



## Books About Human Trafficking

**A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Day Slavery**, 2009, E. Benjamin Skinner

There are more slaves in the world today than at any time in history. After spending four years visiting a dozen countries where slavery flourishes, Skinner tells the story of individuals who live in slavery, those who have escaped from bondage, those who own or traffic in slaves, and the mixed political motives of those who seek to combat the crime.

**Faraway: A Suburban Boy's Story as a Victim of Sex Trafficking**, 2015, R.K. Kline and Daniel D. Maurer

When Kevin was fourteen years old he was just starting to understand his orientation as a gay teen living in a suburb of St. Louis. Then he met someone who he thought was his friend. This man was no friend, instead he coerced Kevin into child prostitution.

**Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir**, 2012, Rachel Lloyd

Girls Like Us is the story of Rachel Lloyd's escape from the commercial sex industry and her founding of GEMS, New York City's Girls Education and Mentoring Service to help other girls escape exploitation. Ms. Lloyd's memoir is a story of human abuse, enduring hope, and the promise of redemption.

**Half the Sky: Tuning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**, 2010, N. Kristof and S. WuDunn

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn illustrate the pervasive oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Among the extraordinary women they write about is a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery who builds a thriving business that supports her family. Drawing on their combined reporting experience, the Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

**Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets One Helping Hand at a Time**, 2012, Carissa Phelps and Larkin Warren

By the time she was twelve, Carissa Phelps had run away from home, dropped out of school, and fled blindly into the arms of a brutal pimp. Even when she escaped him, she could not outrun the crushing inner pain of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Through the unexpected kindness of a teacher and a counselor, Carissa accomplished the unimaginable, graduating from UCLA with both a law degree and an MBA, and found herself back on the streets helping homeless and at-risk youth discover their own paths to a better life.

**Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery**, 2017, Siddharth Kara

Originally published in 2007, Siddharth Kara adds documentation to his ground-breaking work on the local factors and economic forces that support sexual slavery worldwide. After 15 years Kara has recorded nearly 900 cases of sex trafficking in forty-one countries and has helped advise on numerous legal, tactical and policy efforts for abolishing modern day slavery.

**The Slave Across the Street**, 2010, Theresa Flores

Theresa Flores shares her life as an All-American, blue-eyed, blond-haired 15-year-old teenager enslaved into the world of sex trafficking while living in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit and without her parents ever

knowing about it. At the mercy of a large underground criminal ring, Ms. Flores endured more as a child than most will face in their entire lives.

**Walking Prey: How America's Youth Are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery**, 2014, Holly Austin Smith

Holly Austin Smith argues that two cultural forces have made America's youth vulnerable to exploitation by sex traffickers: engagement in adult sexual attitudes and practices at younger ages and the pressure to conform. Speaking from experience Ms. Smith explains that without consistent positive guidance and engagement, many young people grow up with little self-worth making them particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

## For Elementary and Middle School-Aged Children

**Threads**, 2016 by Ami Polonsky (for ages 8-12)

Twelve-year-old Clara, still reeling from the death of her adopted sister, finds a desperate written by thirteen-year-old Yuming half a world away and forced to sew in the pale pink factory outside of Beijing probably forever. Clara grows convinced that she was meant to find Yuming's note but how can she talk her parents, who are also in mourning, into going on a trip to China? The lives of two girls--one American, and one Chinese--intersect like two soaring kites in this story about loss, hope, and recovery.

**Sold**, 2008 by Patricia McCormick (for ages 12-14)

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old Nepalese girl whose life, although desperately poor, is full of simple pleasures. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. Glad to be able to help, and believing she will find work as a maid, Lakshmi journeys to India with a glamorous stranger and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. She soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. Living a nightmare she cannot escape, Lakshmi lives by her mother's words--Simply to endure is to triumph--and gradually. Then the day comes when she must make a decision--will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life? Written in spare and evocative vignettes, this powerful novel renders a world that is as unimaginable as it is real, and a girl who not only survives but triumphs.

**Queen of Water**, 2012 by Laura Resau (for ages 12-14)

Born in an Andean village in Ecuador, Virginia lives with her large family in a small, earthen-walled dwelling. In her village of indígenas, it is not uncommon for children to work in the fields all day and to be denigrated by members of the ruling class of mestizos, or Spanish descendants. When seven-year-old Virginia is taken from her village to be a servant to a mestizo couple, she has no idea what the future holds. Based on a true story, acclaimed author Laura Resau recounts one girl's unforgettable journey to self-discovery. Virginia's story will speak to anyone who has ever struggled to find his or her place in the world. It will make you laugh and cry, and ultimately, it will fill you with hope.

**Amal Unbound**, 2018 by Aisha Saeed (for ages 9-11)

Life is quiet in Amal's Pakistani village but she had no complaints, she's busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when--as the eldest daughter--she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Then the unimaginable happens--after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord, Amal must work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt. Life at the opulent Khan estate is full of heartbreak and struggle for Amal but most troubling is Amal's growing awareness of the Khans' nefarious dealings. When it becomes clear just how far they will go to protect their interests, Amal realizes she will have to find a way to work with others if they are ever to exact change in a cruel status quo, and if Amal is ever to achieve her dreams.