

Four Waifs on Our Doorstep

By Trisha Merry

This book is based on a true story as experienced by the author (writing under a pen name).

Trisha Merry is a retired foster carer. Over the past fifty years she and her husband have cared for hundreds of children, adopting seven of them along the way.

It is a difficult book to read, even though we know from the resume that it has a positive ending 'turning around four young lives from tragedy to hope'.

This book is not a page turner in the usual sense. It got off to a slow start and the narrative dragged at times, but this is because the author tells it as it was. This is not a fairy tale.

But it is a gripping story, and once started it is hard to put down. All members of the Book Club managed to finish the book.

Set in the 1990s, it is almost unbelievable how badly these children were let down by social services and others. But, as recent cases have highlighted, such failures are sadly still happening.

However, we need to remind ourselves that there is another side to the story as stretched and under-resourced social services struggle to cope with a challenging workload.

Unfortunately, this book is unlikely to encourage others to take on fostering children in such circumstances.