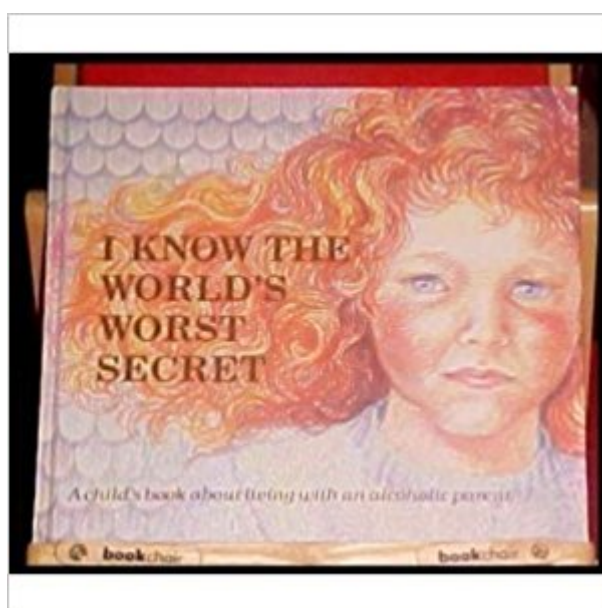


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# I Know The World's Worst Secret: A Child's Book About Living With An Alcoholic Parent (Hurts Of Childhood Series)



## Synopsis

Elizabeth, the daughter of an alcoholic mother, tries to carry the burden of taking care of the family. Includes guidelines for adults to help children of alcoholics.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Series: Hurts of Childhood Series

Hardcover: 28 pages

Publisher: Multnomah Books (January 1, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0880702125

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #479,450 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Substance Abuse #1313 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian #2926 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity

## Customer Reviews

ea. vol: illus. by Graci Evans. unpagged. CIP. Multnomah Pr. 1987. PSm \$6.95. Kindergarten-Grade 4 These two books are weak at tempts to bring helpful information about teenage drug abuse and parental alcoholism to young audiences. I Can Say No is well meaning but lacking in story line. Disjointed segments show the pain and confusion of a family when an older child becomes involved in drugs. The thrust of this book is that parents must assert control over children, and indeed the message at the back of the book is addressed specifically to par ents. I Know the World's Worst Secret is told by ten-year-old Elizabeth, who is the only one in her family who can admit that her mother is an alcoholic. Elizabeth has a doll named Friend, who supplies her with information on alcoholism and tells her ``Right now, your mother is not capable of loving you, or herself." While the basic messages are accurate and the portrayal of Elizabeth's pain is realistic, the ``story" is severely disjointed. On one page Friend encourages Elizabeth to tell a trusted adult, on the next, her moth er has nearly killed an old man in a traffic accident. Both books are illustrated in colored pencil. On the last pages, trou bled youngsters are encouraged to write to the author and illustrator

because ``We would like to share God's love with you." Children who write receive scripture verses and a personal note, but neither counseling nor referral. Children who would benefit from books on these topics will not find enough help here. Carolyn Polese, Gateway Community School, Arcata, Calif. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

sensitive, easily understandable for kids...i am so sad i needed to order it for my grandkids but it i think did help us all somewhat in dealing with their mother

This review is about both Evans' *I Know the World's Worst Secret* and *I Can Say No*. Counseling children is not always easy. Gardner's mutual story telling technique sometimes facilitates the child's disclosure of his or her deep feelings about some troubled situation. These two books will enable the counselor to do just that. Both are children's books designed to stimulate discussion of the child's feelings. The former is about a girl who lives with an alcoholic parent. Her little doll acts as her counselor who listens, comforts, and gives advice. This book is a super tool to help children talk about their own problems and fears of alcoholism in the home. The latter book makes a strong statement about the havoc drugs play within the home. A younger child views his brother getting involved with drugs and, learning the problems they cause, the child finds that it is best to "say no." Though probably not as therapeutic as the former book, a counselor will probably find it useful in working with children who experience drug abuse with other members of the family.

A therapist I know showed me this book and I had tears in my eyes while reading it. I'm buying it for my 2 granddaughters who are living this awful experience.

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