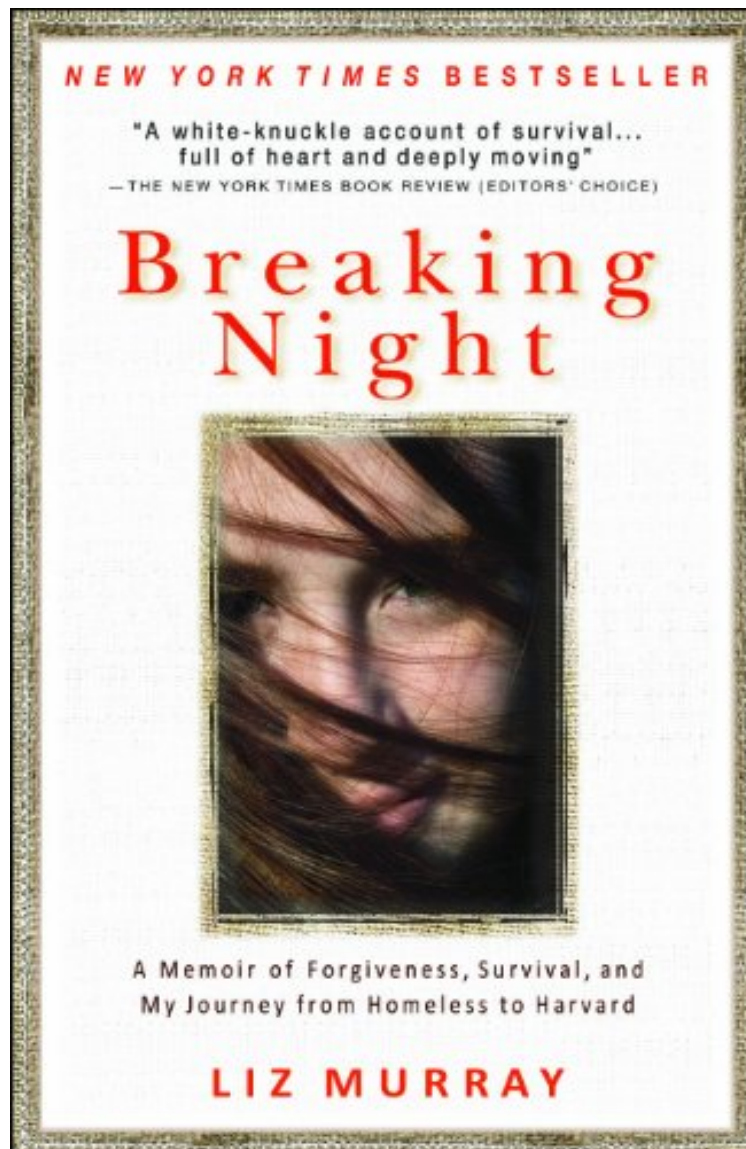


(Download pdf) Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard

Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard

Liz Murray

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#20477 in Books Liz Murray 2011-05-24 2011-05-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.00 x 5.251, .65 #File Name: 1401310591352 pages Breaking Night A Memoir of Forgiveness Survival and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard | File size: 43.Mb

Liz Murray : Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. she displays with genuineness her love for her parents
By F. Paul Muccigrosso
Breaking Night is a book about bravery and about consequence and about personal dreams and hopes that each independently can change a person's life - Liz Murray writes and lives about how each of these things (and many more characteristics) can change the lives of many. There is a special sense of strength that Ms. Murray defines when recalling her developmental years living in NYC with her parents and sister. Caring for her mother and worrying about her father and sister help define a fundamental goodness and kindness in her that continues to develop throughout her life. Never does she present a "poor me" attitude about her lot in life - rather, she displays with genuineness her love for her parents, sister, friends, teachers and other supports while learning to believe in herself - ultimately that helps to propel her from being a ward of the county and from being truly homeless to setting and then achieving real, life-changing goals. Liz Murray writes openly about her life - complete with her thoughts and with her feelings - no matter how difficult those thoughts and feelings might be to understand or accept. I have used Liz's story in the college classes I instruct and as inspiring reading/lessons for those I work with as a trauma-informed psychotherapist - Liz gives hope to those who might need it the most. Liz gives hope to all who know her and her story.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I heard this amazing lady speak at my beginning of the school year ...
By Erin E. Casteel
I heard this amazing lady speak at my beginning of the school year convocation in the fall. She talked about her Lifetime movie "From Homeless to Harvard", but since I can't stand those movies, I looked up and successfully found this book about Liz Murray. Her life was just as amazing as she was a speaker. Prepare to be inspired.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Absolute Must-Read: A Story of Hope Amidst Horror
By Cathryn Conroy
Much like "The Glass House" (Jeannette Walls) and "Coming Clean" (Kimberly Rae Miller), "Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard" is a horrific, but incredibly inspiring, true story of how one little girl is emotionally and then physically abandoned by her parents and yet somehow grows up functional--so functional she goes to Harvard. Liz Murray spent more time cutting school than attending classes, doing all she could to get her drug-addicted mother to pay attention to her, surviving without a working shower/bathtub and stealing clothes and food because the family's money was spent on drugs and booze. And somehow social services never intervened until she was 13--even though many of those in authority knew what was going on in the house. I am so impressed with Liz Murray's fortitude and gumption. It would have been so easy to repeat her mother's story; instead, she created her own and it is a truly astounding one. Homeless from the age of 15, she managed to go back to school, graduate, win a New York Times scholarship and go to Harvard. Reading this book will make you both cry and laugh and feel both ashamed and encouraged--but most of all, it will give you hope. We humans are tough cookies!

Breaking night: (Urban slang) staying up through the night, until the sun rises
Breaking Night is the stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls' home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a New York Times scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League. Breaking Night is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman's indomitable spirit to survive and prevail, against all odds.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . From runaway to Harvard student, Murray tells an engaging, powerfully motivational story about turning her life around after growing up the neglected child of drug addicts. When Murray was born in 1980, her former beatnik father was in jail for illegally trafficking in prescription painkillers, and her mother, a cokehead since age 13, had just barely missed losing custody of their year-old daughter, Lisa. Murray and her sister grew up in a Bronx apartment that gradually went to seed, living off government programs and whatever was left after the parents indulged their drug binges; Murray writes that drugs were the "wrecking ball" that destroyed her family-- prompting her mother's frequent institutionalization for drug-induced mental illness and leading to her parents inviting in sexual molesters. By age 15, with the help of her best friend Sam and an elusive hustler, Carlos, she took permanently to the streets, relying on friends, sadly, for shelter. With the death of her mother, her runaway world came to an end, and she began her step-by-step plan to attend an alternative high school, which eventually led to a New York Times scholarship and acceptance to Harvard. In this incredible story of true grit, Murray went from feeling like "the world was filled with people who were repulsed by me" to learning to receive the bountiful generosity of strangers who truly cared. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
While reading Murrays memoir, you cant help but continuously wonder how the young woman narrated on the page could be the same woman who survived to become her author. In the harrowing tale of her childhood in the Bronx, Murrays straightforward and no-frills prose hits hard. These are the facts, and they are not

pretty: Murray watched her parents mainline cocaine at the kitchen table from before she could speak, and the family often spent 25 days a month the time after her parents blew the welfare check to feed their blazing drug habit starving. Regarding her parents addiction with the utmost benevolence, Murray tells of bearing the weighty burden of young protector to her obviously flailing parents, and eventually living on the streets when it was less unhappy and perhaps safer than staying at home. With no resources to speak of, she ultimately commits to high school and finds her prospects can be great. Neither sensationalizing nor soliciting pity, Murray's generous account of and caring attitude toward her past are not only uplifting, but also a fascinating lesson in the value of dedication. --Annie Bostrom "From runaway to Harvard student, Murray tells an engaging, powerfully motivational story about turning her life around.... In this incredible story of true grit, Murray went from feeling like "the world was filled with people who were repulsed by me" to learning to receive the bountiful generosity of strangers who truly cared." Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Truly uplifting ... Liz Murray has shown us the worst, and the very best, of America." Haven Kimmel, author of *A Girl Named Zippy* and *She Got Up Off the Couch* "The admirable story of a teen who overcame homelessness through sheer grit and the kindness of friends ... An uplifting story of survival." Kirkus "Breaking Night reads more like an adventure story than an addiction-morality tale. It's a white-knuckle account of survival. . . . By age 6, Murray knew how to mainline drugs (though she never took them) and how to care for her strung-out parents. She showed uncanny maturity, even as a child, and later managed to avoid that malady of teenagers and memoir writers, self-pity. . . . Murray's stoicism has been hard-earned; it serves her well as a writer. Breaking Night itself is full of heart, without a sliver of ice, and deeply moving." The New York Times Book "Education was the miracle that saved Murray's life. . . . Her story is inspirational, and her description of [her high school], and its role in her life, should be read by everyone concerned about education." Washington Post Book World "Liz Murray shows us that the human spirit has infinite ability to grow and can never be limited by circumstance. Breaking Night is a beautifully written, heartfelt memoir that will change the way you look at your community, the obstacles in your own life, and the American Dream. An inspiration; a must-read." Robert Redford