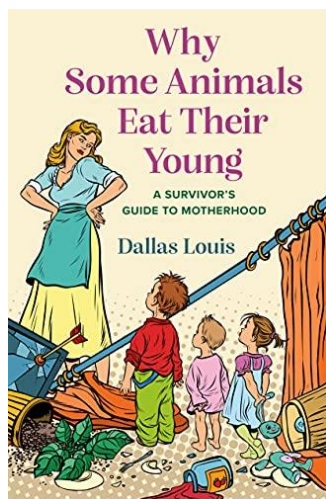


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WHY SOME ANIMALS EAT THEIR YOUNG **A Hilarious New Book that Extols the Highs & Lows of Parenting**



What do you get when you mix a toddler, a screaming baby, and a sudden craving for pickles and ice cream? A full-time job. Some people call it “parenting.” Dallas Louis in her hilarious new book, ***Why Some Animals Eat Their Young: A Survivor’s Guide to Motherhood***, calls it “chaos management.” In a household filled with three robust babies, things are bound to get broken—from dishes to bones—and this book covers them all!

When Dallas decided that all she wanted was to marry her Prince Charming and become a mom, she had no idea what was in store for her. But she would soon find out. After only seven months of dating the love of her life, she married him, and within twenty-six months, she gave birth to three children. Her husband knew her longer pregnant than not pregnant!

In her laugh-out-loud book, Dallas shares highlights of what happened in her world once all her dreams came true. She would like readers to find comfort in knowing that they aren’t the only ones suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome or buyer’s remorse. And, yes, it’s okay to admit that both conditions apply to parenting, though hopefully not all the time.

Often described as a modern-day Erma Bombeck, Dallas will tell you the things your friends won’t, and the things other books are too afraid to print.

Your favorite soap opera lies to you. All those wonderfully beautiful women with perfectly round baby bumps—very seldom does that happen in real life. As a new mother, Dallas quickly learned that:

- Babies do not sleep. Well, they probably sleep more than their parents. Correction, they sleep more than their mothers.
- Parenting is not for sissies. Those sweet little angels will test you in the most brutal ways imaginable. You will doubt everything you thought to be true about yourself—and then some.
- There is a substantial difference between a crying baby and a screaming baby.
- Apparently, using breastfeeding as a form of reliable birth control is an old wives’ tale. You absolutely can conceive while nursing. She knows that firsthand.
- Getting married is not the hardest thing you will ever need to adjust to in life—it’s throwing kids into the mix.

“Is it worth it?” Dallas asks. “Absolutely! Without one single, solitary doubt. But just as you would never go camping without proper provisions, never attempt to parent without proper provisions as well. I can’t lie—I’m glad the extreme baby phase is over. But without it, I would have never understood why some animals eat their young . . .”

Why Some Animals Eat Their Young is a glimpse into the daily life of an all-American mom. Parenting three kids who all arrived within twenty-six months of each other, combined with home renovation projects, multiple ER visits, and crazy family members, she has lived through enough show-stopping parenting fails to fill this hysterical page-turner. Dallas openly admits that she survived the early years of her children by sheer dumb luck! *Why Some Animals Eat Their Young* will have you howling with laughter and crying tears of joy that all these memorable moments came to pass in someone else's home.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dallas Louis grew up in Austin, Texas. She earned a BA degree in Christianity from Houston Baptist University and served as the women's ministry director of her church for seven years. A former field leader for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) International, Dallas now travels the country speaking to women's groups, encouraging them in their faith, parenting, marriages, and ministries. Her first book, *Girlfriends, Giggles, and God* is a thirty-one-day, humor-filled devotional, reflecting upon circumstances that arise in every woman's household. She lives in Houston with her husband and three children. You can find her online at www.dallaslouis.com.

Suggested Interview Questions

- Dallas, in a relatively short time span (26 months) you went from getting married to having three kids. Did you and your husband plan for things to happen the way they did or was this somewhat unexpected?
- What were the biggest adjustments you had to make to how you envisioned your life would turn out once you married your Prince Charming (Jeff)?
- Why do you describe being a mom as the "toughest job in the world"?
- You believe that kids not only need boundaries but want them. That without boundaries, the kids are in control and not the parent. Why do you believe that our society today is so utterly confused about the role of the parent?
- You advocate that one of the greatest examples parents can give their children is to put each other first and model a healthy marriage. Why do you believe this and why is it not selfish?
- How should you navigate UFOs (Unique Family Opportunities) and what do you try to teach your children through these?
- You say that "Marriage is hard. Marriage with kids is almost impossible—if you aren't willing to stand your ground and fight for what you have." Can you elaborate on this?
- You use lots of humor in telling the stories and lessons that you learned, but at the time, none of what you were experiencing was exactly funny. What's your message to parents or to those planning to become parents?
- Where did the title of the book, "Why Some Animals Eat Their Young," come from? Where can we get a copy?

Chapter Highlights/Quotes

Parenting is truly one of the most rewarding experiences of your life, and when done right, it will also be one of the most heartbreaking. Our children need us to be more than friends, more than fun, more than cool. They need us to be their parents. (p.8)

“Turns out, *getting* me pregnant wasn’t going to be the issue: *Not keeping* me pregnant was going to be the bigger challenge.” (p.9)

Parenting isn’t for sissies. Those sweet little angels will test you in the most brutal ways imaginable. You will doubt everything you thought to be true about yourself—and then some. (p.29)

How many times while we’re trying to parent our children do we feel as though we are actually on a roller coaster? I’ve often felt tossed side to side and back to front as I jostle from one parenting task to the next. Someone should have checked the height requirement on me before I decided to get pregnant with my first kiddo. (p.36)

Kids need to be shown the difference between pets and wildlife, between snakes that simply slither and snakes that will land you in the ER. Parenting is the final frontier. We will be faced with aliens from other worlds disguised as sweet innocents (aka our children). We will have close encounters of a third kind (aka our in-laws). But through it all, if we stick together, we will survive. (p.76)

Children are among the smartest criminals—I mean people—on the planet. And it starts from an extremely young age. No one has to teach them how to manipulate a situation. It seems to be already installed into their hardwiring. It’s amazing to watch, but mortifying to live through. (p.83)

It’s easy to be the fun parent all the time. It’s easy to mistake that for love. Love is actually keeping them safe. (p.88)

Odd power struggles occur every day. Our kids will constantly test their boundaries. We know that no matter where we set the limits, they will push and push until they get one toe over the line and then stand there to see what we’re going to do about it. The only comfort is in knowing that they do this with their friends too. So they aren’t just testing their parents—they’re testing everyone in their world. (p.130)

Parenting is all about timing. You have to be patient and capable of outlasting your children. They have the advantage in this department, I’m afraid to say, so we must be vigilant. Kids are very smart; they know when you’re bluffing. They know when you’re running on low-battery life and the threats you’re giving don’t really hold water. (p.133)

Anger management. It sounds like a great plan in theory, but it’s exceptionally difficult to execute. Parenting is brutal—rewarding—but brutal. We must learn to first master our own emotions before we can teach our little ones how to control theirs. Can it be done? Yes. Will we fail miserably on some days? Absolutely. And if you’re anything like me, your fails will be legendary. (p. 154)

Being married with children really is about the same as living in a house you are remodeling. It is loud. It is messy at times. And something constantly needs your attention. (p.167)

Y’all, it’s crucial that we build up our spouses. Just about every aspect of society will do its level best to tear them down. It is up to us to protect them. (p.182)

Possible Interview Topics

- As kids get ready to go back to school, some for the first time since the pandemic, the rules of interaction have changed drastically, causing much anxiety and fear when you don't know what to expect. ***In this interview***, Dallas shares advice and encouragement for how you can prepare and help your children navigate the changes and get ready for the unexpected because it will happen.
- Does it feel like Mom always knows when you've done something wrong as if she has eyes in the back of her head? Or does Mom pick up on symptoms of illness before anyone else? ***In this Interview***, Dallas talks about why the "Mom Radar Alert" seems to be fully functional for many women and how you can upgrade yours to the latest model.
- Do you struggle to establish healthy bedtime routines for your kids? ***In this interview***, learn from Dallas how to create and implement healthy habits that stick.
- Has the breakfast or dinner table become a battlefield? Do you struggle to get your kids to eat what you make? ***In this interview***, Dallas clarifies why meals are whatever *you* decide to make and serve, not what three or four budding food critics demand of you.
- Children need boundaries. Boundaries keep them safe when they may otherwise wander off, stray too far, get into unfamiliar territory, and find themselves in trouble. ***In this interview***, Dallas discusses the importance of giving and helping your kids understand boundaries in relationships, social media, and other areas so they can become responsible, well-adjusted young people.
- Why do some parents want to be their child's 'friend' rather than their parent? ***In this interview***, Dallas reveals the importance of why your child needs you to be their parent, not their buddy.
- Children are like sponges; they learn and incorporate everything their parents do into their own lives. It's more important than ever that parents set the right example for their kids. While negative role models can be damaging to a child's development, positive role models can be invaluable. ***In this interview***, Dallas explains why the best example you can give a child is a healthy relationship between their parents.