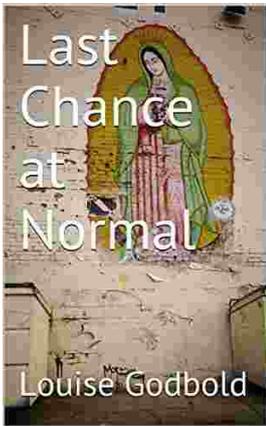


Last Chance at Normal



Last Chance at Normal

XC-68466

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5/5 From 294 Reviews

Louise Godbold

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Who Will Make a Film of This Amazing Story?By tflemingoA British woman from an upper class family comes to the US as a missionary for Christ and finds herself immersed in the sub-culture of Los Angeles homelessness, drug-addicion and the criminal elements which are pervasive in Skid Row.She is a heroine of the first order in her ability to adapt and survive in many a seemingly hopeless situation as she adds intelligent insight and humor to the grisly realities with which she is faced.Lou Godbold's writing skills are excellent. She tells the narrative in a reverse chronological order and it works. Her story is at once terrifying and hilarious, as she juxtaposes very tense moments with her dry British wit, lambasting norms and a few deserving characters as needed.I loved this book and read it in a day - a very compelling true story of personal growth and survival. This would make an amazingly good film!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Leap of Faith Way Beyond NormalBy John Paul GodesOne of the best-known biblical verses is this maddening one from the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus tells his disciples something that cannot make literal sense: "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Louise Godbold gives us a rare glimpse into how this challenging biblical passage makes perfect sense today, for she has forsaken both the privileges of British high society and the pretenses of Hollywood glamour for the sake of remaining true to her highest self and communing more closely with her God. She does this, mind you, with the utmost humility and self-deprecatory humor, along with an ample portion of literary finesse characteristic of a writer gifted in the queen's English. To have a writer of such self-awareness and skill chronicle the ugliness and beauty of the homeless, drug-addicted, largely Spanish-speaking population on L.A.'s skid row--and to have that writer do so in a way that removes every last barrier between herself and them--is an extraordinary gift to the people she has immortalized and to the readers who are left not only to marvel at her bravery, integrity, and generosity but also to be inspired and ennobled by her example.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. And Who Defines "Normal" for You?By KathyLouise Godbold is a striking writer who will grab you by the collar right from the breaking of her water on the kitchen floor (yes, as in childbirth) within the first sentences of Last Chance at Normal. Then shell pull you the length of the under-world of Los Angeles and the breadth of the uber-world of London simultaneously, if you have the courage to look life on this broken planet in the face as she does. Ms. Godbolds reality of whole swaths of