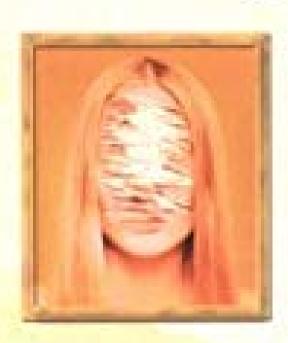
"... a dark, scary, and important story of how board social trends shape the suffering of individuals." —Virginia Blum, author of Elech Wounds: The Culture of Cormetic Surgery

Beautiful Stranger



A Memoir of an Obsession with Perfection

Hope Donahue

Hope Donahue

Beautiful Stranger



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Reprint. The author describes how lack of self-esteem, dark family members secrets, and an obsession with her appearance and a quest for perfection led to a series of plastic surgeries, her alienation from family and friends, and a downward spiral of theft, bankruptcy, and a bad interactions, before she began her recovery. 25,000 initial printing.



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boring This book is boring and slow. Wish is beautiful, wise, a college graduate, a debutante: the girl you hated in senior high school and college because, on the outside, she had all you thought you would have to be happy. She is dependent on Dr. She offers a certain flair for words aswell. I think the latter is more likely.. although it is difficult to identify with her, it is easy to understand her, mainly because of the matter-of-fact method she explains and describes points. Wish describes perfectly what it's like to have a dependent personality and have trouble building decisions about one's appearance and existence choices. It generally does not grip you in any way. S. Interesting As a former pupil of psychology, I found this book extremely interesting and compelling. The confessional writing style produces intimacy and discomfort--both of which are necessary to understanding the author and her disease. She dates a man (Hank) she doesn't like merely to have you to definitely date. She doesn't work because she's afraid to get a job. I love how she is in a position to get more powerful in the story also to care much less of what people think about her. She tries to turn beautiful daughter, Hope, into her living Barbie doll. Didn't surface finish it. She describes the horror of plastic material alteration really well-as personal mutilation, regretting it all. weird mixture of conceit and insecurity I found this book sometimes interesting but mostly annoying and sort of flat. I had LASIK surgery twice and the next time turned out bad and now I can't see-won't be able to forever. She resists the urge to tie up all loose ends neatly at the end of book, to clean the slate totally clean and declare everything "fine". Shockingly honest and sad This book chronicles an obsession with physical perfection--a true story about Donahue's own life. Mrs. Donahue writes with brutal honesty about her very own feelings and wishes;. I also have trouble producing decisions and am very dependent so hearing Hope's tale gave me hope. Although it is very clear that she has more control over her get towards perfection and that she has done a lot of personal work in therapy and immensely improved her lifestyle, she admits to the all-too-frequent internal struggle over the previous impulses to "fix" things. Enjoy! She goes to journalism college because her mother tells her to. She examines her family of origin's connection to her body dysmorphic disorder, ties it to obsessive compulsive disorder and major depression, but these explanations appear too glib. "I believed my appearance was all I had to offer" Hope Donahue offers written a tragically beautiful novel of obsession with appearance, an obsession that overrides even the tiniest of life's everyday features. There is nothing compelling. Since many mothers prefer modesty for his or her daughters perhaps that is Mrs. Could this end up being phony balogna?can it be a romanticized accounts by somebody not yet in true recovery? In her very own words, she writes, "An individual moment to be seen could make up for life of invisibility."The one thing Hope's privilege brought her was the money to disfigure herself with cosmetic surgery rather than reducing or hair pulling.), the author starts her litany of how gorgeous and gorgeous and incredibly built she is (even models would be jealous, she tells us)..Wish writes of her roommates, "How are they in a position to go out in to the world each day, fresh and full of energy, instead of crippled by fear and plagued by dragging lethargy? How is it I have dropped the knack for everyday activity?"This is so true with many OCD's. Hope constantly investigates beauty magazines, looking for the perfect solution to her issue, becoming an expert on the intricacies of beauty history like the recent tendency toward thinness and the actual fact that geishas used deadly lead-based powders to obtain that whiter-than-white complexion. On the trunk of the paperback edition can be a photo of Hope as a pre-op teenager in fact it is obvious that it's not the outside that requires fixing. To Hope, "'Sad' was everything you felt when the dress you wished at Neiman's was sold-out. 'Depression' was what folks surviving in trailer parks experienced, people with missing teeth who drank malt liquor from paper luggage."While this

book does get a little long in the tooth at times, but maintains a dreamlike quality, shifting through Hope's real life a ghost, through a lifestyle you understand you wouldn't have needed in spite of the provided perks. Personally, i feel books such as this should be required reading for our vulnerable middle-and-high schoolgirls. Still searching, though even more promisingly, for the safety and security she needs, Hope says that it is her knowing of her disorder and not the disorder itself that's changed. Her major awareness came through finding a therapist she could trust (unlike the quack her mom drug her to in her previously years), and subsequently finding the medicinal therapy that worked for her. That is a poignant and accurate story of one girl's fight for freedom from herself. It's an excellent book to learn for yourself, particularly if you're not "sense up to the press", and a perfect book to transfer to your child or pre-teen girl. Donahue's writing skills are not wasted upon this touching, heartbreaking tale of baring her soul. General, the book is very interesting--it's often very difficult to trust that all these exact things happened to 1 person in 27 years, and harder still to trust that she managed to get her life back on track in an even shorter time period... Poor Rich Girl. Sad story in regards to a girl obsessed with cosmetic surgery. One more surgery and I'll be happy The book does give a good insight to methods to get caught up in "the just one one more surgery and then I'm going to be happy cycle. Does Not Seem Truthful This book is about a woman who has a number of plastic surgeries, one following the other. I acquired thought she got body dysmorphic disorder, but she says by the end she just has SOME characteristics in common with it. to inform her that she's beautiful, because she has such low self-esteem she needs to hear someone say it, a good doctor with questionable ethics. She described Michael Jackson by the end, which actually made me experience his depressive disorder too. At one point she says to her cosmetic surgeon "I've made a decision to get my breasts done" he stated "great uh, bigger of smaller? Whenever anything is wrong with her life she attempts to fix it with a surgical procedure. She finds her 1st doctor through an advertisement in the rear of a free weekly magazine. For a self-described smart woman, she does some very stupid stuff. Her obsession with herself make her unlikable and incredibly lonely. The author seems to have a fixation on plastic surgeries in an effort to solve all her problems. As the book could have been a lot more interesting with before and after photos, it continues to be a compelling memoir. Her surface explanations may actually mirror her surface re-do's through surgery. Her therapy is designated less than 10 web pages of the book and then all is happily ever after once she is 'cured' and leaves the world of self-loathing and sado-masochism, living happily ever after. Hope was alone, and forced into adult functions before she was prepared for them. Or... There are moments Hope describes to be unable to try a mirror, too fearful of what she'll see... In ways, Hope was by no means seen. Hope describes perfectly what it's prefer to possess a dependent personality and also have trouble making. I liked her story because she seemed a lot like me. From the 1st page (from the name! What she writes about, very poignantly, is the feelings involved with becoming obsessed with what's in the mirror instead of what's inside. There's not method to substantiate these continuous claims, as the picture on the jacket is of a very average and not very attractive girl, and you can find no various other photos in the reserve to contradict that picture. Oh and in addition she says she's sensible, and such an excellent writer that it could "be a criminal offense" if she didn't create, and is awesome in lots of other ways I cannot remember. Where I result from, we call that "bragging." She appears to be an odd combination of extreme conceit and severe insecurity, which admittedly you do find in some people. But I found it hard to reconcile the two disparate viewpoints right into a coherent indicate the book." obviously she didn't want anything done. Essentially she seems to say at the end that she is mostly obsessive-compulsive. Plastic surgery

may be the symptom, not the topic! This book is approximately the collateral damage of growing up a trophy daughter. I must say i think that's why there aren't any before and after photos. Depressive disorder never entered the vapid heads of the particular social caste. Wish Hathaway Donahue is the only kid born to a couple of very privileged narcissists. Mr. Hathaway is definitely distant and inept as a dad. His big setback had not been having the stomach to follow in his illustrious doctor father's footsteps. So, he becomes an extremely successful worldwide banker and a hypochondriac. Her have to keep "enhancing" upon her physical self masked her own mental disease (OCD) and emotional problems left from a hard childhood and often bizarre, unhealthy familial romantic relationships. Hathaway is a lady of leisure who insulates herself within her very own privileged microcosm, preferring to shut out most of life's unpleasant realities. Ultimately she realizes she's a mental disorder, body dysmorphic disorder in addition to OCD and depressive disorder and can heal through counseling and Prozac. In order to one up her rich close friends she spends lavishly on dresses for coming out parties for Wish. The relationship takes a more sinister change, however, when Hope becomes a teenager and Mrs. Hathaway's appears commence to fade. She starts buying Hope string bikinis. Hope's upbringing while an individual kid to a psychotic mom and a distant, rigid, puritan father wasn't helped by grandparents who were old-fashioned snobs. Hathaway's vicarious attempt to retain her nubility.



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