# Never a Child, Yet Always CHERISHED

# SHATTERING THE SILENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

## BY VICTORIA FINK With Dixie Phillips

Victoria Fink was born in a Salvation Army home for unwed mothers. Weeks later, she was sent to live with her aunt's family of six. Before she turned three, her newly married mother abruptly took her back from her aunt's stable home. A few years later, her mother was divorced and preparing to marry yet again.

When Victoria was seven, she and her emotionally distant mother moved to a farm to live with her new stepfather. He began sexually abusing her almost immediately. Victoria built an emotional wall around herself to survive ten years of abuse. Even after she was married and physically free from her stepfather's abuse, the wall remained. In the years to come, God dismantled this wall brick by brick, exchanging her rejection, anger, and confusion for hope, compassion, and understanding.

Victoria's wall is gone, and her voice is free. God redeemed her pain. Now her story offers hope and help to others who live with the anguish and shame of sexual abuse. Victoria's message to these survivors is this: Trust the Father's heart. In Christ, you too can find not only healing, but abundant life.



"A story of hope, healing, and restoration. . . . I recommend this book to those who have themselves experienced abuse or have a loved one living with the pain and anger of this injustice."

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with Dixie Phillips

VICTORIA

-Francis Frangipane, bestselling author and international speaker

"A must addition to the library of every pastor, counselor, and youth leader.... a treasure."

—Nancy Stockman, licensed marriage and family therapist

"Victoria's work . . . is a testament to God's work in her. . . . You will absolutely be blessed by her humility, spirit, and heart.

> —Matt Hantz, senior pastor, Blessed Hope Church, Vinton, IA







Dixie Phillips

#### **About The Authors**

Victoria Fink cofounded Iowa Abundant Life Ministries, Inc. (ALMs), an organization dedicated to advancing the Kingdom of God by taking the ministry of Jesus to the people. Over the years, she's developed transitional housing, temporary shelter programs, and storefront missions to aid individuals and families. Victoria and her husband of fifty years served three decades as fulltime pastors, and they continue their service through public speaking and ALMs's outreach programs. The Finks reside near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They have two married sons and six grandchildren.

Dixie Phillips is a Dove Award winning songwriter, children's author, and writer. Married for nearly four decades, Dixie and her husband, Paul, have been honored to serve the congregation of the Gospel Lighthouse Church in Floyd, Iowa for most of that time. The couple has four grown children and ten "perfect" grandchildren. Dixie's favorite pastime is counting her blessings and throwing tea parties for Jesus with her girlfriends. Learn more about Dixie at phillipsandphillipsmusic.com.



### A Conversation with Victoria

What inspired you to write your first book?

Can you share why you chose Dixie to help write your story?

What is significant about the book's title?

How did family and friends react when they heard about your book?

What did you learn from the experience of writing this book?

Where did you receive support outside of your family?

Tell the audience about your home ministry.

What is your message that you want readers to grasp?

What would you like to say directly to your readers?

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