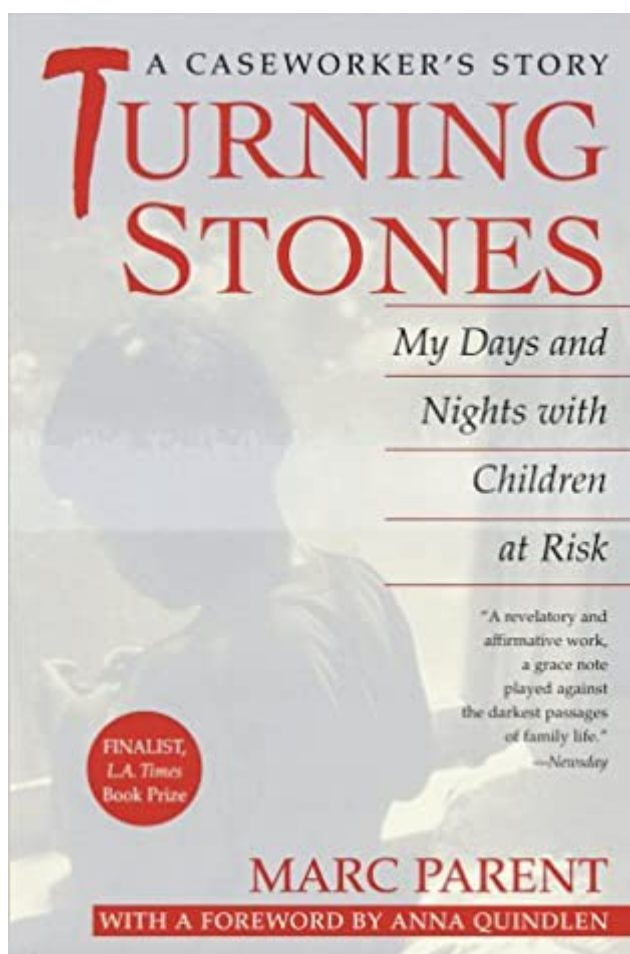


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# Turning Stones: My Days And Nights With Children At Risk A Caseworker's Story



## Synopsis

Why does an infant die of malnutrition? Why does an eight-year-old hold a knife to his brother's throat? Or a mother push her cherished daughter twenty-three floors to her death? Marc Parent, a city caseworker, searched the streets--and his heart--for the answers, and shares them in this powerful, vivid, beautifully written book. WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marc Parent worked for four years as a caseworker for Emergency Children's Services in New York, acting as the final protector of children from abusive parents, as "the one on the front line--the last hope for a kid in trouble." His job was to make house calls and decide if a child needed to be removed at once. He has selected eight cases illustrating the extreme pressures of the work and indicating why it is that the system so often fails in its mission. He recounts unsparingly how three years into his job he made a fatal mistake, failing to recognize the plight of a little boy who later died of starvation. This compelling account is an important documenting of the weaknesses of the child support system. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this outstanding work of social commentary, Parent describes the harrowing conditions he worked under and the brutalization he witnessed during the four years he was employed as a caseworker by New York City's Emergency Children's Services. His job was to respond in the night to calls made at those hours regarding children in life-threatening situations. He would then visit their homes

and decide whether the children should be removed. Inadequately trained and without sufficient supervision, he and his co-workers were forced to balance dangerous situations against taking often unwilling children from their homes into tenuous foster-care arrangements. Among other horrendous encounters during his tenure, Parent dealt with an eight-year-old with venereal disease and a mother who threw her child out the window. Believing that child abuse can happen in rural as well as urban areas, Parent convincingly argues for public scrutiny of child welfare agencies as well as a societal commitment to protecting children. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Even though this book is supposed to be nonfiction, it reads like a heart-pounding narrative. Parent knows how to captivate the reader by immediately thrusting him or her into the life-or-death cases that he dealt with during his tenure at CPS. This book does not preach about how to change the system (at least, not until the last chapter), but instead shows the reader first-hand how many children live, and what happens to them once they are inside the system (and conversely, the sometimes dramatic consequences of when the system simply cannot intervene). A fantastic read by a reliable source. Definitely recommend to anyone who wants to pursue a career in social services or a related field.

Having worked in the field of child protection for fifteen years I was wary about reading this book as other accounts of this nature tend to be full of sickly sweet tales of damaged children who miraculously become healed from years of abuse and neglect through the administrations of one caring worker, or usually some self promoting foster carer. I was pleased that Marc Parent provided factual observations outlining the difficulties which workers face on a daily basis in trying to recognise and respond to the most adverse conditions and trying to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. It was well written and considered and I've recommend it to students who are considering working in this field

From the Case Worker's perspective, Parent writes with insight and compassion. He covers the dilemma, the devastation, and the derailment the families and children face at the point of interview, removal and follow-up. His cases are heartbreaking, but leaving children in unsafe homes is worse. There is no good solution, and casework finally takes it's toll. Mr. Parent and his colleagues have a thankless job. Well written.

This book contains vital information for anyone who works in the field of child protection and for those who don't but freely criticize those who do. Marc Parent is able to tell the stories of some of the children he came across during his time in children protection in a way that grabs the readers attention and heart. This book just begins to highlight the awful situations many children in this country must endure everyday and the emotional toll those who choose this line of work. I myself work in the field of child protection and having had to deal with many children in heart breaking situations first hand. Dealing with children who have been abused and neglected on a regular basis takes a toll on who you are and hardens you. Anytime I begin to feel that I can no longer do this job, I get this book out and read it to remind me of why I became a social worker in the first place/

This is probably one of the most intense books I have ever read. It was an assigned read for one of my classes. I told the instructor it was her fault I wasn't getting any other work done I could not put it down. Highly recommend for anyone wanting to go into the helping profession or work with children.

Excellent. An utterly compelling read. And depressing...SO depressing. You will weep for these lost children and maybe even more so for their clueless mothers, who likely got the exact same treatment growing up. A child growing up in poverty-it is a crying shame. This book makes me very very grateful for my parents, who provided for us no matter how they had to do it. I could never do this job, I am grateful to the people that will.

This is a must read for all new therapists who work with children. Are you burnt out? Are you frustrated with the system? Are you overworked? Are you giving...IN... to the negativity of your workplace? If so, please read this book. I have found it extremely helpful in getting myself "over the hump." This book can do wonders for the vicarious trauma all mental health professionals face on a daily basis. An amazing read. You will not be disappointed.

Sometimes we lose hope and think things never will change. The children, the parents, the pain of their situations all wear us down. After twenty-five years in child protective services I am content to push papers ... I thought! Anyone who has ever left a child in the home and that child suffered re-injury or death, needs to know that they are not alone. The reasons we do this critical work cannot get lost in political arguments about the imperfections of "the system" or conservative rhetoric about the sanctity of family life and the intrusiveness of government. Real children suffer every day, and real social workers try their best to diminish their suffering. Thank you, Marc Parent, for telling our

story.

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