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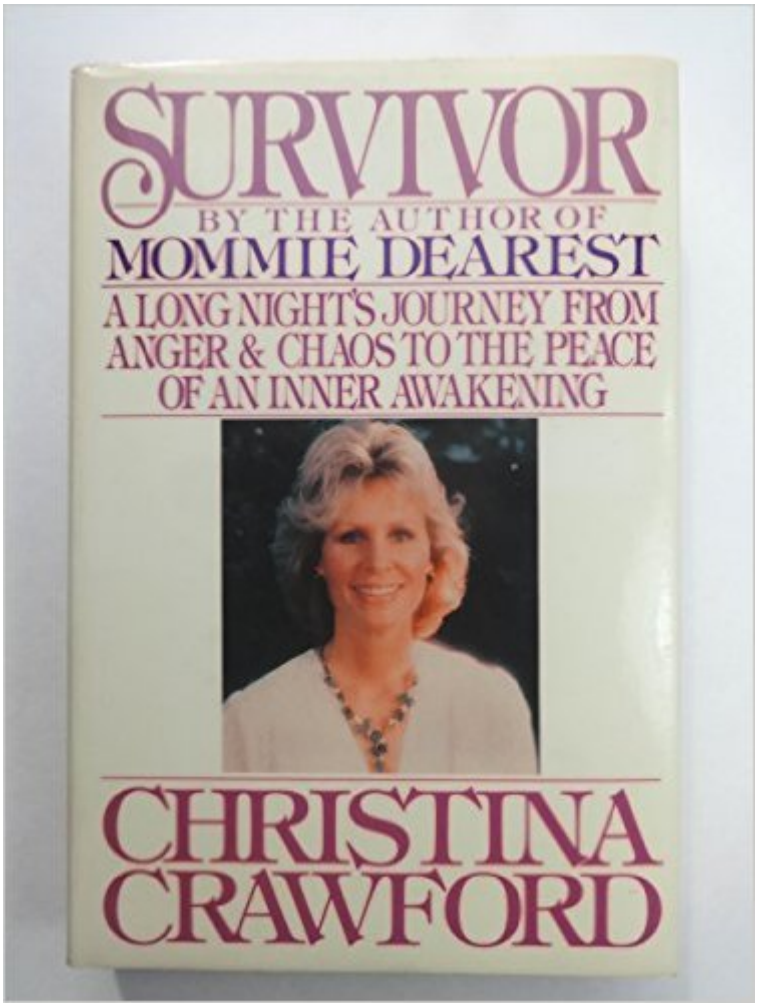

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Synopsis

Book by Crawford, Christina

Book Information

Hardcover: 268 pages

Publisher: Dutton Adult; First Edition edition (October 7, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556111185

ISBN-13: 978-1556111181

Product Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 20 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (16 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Although not as great as "Mommie Dearest", Christina Crawford's "Survivor" is a fasinating book for anyone who wants to know more about what happened to Christina after the publication of her book on her famous mother Joan Crawford. The front jacket of "Survivor" says it the best; "After publication of "Mommie Dearest" the world as I knew it blew up in my face". "Survivor" starts where "Mommie Dearest" left off at, where Joan's will is read and Christina learns that she and her brother Christopher are disinherited by Joan. Christina goes into detail on when she started writing "Mommie Dearest" and why the book had to be written. She also documents the terror of being raised by an abusive parent and how that terror still haunted her after Joan's death. She tries to understand why her mother hated her so and she comes to the conclusion that her mother was seriously ill. The most informative parts of the book is when Christina writes about how people actually blamed her for exposing the truth of how Joan was a child abuser. Many knew about Crawford's reign of terror on her children during her Hollywood heydey, but those same people felt embarressed and ashamed after "Mommie" was published because they all knew too well that they did nothing to protect Joan's kids. There is a part in the book when a gentleman acquaintance of Joan's discusses with Christina in the late '70's that he witnessed Joan beating Christina back in the 1940's. This man was at Joan's house one day when he saw Joan take Christina and put her hand in a door frame and closed the door onto the child's fingers with Christina screaming in agonizing pain. The man, when asked by Christina what he did in response, stated he went into the bathroom

and threw up.

This book picks up where "Mommie Dearest" left off, detailing the author's struggles with detractors, under-handed movie producers, and her health, since she suffered a stroke soon after the book's publication. She blames the stroke(as she does everything else) on her mother, Joan Crawford, citing a long-ago physical altercation between Joan Crawford and herself, during which Joan choked her almost to the point of unconciousness. Christina also details the unraveling of her marraige to "David", whom she refers to repeatedly towards the end of "Mommie Dearest". David basically wants to live off of the residuals from "Mommie Dearest", and refuses to work. This drives Christina to drink, resulting in "Mommie Dearest-esque" behavior. She joins A.A., and tries to get her life and health back on track, which she does.The problem I have with this book, is that it focuses on super-natural happenings, which the author is fascinated with. It is a "New Age", abstract book, and, frankly, I couldn't tell what was symbolic, and what was real. Christina writes of encountering her six year old self on a journey through "the ruins"- whatever that means. She meets the child "Christina", and apologizes to HERSELF for not protecting her more.... it's as confusing as it can possibly be. She then asks the child Christina if she would like to "ride" in her grown-up heart for the rest of her journey. The child agrees- and she literaly picks up the child and deposits her in her chest! HUH? There's also a story about her losing her car keys, and a "Voice" telling her "The keys are in the garbage", which she obeys and, lo and behold! There lie the keys in the trash can; this is supposed to have some sort of spiritual significance.

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