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Parents' Guide to

Sold

By [Lucinda Dyer](#), Common Sense Media Reviewer

age 14+

Unforgettable story of Nepali girl sold into sex work.

Book [Patricia McCormick](#) [Contemporary Fiction](#) 2006

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A Lot or a Little?

What you will—and won't—find in this book.

Educational Value

Readers learn about the terrifying lives of girls

Positive Messages

Hope and courage are a powerful combination. Never

Positive Role Models

Despite living in the horror of Happiness House, s

Violence & Scariness

Lakshmi is described as "torn and bleeding" after

Sex, Romance & Nudity

Not present

All sex in the novel is in the context of abuse an

Language

Not present

Products & Purchases

Not present

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking

Lakshmi is drugged so she can be sold multiple tim

Parents Need to Know

Parents need to know that Patricia McCormick's award-winning novel in verse, *Sold*, is the story of Lakshmi, a 13-year-old girl from a poor village in rural Nepal, who is sold into sex work by her stepfather. Lakshmi, thinking she is going to a job as a housemaid, is innocent of what lies ahead until she...

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- [Kids say \(16\)](#)

age 16+

Based on 7 parent reviews



MaiaraZephyr Adult

5 years ago

age 12+

I'm an adult and I wish I read this as a kid.

I think the problem with being an adult and being a middle schooler is the age difference. We forget the maturity or the lack of maturity that a child of 12+ can have. Yet, I think

it's partly our own faults. Parents want to bubble wrap their children and that's how things like this can happen. As a 21 year old college student I read this book and I never saw the true horrors of the world and I wished I did. We need to give our children the benefit of the doubt and open their minds to these things. As a society and a country we do our children and our generation little good by shutting everything away. If you're afraid of the content for your child, read it with them, make them understand and teach them how to treat this subject with respect and maturity. It's not the teachers job to do that, it's the parents and/or guardians. We need to step up to the plate and do our duty as adults to teach these kids learn and grow as adults.

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Joy S. Adult

6 years ago

age 18+

Important Subject, but Not for "under 18s"

While the story provides an unflinching look at the crime of sex trafficking in Nepal and India - a practice that should be condemned and eradicated- the graphic nature if the narrative is inappropriate for children, pre-teens, and teens under the age of 18. The descriptions of the ongoing rape/violation and physical abuse suffered by the girls is emotionally disturbing and traumatic for many younger teens. Additionally, the description of one girl's suicide and the Nepalese mothers drinking the juice from the ink tree so that they will cause themselves to miscarry babies that they do not want to be born only to die later, yields difficult classroom discussions. This is particularly true when the teacher may not be aware of the personal beliefs or opinions of the student's family on such topics. I would strongly recommend that teachers who select this book for whole class guides reading activities first secure the consent of the parents to have their child participate. Encouraging parents to read the book with their child allow them the opportunity to facilitate discussions of the content in a way that they find developmentally appropriate.

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What's the Story?

SOLD is the story of 13-year-old Lakshmi, who lives in a tiny village in Nepal with her mother, baby brother, and stepfather. Lakshmi's family is poor, owing in part to her stepfather's gambling habit. But she goes to school, has a beloved pet goat, and imagines what her life will be like when she marries a local boy named Krishna. It's an innocent life, so innocent she can't imagine what awaits her as she travels with her new "Auntie" and then "Uncle Husband" to a job in Calcutta. Instead of working as a maid and sending money home to her family, she finds herself trapped in a brothel with seemingly no way of escape

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/patricia-mccormick/sold/>

SOLD

BY PATRICIA MCCORMICK • RELEASE DATE: SEPT. 1, 2006

In her village in Nepal, Lakshmi's life is more than difficult and requires her to endure hunger, harsh weather and poverty. When she is sold to an itinerant "Auntie," she thinks she'll be working as a maid in the city. She's determined to excel, even though she can't imagine the place. She arrives in a brothel, working in guaranteed slavery until she is broken or dies, astonished at the charges beyond what she could possibly earn for everything she touches. The harshness of her life in this new country of India, feeling torn from all that is familiar, comes close to crushing her, yet she endures. The tiny moments of peace, learning the words in books, the friendships and respect that develop provide a relief for readers even as admiration for Lakshmi's strength and capacity for sorrow grows. Written as a prose poem, *Sold* focuses on the essential question of whether it is possible to trust when all that one has trusted has been proven untrustworthy. McCormick provides readers who live in safety and under protection of the law with a vivid window into a harsh and cruel world—one most would prefer to pretend doesn't exist. (*Fiction. YA*)

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