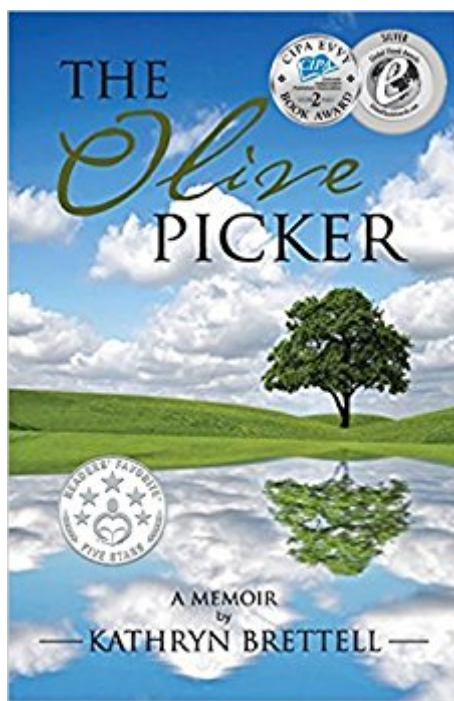


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# The Olive Picker: A Memoir



## Synopsis

More than a memoir, *The Olive Picker* is a touching experience brimming with strength and triumph. Facing a horrific attack, a resourceful nurse must summon her wits or lose her life. In this brave and shocking memoir, the author masterfully guides us through the pivotal points of her life, from an abusive upbringing that destroys her self-confidence, to the wreckage of an ill-conceived marriage, and onto a defining moment, full of grace and mercy, which gave her the wings to become the conquering and triumphant phoenix she is today. Kathi's story is a heart-wrenching testament to the endurance of the human spirit. Beautifully portrayed, *The Olive Picker* will grab you by the soul and hold you captive to the very last page. "A gripping read, deceptively playful at times, this brave book is a stark reminder that truth is often stranger than fiction." - Vibha Malhotra, author and founder of Literature Studio

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very honest and moving memoir about growing up with the wicked stepfather, carrying the destructive patterns into adulthood, and then dramatically breaking free into a reality, where the author loves and cherishes herself, and the world responds in kind.

The Olive Picker: A Memoir is one of the most sorrowful, endearing, loving, and triumphant reads from someone who lived through a childhood of change, loss, isolation, and abuse. Kathi's recounting of her early adulthood is filled with challenge, periods of relative contentment, and then the incredible near-death incident of abuse. She came out of that still full of life, love, adventure, and determination which has finally given her the wonderful life (and true love) that she so truly deserves. Kathi's life is proof that one can overcome horrendous obstacles without self-pity and anger, and can inspire those in similar circumstances to move forward in grace, love, and determination. Kathi tells her story in a personable way, with humor, sincerity, and openness. Bravo, Kathi!

This book has got to be one of the best books I have ever read. From her growing up in Northern CA until her later life in TX Kathryn Bertell is a true survivor and hero. This is the first book I have read in one day. Her life story and the obstacles she has overcome are inspiring to say the least.

We all have experiences in our childhood that shape who we are through out our lives. Kathryn Bertell has done a fabulous job of telling her story in the first person, but with insights into her thought process as she was going through some horrific experiences at the hands of a cruel stepfather and a Mother who not only turned a blind eye to the abuse but withheld her love from her two daughters from her first marriage. These experiences later translated into abusive relationships with the men for many years to come. My first reaction in deciding to read this book was one of "another story of abuse" as we read about these kinds of things on a daily basis. Kathryn, however, presented her story in such a beautiful and and feeling way that the reader can't help but become engrossed in her story and you wait in suspense as to how the book ends. Hooray for Kathryn! A great read!

I met Kathi a few years ago and had no idea what terrible secrets lay beneath the surface. I can't help but think that putting these past experiences into a memoir would be both liberating and terrifying. I couldn't put her book down. I saw the child that wanted to make things better and tried in little ways to do that, but didn't know how to escape her environment. There is so much more information out today that might lead a child to say something to a teacher or an adult outside the home. I don't think that was the case when Kathi was growing up. The damage done at an early age just snowballed into adulthood decisions. It is amazing that Kathi survived the violence she

experienced, much less to come out of it and experience the happiness she now knows. None of us like to dwell on the negative, but it is important to realize that the people around us may have a very different experience than we have, as one in four women experience domestic violence in our country. I hope Kathi's story gives other women the courage to find their way out of an abusive situation.

The Olive Picker engages from the very first page. Artfully written, it grabs your heart and mind in unexpected ways and holds your interest and curiosity to the last word. Kathi has a natural and beautiful talent for recounting even the most difficult times in her life. I was left with the fervent hope that Kathi will continue writing. Beth Lincoln, Evergreen, Colorado.

This story completely touched me! I can relate to it in many ways. I grew up in an abusive household and it's had an affect on my personal life. Reading this book, reminded me to keep fighting for what I want in life. We are fighters and as fighters we never give up. We prove what our past said we could not do and achieve what we want. I cried so many times throughout this book so be prepared! Kathryn is an amazing author and I felt like I was seeing her life through her eyes. I recommend this book for everyone. Her story needs to be heard and should be read by people all over the world! Inspirational!

Story of Kathi who grew up in an abusive home with her step father monster. Her and her sister were treated bad and their mother didn't put a stop to it. Eager to finish high school, she leaves home to escape. Young later teenagers, parties and dumb decisions. Marring a guy, having a kid and moving out of state. Pregnant again and husband cheats on her multiple times. Finding her way and divorcing her husband. Start again. Along comes another guy. Marriage with no love? A strange relationship that ends in a horrific fight for no reason. Her hard past and this recent event about puts her over the edge. She was not to mourn a wasted past, but to see through different eyes the great joys life has to offer. A great read that I actually read in one day! Couldn't put it down for some reason.

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