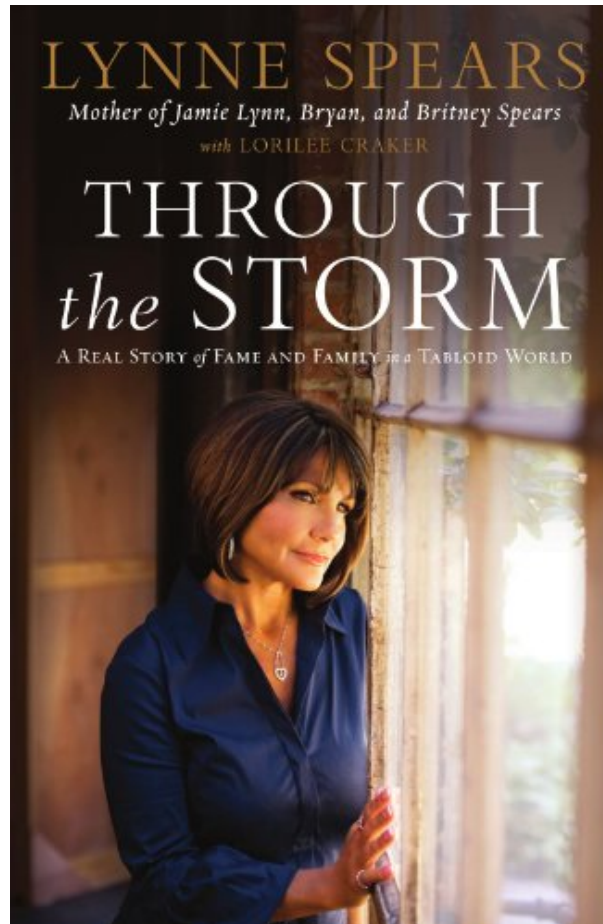
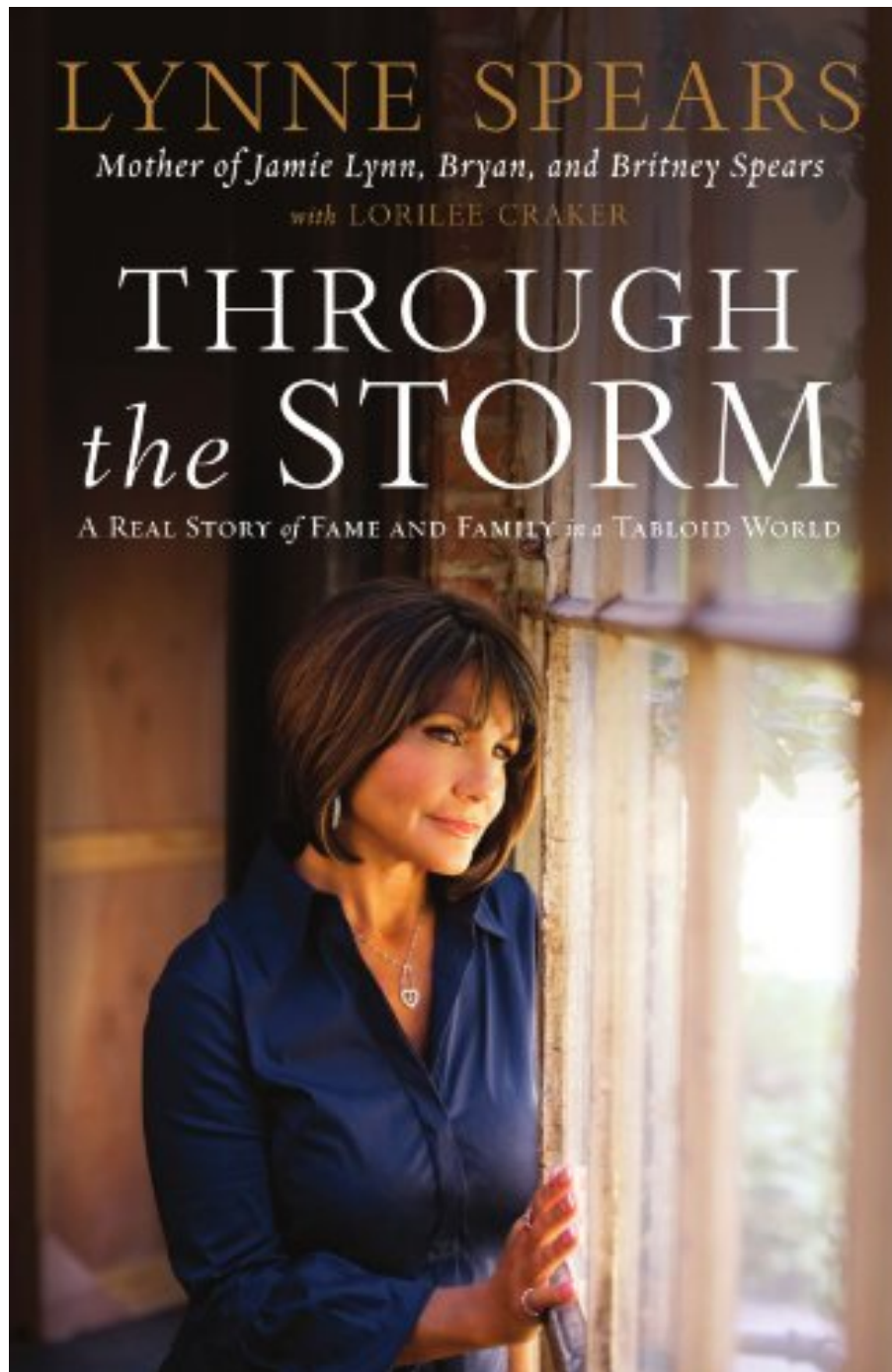


THROUGH THE STORM BY LYNNE SPEARS



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About the Author

Lynne Irene Bridges Spears has a degree in elementary education from Southeastern Louisiana University. She has three children: Bryan James, Britney Jean, and Jamie Lynn. Spears coauthored the novel A Mother's Gift with her daughter, Britney.

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THROUGH THE STORM BY LYNNE SPEARS PDF

We all want our children to succeed. What happens when they do?

Britney Spears wanted to sing ever since she was a little girl. But the years of sacrifices, auditions, performances, albums, fame, and paparazzi left the little Louisiana family swept up and spun around, and nothing turned out the way anyone ever imagined or wanted. Now Lynne shares the inside story of the Spears family as only a mother can.

Through the Storm takes readers outside the narrow orbit of the Hollywood glitterati. Lynne shares how fame forever changed their family; her regrets letting managers, agents, and record companies direct the lives of her children; the challenges that shaped Lynne and Jamies failed marriage and how they affected Bryan, Britney, and Jamie Lynn; the startling events that led to Britneys breakdown; the aftermath of Jamie Lynns pregnancy; and how the family has tried pulling together to recapture a sense of hope and purpose.

Through the Storm, says Lynne, is the story of one simple Southern woman whose family got caught in a tornado called fame, and who is still trying to sort through the debris scattered all over her life in the aftermath. Its who I am, warts and all, with some true confessions that took a long time to get up the nerve to discuss.

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Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

A Cautionary Tale

By Elizabeth Osborn

As a teenager, I'd been a huge fan of The MMC, and had been sort of shocked when Britney exploded onto the music scene in 1999. I'd heard the "stage mom" rumors about Justin and Britney's mothers, and I was interested to see how Lynne would defend herself.

And it's not a great defense.

Having grown up with Southern Christian parents, I find it hard to believe that Lynne Spears was as naive as she claims to have been, particularly when it came to the '99 Rolling Stone magazine cover.

Lynne writes, "What I saw was Britney in a bra and hot pants, sitting on her bed . . . 'Let's stop now,' I said, flustered and uncomfortable." She goes on to say, "We assumed we would have final say over which pictures were chosen. Besides, they took so many cute shots, why would they want this one . . . ?"

When you think Rolling Stone, do you think 'cute' or 'hot'?

Hm.

According to the book, also present at the time were Britney's agent, Larry Rudolph, and her father. Between the three 'managing' adults present at the photo shoot for this internationally-known magazine--one that is extremely infamous in conservative Christian circles--not one person would have looked at the contract and demanded to have their say? And beyond all that, Britney was 18 years old at the time. She was making her own decisions. She had a right to. If her parents were as down-home and Christian as we're being asked to believe over and over again, wouldn't they have raised her to at least ask herself the question, "What will my mama think?"

Instances like these force me to question the narrator's sincerity. I believe Lynne is telling us the events in a true light, but I can't quite see she's telling us all of her story.

But that's what this book is. It's Lynne's story--she doesn't speak for Britney, Jamie Lynn, or anyone else. That's the way it should be. She does speak openly about her relationships with her parents and siblings, friends, and co-workers. She obviously loves her children and grandchildren very much. But something seems to change when she writes her perspective on Britney and Jamie Lynn's fame, and the paths they took to get there. I don't believe she is withholding things from the reader as much as she may be withholding things from herself.

THROUGH THE STORM gratefully acknowledges many of the sacrifices family and friends have made to the Spears brood, and accepts that compromises were made by many different people, herself included. But above all the fame and blame, this is a story of a mother who desperately wants her children to know the grace, redemption, and fulfillment waiting faithfully for them.

14 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

A Tabloid Story

By Mike Gibbons

Lynne Spears describes herself as a

"...simple Southern woman whose family got caught in a tornado called fame..."

As the mother of Jamie Lynn, Bryan and Britney Spears she says she wrote this book,

"...to hand something permanent down to my children and grandchildren, a record of our lives together..."

I went in with low expectations, that were indeed met, but I did enjoy a few insights that are worth noting. Although I can't recommend it, I can offer the following thoughts after reading:

Moderate our judgements - When you first think of Britney Spears mother what do you think? I confess,

before reading this book, my first thoughts were harsh and simplistic. "Surely anybody that would allow their daughter to end up there has to be a "shameless self promoter" who is in it for herself or a "stage mom to the tenth power" or perhaps she is totally absent from her daughter's life."

The reality of who Lynne Spears is, and anybody, for that matter, is more complex than that. As she says,

"Often you don't know a person's story, and if you did, you might very well understand his or her actions better...there [is] a flesh-and-blood woman behind the mythological monster the tabloids [have] created."

Let's not be so quick to judge character or, especially, motives.

The depravity of man is obviously, and demonstrably, true - Lynne offers up many examples of this, although obviously not described in those terms. Consider Sam Lutfi,

"Sam came into my daughter's life at a time when she was at her most vulnerable."

A manipulative "manager" for Britney, Sam exerted such a level of control over Britney at one point that her family had to go to court to remove him from her presence. From mixing prescription drugs with her food and drink (without her knowledge) to attempting to get Britney committed to a psychiatric ward to maintain his control over her, Sam was a perfect example of the depravity of man.

Or consider the Rolling Stone photographer, an "eccentric, artistic guy", who photographed Britney wearing nothing but a bra and hot pants, then seventeen, in her bedroom...alone. This is a child for crying out loud! Is there no decency in this "artistic guy"? More on the obvious question of parental supervision later.

Never trust the tabloid media (or the MSM for that matter) - Arguably an extension of the previous point, the paparazzi, however, deserve their own dishonorable mention. Chapter 24 should be required reading for everyone that even remotely longs for the fame of the world. Pray for those who prey on others. The parasitic nature of this despicable industry is appalling. We've all heard the weak arguments, "There is a price to pay for fame", "I'm just doing my job", and "She is a public figure". As Lynne says however, "...where are the lines?"

Lynne tells of the boisterous airplane passenger who, disingenuously, tried to befriend her to obtain information about her daughter. She tells of striking up conversations while in line at the grocery store, "...only to find out a few days later that I have given an "exclusive" to a tabloid magazine."

According to Lynne, Britney has seventeen full-time paparazzi assigned to her, night and day. Any industry that has to go that far to get "the dirt", can't be trusted. Don't buy the tabloid papers or magazines. Don't participate in their manufactured, and salacious, gossip.

Parents make mistakes - As Michael Hyatt notes, it is tough to be hard on parents because we have all made our share of mistakes. To her credit, Lynne admits her mistakes honestly. Therefore, I am not going to point fingers but we can learn from her.

In describing the Rolling Stone incident, Lynne says,

"For some reason, the photographer wanted to shoot some pictures in Britney's bedroom...When that bedroom door suddenly shut tight, though, alarm bells started ringing..."

With all due respect, the alarm bells should have been ringing long before that.

"I trusted in the professionals surrounding my daughter to make the right decisions...but by deferring to experts, I gave up far too much influence."

We all make mistakes, but don't abdicate your kids to the "professionals", whether they are school teachers, youth ministers, the media or the kid's peers.

Children, ultimately, are responsible for their own decisions - Children, especially teenagers, will make their own decisions. The best parents in the world may lose their children to the world. Only God has sovereign control over the heart and affections of another (Proverbs 21:1). Everyone will die for their own sin (Ezekiel 18:1-4, Jeremiah 31:29-30, Ezekiel 3:17-21).

When Jamie Lynn got pregnant, Lynne says,

"...Jamie Lynn had never done a solitary thing to raise even an eyebrow, and she certainly had left not one miniscule clue as to what they were obviously doing. She had always been responsible..."

Assuming that is true, Jamie Lynn made a bad choice contrary to what she, apparently, had been taught. This doesn't abdicate the parents responsibility to teach our children, but it should make us realize that (I'm paraphrasing Dan Phillips here) we can't place blame on any person for another's sin.

Did I gain from reading this book? Yes, but there was nothing here I couldn't have gained elsewhere in a "meatier" fashion. Upon finishing I felt I had contributed to the tabloid, celebrity, gossip culture that the book implicitly, and explicitly, criticizes. I felt I had invaded another family's privacy. Lynne says she wrote the book for her children as something to pass down. If that is truly the case then why make this book public? How about just writing it down and have it bound and passed out to her family only? I appreciate the insights from her life but in the final analysis it made me feel like a voyeur of the Spears hidden moments.

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Proof that you Can't Believe Everything you See or Hear

By Victorya Rogers

Surprisingly this was a great read. I finished it in one sitting. If you watch television or skim headlines at all you MUST be aware of the sad downfall of Britney Spears. We all have our assumptions based on the flashes across the TV screen, magazine covers, countless websites and newspaper headlines. Lynne Spears sets the record straight. This book is NOT a tell-all book of gossip on her daughter, nor is it a parenting manual. Rather it is a memoir of her life and the truth behind the scandal, which is far from what the public has been told up to this point.

If you're looking for scoop though, you won't be disappointed either. Lynne reveals what was happening in their world the day Britney shaved her head, attacked the paparazzi with an umbrella, was forced from her home by police and paramedics and more. Lynne also addresses the pregnancy of her daughter Jamie Lynn.

All in all, you come to learn (if you haven't been smart enough to know already) that there is dangerous power in the press and paparazzi. No celebrities do NOT sign up for this kind of attention nor do they deserve it. Adoration is one thing, assault so extreme you can't even literally walk out your front door is another. No one signs up for that, no matter WHAT you tell me about them choosing fame. The craziness and obsession that drives photographers to that extreme is a relatively new phenomenon that must be controlled before we have another celebrity death, ala Princess Diana. What will be the turning point? I don't

know. What I do know is that Lynne Spears paints a real, heartfelt, non-glamorous picture of the world she and her children were thrust into all because her daughters LOVE to sing and dance. I was impressed with Lynne Spears faith, vulnerability and willingness to let it all hang out. Both Lynne's daughters and her son will be proud of this book. Unlike other celebrity moms who have destroyed their mother/daughter relationship by writing tell-alls, Lynne Spears has written a book that honors them without glorifying or excusing any of their failures, as well as encourage us all to have strength in the storm, no matter what storm we face.

Pick up this book and find out for yourself. You'll find yourself not judging Britney so harshly, rather you'll actually start praying for her! (Something she and her family would appreciate I'm sure).

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