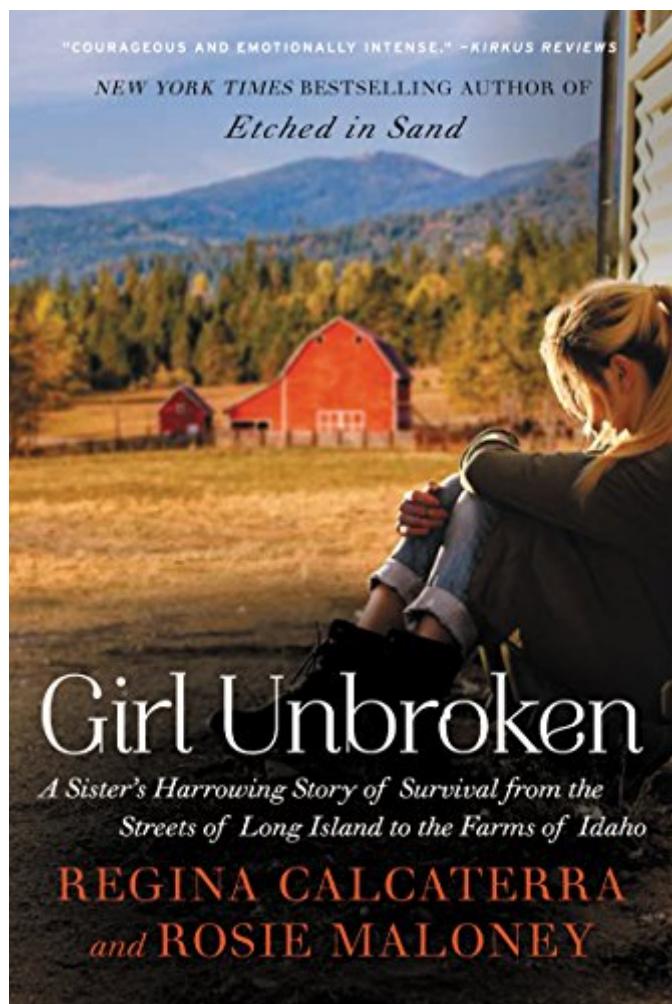


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# Girl Unbroken: A Sister's Harrowing Story Of Survival From The Streets Of Long Island To The Farms Of Idaho



## Synopsis

In the highly anticipated sequel to her New York Times bestseller *Etched in Sand*, Regina Calcaterra pairs with her youngest sister Rosie to tell Rosie's harrowing, yet ultimately triumphant, story of childhood abuse and survival. They were five kids with five different fathers and an alcoholic mother who left them to fend for themselves for weeks at a time. Yet through it all they had each other. Rosie, the youngest, is fawned over and shielded by her older sister, Regina. Their mother, Cookie, blows in and out of their lives "like a hurricane, blind and uncaring to everything in her path." But when Regina discloses the truth about her abusive mother to her social worker, she is separated from her younger siblings Norman and Rosie. And as Rosie discovers after Cookie kidnaps her from foster care, the one thing worse than being abandoned by her mother is living in Cookie's presence. Beaten physically, abused emotionally, and forced to labor at the farm where Cookie settles in Idaho, Rosie refuses to give in. Like her sister Regina, Rosie has an unfathomable strength in the face of unimaginable hardship—enough to propel her out of Idaho and out of a nightmare. Filled with maturity and grace, Rosie's memoir continues the compelling story begun in *Etched in Sand*—a shocking yet profoundly moving testament to sisterhood and indomitable courage.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Loved Regina Calcaterra's tragic account of life on Long Island in poverty and abuse, this telling of her sister's story leads us on a different trajectory of pain and abuse in another state. Rosie Maloney and Regina Calcaterra allow you to see that these horrific things are happening all around you if you open your eyes.

Hopefully, in the 15-20 years since the author went through this trauma- filled youth, our social services in this country have improved. At times, I could not continue to read this book because it was too haunting to believe that this girl/woman actually went through this continued abuse. This should be required reading for anyone majoring in social work, psychology or sociology.

Truly unbelievable and answered many questions from the other book titled, "Etched in Sand" by Regina. Rosie tells how she went on with her life as a child with her mother/Cookie and her sick ways and horrid behaviors. The story mounts, and just gets better and better in this book. I thought this book was over the top incredibly written and easy to read too. I just cannot believe all this happened, but I truly believe it, and may God Bless Rosie and her sisters and brother for what they endured. This book got better and better and I could not put it down and if I did, it was for a short time and back to Girl Unbroken. Rosie you are an angel in an angel suit, and God Bless you!

I read Etched In Sand, first and had to find out what happened to the younger sister, Rosie. Never in

my life, could I imagine children being raised like these kids were. It makes me both angry and sad that this could happen. Where are the people who should be protecting these children? We, ordinary citizens, should pay more attention and do something to stop this. NO child should have to endure this kind of abuse. Thank you brave sisters for sharing your stories.

Wonderfully written but the content was very difficult to take. How can any mother do those things to their children? Read Etched in Sand and was appalled but at least they had each other. This was much harder to read as this sister was on her own without the support of her other sisters. She did have her brother but he was mother's pet (if this woman could be kind to any child). I hope when she died of cancer it was a very long and painful death!

Etched in Sand and even more so Girl Unbroken were amazing reads, very hard to put down. But what these siblings went through was just unspeakable. Very difficult reading at times. It just amazes me how people don't see this stuff happening around them. This family was failed by the very people who were in a position to help them. The social workers, the teachers, friends and neighbors. The policeman that Rosie talked to who believed his friend Clyde. How could these people not believe what Rosie was saying to them? It was especially heartbreakingly to read that Rosie and Norm were ready to end it all in such horrible fashion. I am so glad to see that their perseverance paid off and they have come to have wonderful families of their own now. Am anxious to hear how Norm is doing also.

Like Unbroken, the first person narrative shows clearly how withdrawing from painful expectations of humiliation can blind a person into a set of false belief systems because of deep immersion in horrendous living conditions, unable to see or find permanent freedom from abuse. Staying busy helps a part of our brain relax, yet finds solutions when least expected. Trust your gut instinct, above all else. It will not disappoint you. Blessed Rosie, whose painful endurance does not bear imagining, but I feel what felt so clearly in this story that I must recommend it to all ages.

Tear jerker so have a big box of tissues. Rosie I wish you and your siblings did not have to live through all this but you did. You are all my heroes. I read both of the books written about your family. What you all went through and now you are survivors and have broke that chain. I am happy for you.

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