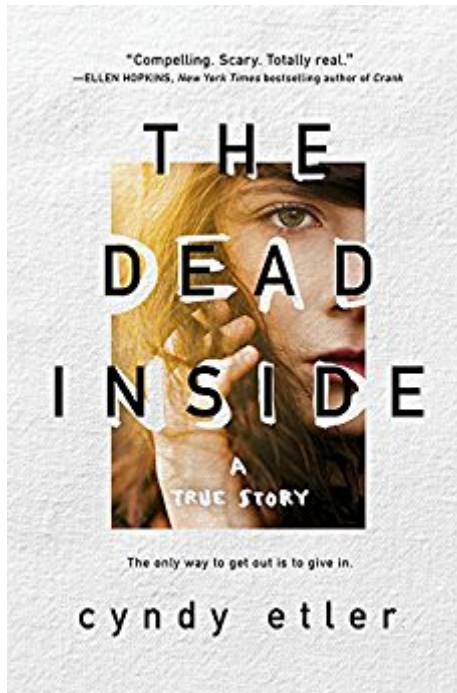




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The Dead Inside: A True Story



Synopsis

"[An] unnerving and heartrending memoir..." — Publishers Weekly A fast-paced memoir that gives readers a glimpse into the unbelievable reality of a young girl's 16 months in the notorious "tough love" program the ACLU called "a concentration camp for throwaway kids." "I never was a badass. Or a slut, a junkie, a stoner, like they told me I was. I was just a kid looking for something good, something that felt like love. I was a wannabe in a Levi's jean jacket. Anybody could see that. Except my mother. And the professionals at Straight. From the outside, Straight Inc. was a drug rehab. But on the inside it was...well, it was something else. All Cyndy wanted was to be loved and accepted. By age fourteen, she had escaped from her violent home, only to be reported as a runaway and sent to a "drug rehabilitation" facility that changed her world. To the public, Straight Inc. was a place of recovery. But behind closed doors, the program used bizarre and intimidating methods to "treat" its patients. In her raw and fearless memoir, Cyndy Etler recounts her sixteen months in the living nightmare that Straight Inc. considered "healing."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Miss Etler is totally accurate in her description of Straight Inc. She presents the horrors that occurred there in a vivid and true portrayal of what it was like to be a teenager in one of the most damaging, violent, "soul breaking" rehabs that America has seen. This book will astound anyone that read it... Especially those of us that were there. I did indeed feel as if I was "back on front row" while reading her very scary and very true book. The suffering we endured there carries through for a lifetime. This is a "must read" for anyone that was there. Also a "must read" for any parent considering putting their child in a similar program. They still exist today.

Buckle up, it's going to be one hell of a ride. The gravity of the material in Etler's book grabs you page one and doesn't let up until the very end. The ups and downs, her emotions, are raw and real. As you're reading, you feel yourself transforming into a kid, wearing Levi's. You're there, you're with her. You hear the music climbing. Your heart beats faster when her heart beats faster. It's the most relatable book I've read in a long time, not because I can relate, but because she made me relate. Do yourself a favor, buy the book.

You won't be sorry you took the spiral dive into Cyndy Etler's predatory home life and involuntary captivity in a teen mind control cult, where only insanity assured survival. Cruel truth, thriller pacing, and immersive description make 'The Dead Inside' a fast, engrossing, emotional must read. Ms. Etler writes with absolute authority on Straight, Inc.'s brainwashing and intimidation tactics that turned so many formative teen minds against themselves. Her angsty youthful narrative voice careens you through the: shock, panic, terror, and psychotic submission necessary to survive the abuse of such environments. Having suffered captivity and deprivation under different circumstances, I found the universal truth of Cyndy's experience undeniable. I would have liked more about life and recovery post Straight, Inc., but hope to find it in some form in her future works. I only make the time to review material that merits 5-stars, and I'll be reading more by Cyndy Drew Etler in the future. Soaring with keen eyes and sharp talons, 'The Dead Inside' is a screaming eagle among YA memoirs.

I'm not big into novels or reading at all. It's hard for me to stay interested and also hard for me to pay attention. The book was easy to follow not pages upon pages describing one moment. I breezed through this book and couldn't wait to pick it back up when I had to put it down. It's honest and raw, things I respect and are drawn to. It made me feel for the "characters" in the story. I can't wait to read her next book. Amazing writer, it's unfortunate the terrible things in this book are based

on true events but it's good she is giving a voice for those who suffered in these events.

Great book easy read, and should be on every teenagers book list. The author explains the truth of the matter in plain and basic English so anyone can understand, (there are things out there worse than drugs.) Having survived "The beast" for 22 months and carried that same "Beast" in my head for 30 plus years this is a good start to educating the teens and parents.

Highly recommended. The true story of a place that did a lot of damage to teens. Somehow author is able to beautifully explain something unexplainable. Sad but true. Must read!

I didn't think Straightling (the first edition) could get any better. The Dead Inside does it! The content of the story is not a light read. But the telling of it, somehow Cyndy Etler makes it all ok. It helps that we know already that teen aged Cyndy grew up to be a successful teacher and author and all. I did have to remind myself of that from time to time. The characters are so real. I've met people like each of them and, reading Etler's description of these events, I can just picture them. If you ever wondered abstractly just exactly what kind of lunacy underlies the war on drugs, here's your answer. And it's a good read, too.

OMG. This...this whole book is everything. It doesn't matter how old you are or what generation you belong to, this is the real deal when it comes to what teens have endured. As a longtime teacher in a juvenile correctional facility, I can tell you that I know children who've endured the nightmare that this book describes. I've spoken to Straight survivors over the years. I've campaigned against the for-profit rehab industry that keeps Satanists like Straight's founders in high-roller lifestyles. I've read the testimony of both victims and perpetrators in the many, many lawsuits and even criminal cases against Straight, Inc and its "franchise" of fear. Etler's bravery is unparalleled. A lot of Straight survivors can't share their stories, usually for fear of not being believed or being too afraid to go down that path again. This book is less a mighty roar against what society allowed to happen to her, and more like a reluctant scream to make sure it doesn't happen to others. Get this book right now, and read every single page. If you have a teen, hug her close at the end and whisper, "I'm sorry," in your head, not for the things you may have put her through, but for the fact that you tried to parent a human being in the kind of world where this happens, and you didn't know about it.

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