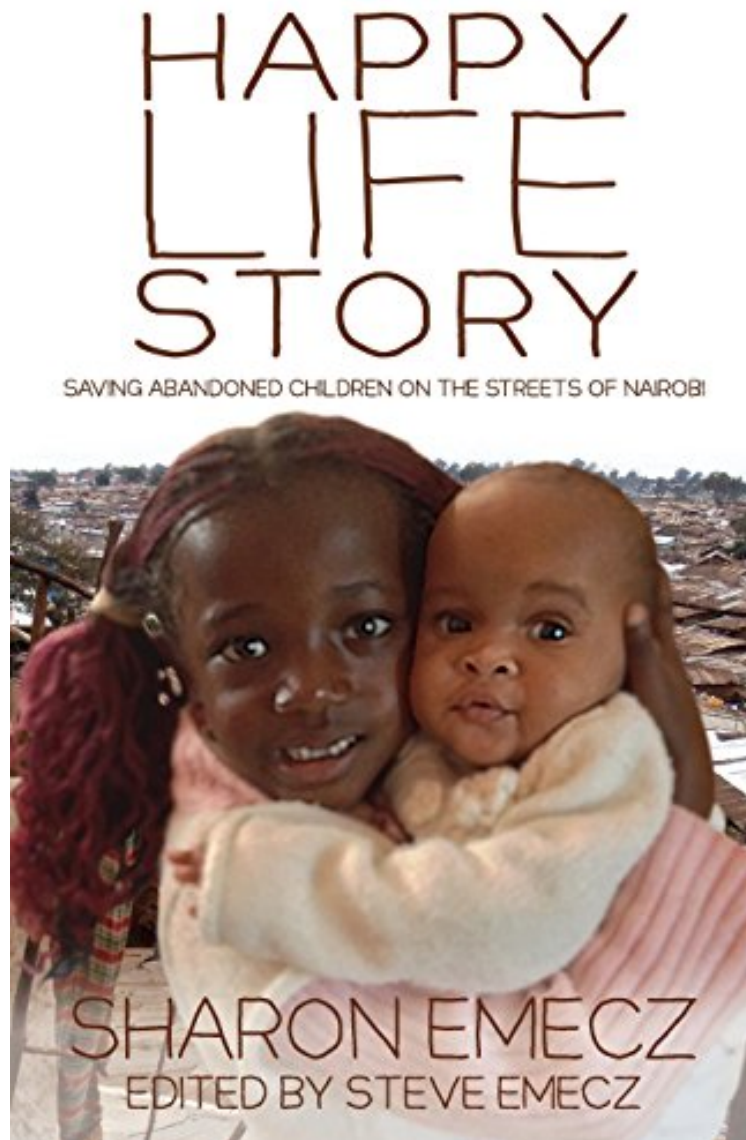


(Free and download) The Happy Life Story: Saving abandoned children on the streets of Nairobi

The Happy Life Story: Saving abandoned children on the streets of Nairobi

Sharon Emecz

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Sharon Emecz : The Happy Life Story: Saving abandoned children on the streets of Nairobi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Happy Life Story: Saving abandoned children on the streets of Nairobi:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For Love of ChildrenBy B BrownThis slender volume opens with

the story of Beniah, an infant rescued by sanitation workers from the stack of garbage in which he had been left to die. Without ever losing sight of Beniah and the too many other deserted children, the author, Sharon Emecz, tells the story of the two homes for abandoned children, Happy Life Kasarani and Happy Life Juja Farm, organized in the area of Nairobi, Kenya. Developed more than a decade ago by two indomitable couples, Sharon and Jim Powell from Delaware in the USA, and Faith and Peter Kamau from Nairobi, the two settings provide the physical and emotional comforts that would otherwise have been denied the 102 abandoned children now living there, as well as having nurtured the many more who have found adoptive homes. More than that even, the two homes have literally saved the lives of all those children. The book provides detail of the structure and functioning of The Happy Life homes allowing for an appreciation of their organization (as well as a pattern for their replication), and provides as well brief portraits of some of the children saved, of those adults who have opted to share a part of their lives with them whether through work or volunteering, and the adoptive parents who have pledged to share their homes and their love with the children who have become their own. Ms. Emecz gives the reader a real sense of the spiritual journey she has undergone in traveling from London to Nairobi, a journey she and her husband, Steve, now make at least annually.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful and Important

By Holmes FanMX is known all over the world as the largest publisher of Sherlock Holmes books. It provides an opportunity for both authors to present their works to a waiting world, and also new Holmes stories for addicts like me who cant get enough. But MX is more than that. Its a not-for-profit company based in London that supports two charities. The first of these is the Stepping Stones School, located at Undershaw, a former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This is a fitting association, considering the bulk of Sherlockian titles that are published by MX. In addition to MXs direct support of the school, there have been several titles where the author royalties have been donated as well to both Undershaw (while it was being saved from destruction,) and then the school. Most recently, MX has been involved in the production of The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, an ongoing series of massive volumes featuring new Holmes adventures, written by the best of todays Sherlockian authors, with royalties also going to Stepping Stones. MXs other charitable support goes to the Happy Life Childrens Home, a rescue center located in Nairobi, Kenya. That is what this book, Happy Life Story by Sharon Emecz, is about. Each December, MX founder and publisher Steve Emecz and his wife Sharon, who wrote this book, selflessly spend several weeks in Nairobi, volunteering their time at Happy Life. This is a very worthy cause, and this book shows exactly why. Its a mixture of descriptions of the facility and its surroundings, an introduction to the people who have devoted their lives to its operation, why such an operation is so necessary, and most of all, a look at the babies who benefit from it. What Steven and Sharon Emecz do with their time and efforts is amazing and admirable, and the work that Happy Life is doing is wonderful and important. Help support it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Belongs in every Church, social services, adoption and child welfare office. Good demonstration of inter-racial adoptions.

By Marcia This book needs to be in every church or social services office where someone can pick it up and read it. The shortness of the book ensures it is read quickly and easily--and the content is very easily understood. St. Francis said, Preach the Gospel at all times and, if necessary, use words. This book is exactly the kind of words that needs to be used. It is an excellent illumination into a little understood world: Adoption in Kenya is currently under a 1-year review (a voluntary action on part of the government). It is known for having one of the more restrictive (some might say impossible) guidelines for foreign couples wishing to adopt. However, the advantages of the long wait and the mandatory on-site time with the prospective parent and child is shown very clearly. Adoption should be learning and accepting children wholecloth, not selecting a promising looking child and uprooting them, taking them to a strange new world with veritable strangers. Children are in desperate need for homes in Kenya, but this does not mean they should be farmed out. Happy Life means living with daily struggles to bring proper food, medicine and health into each child and encourage their chances for growing well into adulthood as loving, stable beings. I smiled at a German couple who had to explain to some why they wanted to adopt an African Child; they really had the warmth and love to go with the will to adopt. No less important was the hurdle a local woman had in adopting after she had given birth to "her own" baby. Society creates tired polemics such as "but it isn't yours," and "not your skin color" or "They don't want you to adopt if you have to live with the child first!" Society can only drown out these obstacles by overriding them. Today in social media I managed to receive a cringeworthy article on a presidential candidate who has an Hispanic wife and proclaims my country should not be multicultural. Ten minutes later I received an in-depth article explaining why integrated schools are better for all children. This book is, in short, timely to the current questions that keep getting voiced in our society. These abandoned children in Kenya are a large portion of the solutions we seek within our humanity. Ultimately, how we react to them--by ignorance or apathy or awareness and proaction--says more about ourselves and our ability to improve ourselves with opening our arms instead of shutting doors. Read this book and pass it on. At the very least you have a well-drafted reference for study and research with good, solid information given to you in a readable, almost conversational style. And that is all too rare in this day and age.

The Happy Life Story tells the brief history of an inspiring children's home project in Nairobi in Kenya. It's told through the eyes of Sharon Emecz, who after twenty years on the corporate treadmill took a career break and spent a

month in Africa including volunteering at Happy Life. The main children's home is in the suburb of Kasarani. Founded in 2002, they rescue abandoned babies from the streets, many of whom are orphans. There are over 2 million orphans in Kenya and this is the heart-warming story of a small group of people saving the lives of hundreds of children. The program has expanded to a 2nd home in the village of Juja Farm where there is now also a church and a school open also to local children. Helping children get adopted is a key part of what Happy Life do with over half of the children saved being adopted. The book includes two case study interviews with adoptive parents. The book was completed when Sharon and her husband Steve return for their second Christmas at Happy Life in 2014. The book is in colour as it features many photographs. All royalties from the book go to Happy Life. You can get more information at happylifechildrenshome.com.