



Lawrence Reinhold

# MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE

# Table of Contents

<b>How to Use This Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Book Info</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Genres</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Themes</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Book Tropes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>KDP Categories</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sales Pitches</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Sales Pitches by Audience</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SEO Keywords</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Comparisons</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Comparisons (Narrative Crossroads)</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Sales Copy</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Press Release</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Marketing Resources</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Marketing Roadmap</b>	<b>36</b>

# How to Use This Report

## Why this report matters

Think of the next few pages as your marketing Swiss-army knife. Each section was created to give you ready-made, plug-and-play assets, from elevator pitches to SEO keywords, tailored to *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* by Lawrence Reinhold. Use them individually (drop a sales pitch into a newsletter) or stitch several together (pair keywords + tropes + comps for an ad campaign).

## How to move through it

1. Skim the primers at the top of every section (that's the part we added for you). Each primer tells you what the asset is, where it works best, and a quick-start idea.
2. Copy–paste or adapt the assets that fit your launch stage. Beginners can use them verbatim; experienced marketers can remix them to match brand voice.
3. Jump to the Resources hub whenever you need tools, platforms, or real-world examples. The hub links back to the exact report sections you'll need.
4. Check the Marketing Plan at the end for a complete roadmap from foundation to ongoing optimization, it tells you exactly when and how to deploy each section.

# Book Info

## Full Title

*My Children, My Life*

## Book Length

151 pages

## Word Count

123,569 words

## Report Date

2025-10-19

# Summary

This is your elevator pitch for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*—the answer to 'What's the book about?' that grabs attention in a single glance. Keep it concise enough to fit on a phone lock-screen. Use this blurb as-is for Goodreads, BookBub, and the opening line of your Amazon description to ensure consistent messaging. When launching ads for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, simply add a call-to-action like 'Discover the unforgettable true story today' to turn curiosity into action. For example, test whether a curiosity-driven line ('A family tragedy. A lifetime of survival. Read *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*') or a CTA-enhanced version ('A family tragedy. A lifetime of survival. Read *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*—get your copy now!') drives more sample downloads, then use the winner in every ad set. This approach ensures your marketing for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is focused, persuasive, and data-driven.

On a cold March morning in 1926, Agnes De Foor entered the world in a remote Wisconsin farmhouse, the youngest in a family already marked by hardship. From her earliest days, Agnes's life was shaped by tragedy, relentless labor, and a mother's unforgiving grief. When a single, devastating accident brands her as the family scapegoat, Agnes is thrust into a childhood of punishing chores, emotional isolation, and a desperate search for solace in the woods beyond the fields.

*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a sweeping, unvarnished portrait of survival and resilience across generations. Through the eyes of Agnes and, later, her children, this powerful memoir reveals the raw realities of rural poverty, the scars of generational trauma, and the fierce bonds that can form in the crucible of adversity. From the backbreaking demands of farm life to the rare moments of laughter and hope, the De Foor family's story is both harrowing and deeply human.

For readers drawn to true stories of endurance, family, and the complicated legacy of love, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is an unforgettable journey into the heart of what it means to survive—and to belong.

# Synopsis

When preparing a professional synopsis for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, focus on delivering a complete, chronological breakdown of Agnes De Foor Runquist's life, from her traumatic childhood in 1920s Wisconsin through her years of marriage, motherhood, and eventual escape from generational hardship. Include all major plot points: the pivotal fire that killed her sisters and led to her lifelong scapegoating, the escalation of abuse and deprivation during the Great Depression, her escape and marriage to Virgil, the relentless cycle of pregnancies and medical crises, and the eventual shift to her children's perspectives as they recount their own experiences of hardship and resilience. Be sure to detail the story's structure, including the transition from Agnes's point of view to the collective voice of her children, and the final analytical chapter by Joshua. Highlight character development, such as Agnes's transformation from victim to survivor, and the children's evolution from suffering to reflection. Use a neutral, fact-based tone that allows agents and editors to assess the pacing, structure, and emotional payoff. Avoid marketing language; instead, provide a clear, comprehensive narrative that demonstrates how *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* functions as a cohesive and impactful memoir.

*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a multi-generational family memoir chronicling the life of Agnes De Foor Runquist, born into poverty and hardship in rural Wisconsin in 1926. The narrative opens with Agnes's birth in the family's log house, the youngest of four children, and immediately establishes the harsh realities of early 20th-century farm life. Her father, Le Roy, is a gentle Dutchman, while her mother, Anna, is emotionally distant and often cruel, shaped by her own abusive upbringing. Agnes's early years are marked by deprivation, relentless chores, and the emotional distance of her mother, but the defining trauma comes when Agnes is three years old.

On Saint Nicholas Night, 1929, Agnes and her sisters Julia and Ruthena are left alone in the house while their parents and brother work in the barn. A playful moment with Christmas catalogs turns tragic when Agnes suggests burning some of the paper in the wood stove. A draft ignites the pile on the floor, and the fire quickly spreads. Ruthena is overcome by smoke, and Julia, trying to save her, is fatally burned. Agnes

runs for help, but both sisters die—Ruthena at home and Julia later in the hospital. Julia's dying words, "Agnes did it," cement Agnes's lifelong role as scapegoat. Her mother's grief turns to blame and abuse, and Agnes becomes the constant target of Anna's rage and sorrow.

The Great Depression exacerbates the family's poverty. Anna gives birth to two more children, but Agnes's life remains one of unending labor and punishment. She is forced to sleep on the floor or in the barn, and from a young age, she shoulders the bulk of household and farm chores. Her father, though kind, is physically and emotionally unable to protect her. Agnes's only solace is a secluded spot in the woods, where she seeks comfort and escape from her mother's wrath.

School offers little relief; Agnes is mocked for her poverty and homemade clothes. Humiliated and overworked, she quits high school, preferring the grueling demands of farm life to the social cruelty of her peers. At eighteen, after a violent confrontation with her mother, Agnes finally leaves home, walking to the nearby town of Ashley. She finds work as a hired girl for the Markel family, where she experiences kindness and stability for the first time. During this period, she meets Virgil Runquist, a local farmer. Their courtship is a turning point for Agnes, offering her the possibility of love and respect. Virgil's willingness to convert to Catholicism for Agnes demonstrates his commitment, and they marry in 1946, though the wedding day itself is marred by exhaustion and her mother's continued abuse.

Married life brings little respite from hardship. Agnes and Virgil live with his parents on the family farm, and Agnes is quickly swept into the relentless cycle of pregnancy, childbirth, and farm labor. The couple has twelve children between 1947 and 1963: Charlene, Hank, Jennifer, Eric, Drew, Betty, Rachel, twins Karena and Karin, Claire, and Brenda. The family is beset by medical crises, including Agnes's dangerous Rh-negative blood type, which threatens the lives of her later children. The twins survive only after complete blood transfusions; Claire and Brenda are born via C-section, with Agnes nearly dying from complications. Financial strain is constant, and the family relies on government commodities to survive.

As the children grow, the narrative shifts to their collective perspective. They describe a childhood defined by ceaseless work, strict discipline, and frequent physical abuse,

particularly from their mother. The kitchen is both the literal and figurative center of their world—site of meals, homework, and the infamous “circle beatings,” where Agnes would punish the children in turn until a confession was made. Despite the severity of their upbringing, the siblings develop a fierce loyalty to one another, finding moments of joy and solidarity amid the hardship.

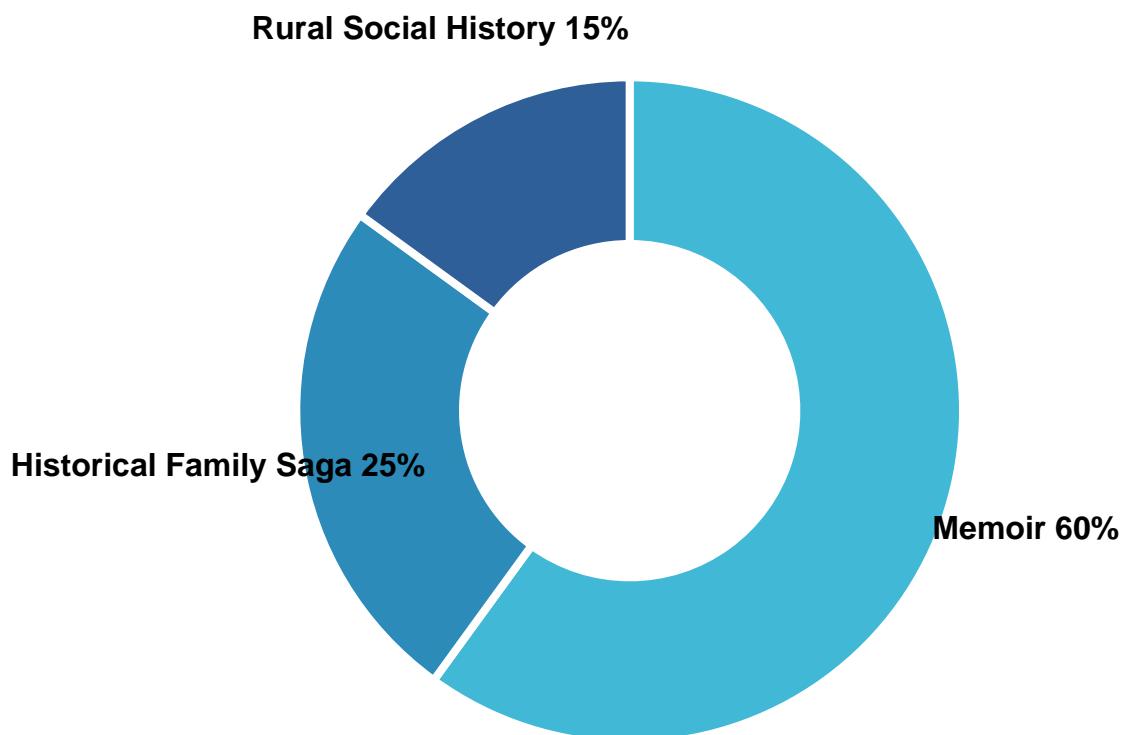
The father, Virgil, is depicted as gentle but emotionally distant, unable to intervene in Agnes’s harsh discipline. The children’s recollections reveal the long-term effects of their upbringing: deep emotional scars, a powerful work ethic, and a complex mixture of resentment and love for their parents. The family’s survival is portrayed as both a triumph and a tragedy, shaped by the relentless demands of farm life and the unresolved trauma of Agnes’s childhood.

The memoir concludes with analysis from Joshua, the seventh child, who reflects on the economic and emotional forces that led to the sale of the family farm in 1976, shortly after he left for the Marine Corps. He argues that Agnes’s newfound independence through nursing work and the departure of her children—her primary labor force—prompted the decision to leave farming behind. The sale marks the end of an era for the family, closing a chapter of hardship, endurance, and complicated love.

Structurally, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a chronological narrative with a clear throughline: Agnes’s struggle for survival and dignity in the face of relentless adversity, and the generational impact of trauma and resilience. The story is anchored by vivid, episodic scenes—childhood tragedy, marital struggles, medical emergencies, and the children’s collective voice—each building toward the ultimate dissolution of the family’s way of life. Character arcs are well developed: Agnes evolves from a scapegoated child to a fiercely determined mother, while her children move from victims of circumstance to reflective narrators of their own experience. The pacing is steady, with each phase of Agnes’s life marked by escalating challenges and culminating in the family’s final reckoning with its past. The ending provides both closure and a nuanced understanding of the family’s legacy, making *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* a structurally sound and emotionally resonant memoir.

# Genres

For *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, prioritize Memoir as your main genre to reach readers of true-life survival and family trauma. Use Historical Family Saga as a secondary slot to target those drawn to multigenerational rural stories. Add Rural Social History for audiences interested in 20th-century Midwestern farm life. In ads, highlight Agnes's harrowing childhood, the Saint Nicholas Night tragedy, and the children's collective voice for maximum emotional resonance.



# Themes

For *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, turn the theme of 'the cycle of trauma and inherited hardship' into a Facebook Group question: 'Can a family ever truly break free from generational trauma?' Use this phrase in blog headlines to attract readers seeking stories of resilience. Feed statements about sibling loyalty and survival into sentiment analysis to identify which emotional notes—like endurance or forgiveness—resonate most, then use those insights in future ad copy.

**The Cycle of Trauma and Inherited Hardship:** *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* delves deeply into how trauma and abuse are passed from one generation to the next. Agnes's mother, hardened by her own cruel upbringing, perpetuates emotional and physical abuse, which Agnes then struggles to escape and, in some ways, repeats with her own children. The book explores how family pain is both a legacy and a burden, shaping identities and relationships across decades.

**Resilience and Survival Amidst Relentless Adversity:** The narrative is a testament to the human capacity for endurance. Agnes and her children face poverty, loss, grueling labor, and emotional isolation, yet they persist. The story highlights the quiet heroism of survival—how individuals find strength in small acts of defiance, moments of connection, and the determination to carve out a better life, even when hope seems scarce.

**The Complexity of Family Bonds and Forgiveness:** Despite the abuse and hardship, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* reveals the powerful, complicated ties that bind siblings and parents. The children's loyalty to each other, their shared humor, and their collective resilience coexist with deep wounds and unresolved anger. The book asks whether forgiveness is possible, and what it means to love those who have caused pain, offering a nuanced portrait of familial love that is neither simple nor sentimental.

# Book Tropes

To leverage the tropes in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* for social media engagement, hashtag a single trope like #GenerationalTrauma to tap into conversations about inherited family pain, or combine two tropes—'Found Family + Rural Hardship'—to create a compelling Reel caption such as 'Siblings against the world: surviving abuse and poverty on a Depression-era farm.' Performance marketers can retarget viewers with a carousel of clips: one showing the siblings' loyalty during a moment of crisis (#FoundFamily), another depicting Agnes's struggle as a reluctant matriarch (#ReluctantMatriarch), and a third highlighting the relentless chores and deprivation of rural life (#RuralHardship). Let the algorithm serve each viewer the trope they engage with most, whether it's the cycle of generational trauma, the fight for survival, or the unbreakable sibling bond.

**Cycle of Generational Trauma:** In *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, the pattern of abuse and emotional neglect is passed down through generations. Anna, Agnes's mother, is hardened by her own cruel upbringing, and this unresolved trauma manifests in her relentless, abusive treatment of Agnes. The book explores how pain and blame are inherited and perpetuated, shaping the lives and identities of each generation.

**Survival Against the Odds:** The characters in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* endure extreme poverty, relentless labor, and repeated tragedies. Agnes survives the deaths of her siblings, her mother's abuse, and the crushing demands of farm life. Later, her children also face hardship and deprivation, yet the family persists through sheer resilience and determination, making survival itself a central theme.

**Found Family (Sibling Loyalty):** Despite the harshness of their environment and the brutality of their mother, the siblings in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* form a tight-knit, protective unit. Their loyalty to one another becomes a lifeline, providing emotional support and moments of joy amid suffering. This bond stands in contrast to the fractured relationships with their parents.

**The Reluctant Matriarch:** Agnes is thrust into the role of caretaker and provider from a young age, first for her siblings and later for her own large family. She never seeks this responsibility but is forced into it by circumstance and necessity. Her journey is marked by reluctance, exhaustion, and sacrifice, highlighting the burdens placed on women in traditional family structures.

**Rural Hardship:** *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is deeply rooted in the realities of rural farm life during the Great Depression and beyond. The narrative details the physical and emotional toll of unending chores, lack of modern conveniences, and the constant threat of financial ruin. The setting is not just a backdrop but a force that shapes every aspect of the family's existence.

# KDP Categories

## Suggestions

Email your distributor (KDP, Kobo, IngramSpark, etc.) today and request to be placed in 'Biography & Memoir > Memoirs > Personal Memoirs' as your primary category, with 'Nonfiction > Family & Relationships > Child Abuse' and 'History > Americas > United States > 20th Century' as your secondary and tertiary categories. These reflect the book's focus on personal and family history, childhood trauma, and rural American life in the early to mid-20th century. Before launch, consider swapping one slot for a seasonal or trending niche, such as 'Nonfiction > Family & Relationships > Parenting' if memoirs about parenting are gaining attention. After launch, monitor your sales rank in each category daily. If you notice that 'Personal Memoirs' becomes too competitive to break into the top 100, switch to a related but less crowded subcategory like 'Family & Childhood Memoirs' to maximize your chances of earning a bestseller tag and increased visibility.

- **Biography & Memoir**
  - Memoirs
    - Personal Memoirs
    - Family & Childhood Memoirs
- **Nonfiction**
  - Family & Relationships
    - Parenting
    - Child Abuse
- **History**
  - Americas
    - United States
    - 20th Century

# Target Audience

Export these personas to your email CRM for segmented campaigns: target 'Resilient Family Memoir Seekers' via Facebook ads using rural interests and age filters, reach 'Historical Nonfiction Enthusiasts' with LinkedIn job targeting and NPR podcast sponsorships, and engage 'Survivor Readers' through Instagram mental health influencers. Create tailored landing pages for each persona, A/B test copy referencing family legacy, trauma recovery, or historical insight, and build lookalike audiences for each segment.

## 1. Resilient Family Memoir Seeker

**Demographics:** Age 40-65; Some college or higher; Middle class; Empty nesters, parents, or grandparents

**Lifestyle:** Community-oriented, values family gatherings and storytelling

**Reading Motivations:** Seeks stories that mirror or illuminate their own family struggles; Wants to understand generational trauma and healing; Enjoys emotionally rich, true-life narratives

**Other Interests:** Genealogy, Local history, Church or faith-based groups, Quilting, gardening

**Media Habits:** Discovers books via Library displays, Book clubs, Word of mouth; Active on Facebook, Pinterest

## 2. Historical Nonfiction Enthusiast

**Demographics:** Age 30-55; College-educated, some with advanced degrees; Middle to upper-middle class; Professionals, educators, lifelong learners

**Lifestyle:** Active in book clubs, museums, and cultural events

**Reading Motivations:** Seeks insight into American rural life and social history; Wants to understand the impact of poverty and trauma on families; Enjoys well-researched, immersive nonfiction

**Other Interests:** Documentaries, Historical podcasts, Volunteering, Attending lectures

**Media Habits:** Discovers books via NPR, New York Times Book Review, Goodreads; Active on Twitter, Reddit, LinkedIn

## 3. Survivor and Trauma Recovery Reader

**Demographics:** Age 28-50; Some college or higher; Lower-middle to middle class; Adults in therapy, support groups, or self-discovery

**Lifestyle:** Engaged in self-care, therapy, and online support communities

**Reading Motivations:** Seeks validation and understanding of their own trauma; Wants to learn how others have survived and found hope; Looks for books that offer catharsis and solidarity

**Other Interests:** Mental health advocacy, Journaling, Yoga and meditation, Art therapy

**Media Habits:** Discovers books via Therapist recommendations, Bookstagram, Mental health podcasts; Active on Instagram, Facebook Groups, TikTok

## 4. Multigenerational Book Club Member

**Demographics:** Age 35-70; Varied, many with college degrees; Middle class; Parents, grandparents, retirees

**Lifestyle:** Active in book clubs, community events, and family activities

**Reading Motivations:** Seeks books that foster discussion and reflection; Wants to explore family dynamics and generational change; Enjoys sharing meaningful reads with others

**Other Interests:** Cooking, Volunteering, Travel, Local arts

**Media Habits:** Discovers books via Book club lists, Library newsletters, Oprah's Book Club; Active on Facebook, Instagram

# Sales Pitches

Staring at a blank ad box for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*? Start by pulling a full line from one of these pitches, like 'Step into the world of *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, where survival is a daily battle and family bonds are both a burden and a lifeline.' Once you're comfortable, swap the verb or emotional hook to fit your platform—try 'Experience' for a heartfelt Facebook post or 'Discover' for a book club newsletter. For example, on Instagram, you might use: 'Immerse yourself in Agnes De Foor's journey from tragedy to resilience.' If you're targeting a historical nonfiction audience on LinkedIn, try: 'Explore the generational impact of trauma and endurance in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*.' Growth hackers should label each variant with UTM tags so you can track whether 'Witness Agnes's transformation' or 'Experience the haunting legacy of Saint Nicholas Night' actually drives more clicks and sales.

Step into the world of *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, where survival is a daily battle and family bonds are both a burden and a lifeline. Agnes De Foor's journey from tragedy to resilience will grip readers who crave raw, unvarnished memoirs of rural America.

Looking for a story that doesn't flinch from the harsh realities of generational trauma? *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* chronicles Agnes's fight for dignity and her children's struggle for unity, painting a vivid portrait of hardship, endurance, and the complicated love that holds families together.

If you're drawn to true stories of grit and unbreakable spirit, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* delivers. Witness Agnes's transformation from a scapegoated child to a mother of twelve, all set against the unforgiving backdrop of mid-century Wisconsin farm life.

Experience the haunting legacy of Saint Nicholas Night and its ripple effects through decades of poverty, labor, and survival in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*. This memoir is a testament to the scars—and strengths—passed down through generations.

# Sales Pitches

## By Audience

If your newsletter this week is focused on historical fiction, use the pitch for 'Historical fiction enthusiasts' from *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* and send it out. For BookBub or Amazon ads, match each pitch to its audience: target 'multi-generational family saga' fans with the family saga pitch, or use keywords like 'rural memoir' and 'family hardship' for the memoir pitch. Monitor which audience segments (like book clubs or rural history readers) hit a 3% click-through rate, and increase the daily ad budget for those high-performing groups.

### **Fans of multi-generational family sagas**

Step into the raw, unvarnished world of *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, where survival, sibling loyalty, and the scars of generational trauma shape a Wisconsin farm family across decades. Perfect for readers who crave immersive, true-to-life family epics.

### **Readers of memoir and true-life hardship**

If you're drawn to stories of resilience and overcoming adversity, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* delivers an unflinching look at poverty, loss, and abuse in rural America—told through the eyes of both mother and children.

### **Historical fiction enthusiasts**

Travel back to Depression-era Wisconsin in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, a vivid, emotionally charged portrait of farm life, family tragedy, and the relentless pursuit of hope in the face of hardship.

### **Book clubs seeking discussion-rich narratives**

With its complex family dynamics, moral ambiguity, and shifting perspectives, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a powerful catalyst for conversation—ideal for book clubs that love to dig deep into character and theme.

## **Readers interested in rural American history**

Discover the untold struggles of mid-century farm families in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, a gripping account of survival, tradition, and the changing face of rural Wisconsin.

# SEO Keywords

Insert the primary keyword 'MY CHILDREN MY LIFE' directly into your page tag to ensure Google recognizes the book's unique title and subject. In the first 200 words of your product description, naturally include at least three long-tail keywords such as 'memoir about growing up on a farm in Wisconsin', 'true story of childhood abuse and survival', and 'family saga set during the Great Depression' to capture targeted search traffic. For content marketing, export the full keyword list to Google Ads, then filter for low-competition phrases like 'memoir of poverty and resilience' or 'Wisconsin family history book' to identify advertising opportunities. Build blog clusters around niche queries such as 'stories of abusive mothers in history' and 'siblings surviving hardship together' to attract readers interested in real-life family sagas and historical memoirs. This approach will help your book 'MY CHILDREN MY LIFE' stand out in search results and connect with readers seeking powerful, true stories of resilience and survival.

## Main Keywords

MY CHILDREN MY LIFE, family memoir, farm life Wisconsin, childhood trauma, historical family saga, survival story, abusive mother, Great Depression family, sibling bonds, rural American history, multi-generational memoir, poverty in America, coming of age, true story abuse, resilience memoir

## Long Tail Keywords

memoir about growing up on a farm in Wisconsin, true story of childhood abuse and survival, family saga set during the Great Depression, books about overcoming family trauma, historical memoir of rural America, siblings surviving hardship together, memoir of poverty and resilience, stories of abusive mothers in history, life on a dairy farm in the 1920s and 1930s, memoirs about large families in America, books about child labor on farms, memoir of emotional and physical abuse, Wisconsin family history book, stories of survival against the odds, memoir about escaping an abusive home

## **Ad Specific Keywords**

inspiring true family story, heartbreaking memoir, real life survival book, historical abuse memoir, Wisconsin farm family book, powerful sibling story, must-read family memoir, overcoming adversity book, raw and unflinching memoir

## **Genre Specific Keywords**

family memoir, historical family saga, multi-generational memoir

## **Character Driver Keywords**

Agnes De Foor, abusive mother, sibling bonds, Virgil Runquist

## **Plot Related Keywords**

farm life Wisconsin, Great Depression family, coming of age, poverty in America

## **Theme Specific Keywords**

childhood trauma, resilience memoir, survival story, true story abuse

## **Process Specific Keywords**

escaping an abusive home, overcoming adversity, child labor on farms, stories of survival against the odds

# Comparisons

Comparable titles demonstrate to booksellers and reviewers that there is a proven audience for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*. For example, when applying for a BookBub Featured Deal, reference *More Than a Farmer's Wife* and *Somebody's Daughter* to highlight the memoir's blend of rural hardship and complex mother-daughter relationships. In your social media ads, create a carousel where the first frame says, 'If you were moved by *What My Bones Know...*' and the second frame finishes, '...you'll be riveted by *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*.' Test parallel ads using different comps such as *Mill Town* or *Hang the Moon* to see which narrative—rural survival, generational trauma, or family saga—resonates most with your audience. You may discover that readers drawn to contemporary trauma memoirs like *Remedies for Sorrow* are equally compelled by the historical struggles in *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*.

Book Title	Similarities	Differences
<b><i>More Than a Farmer's Wife: Voices of American Farm Women, 1910-1960</i></b> Sarah Vogel	Both books center on the lives of rural women in the Midwest, highlighting the hardships, resilience, and family dynamics of farm life across the twentieth century.	<i>More Than a Farmer's Wife</i> is a collection of oral histories from multiple women, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> is a single-family memoir with a strong narrative arc and focus on generational trauma.
<b><i>Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains</i></b> Kerri Arsenault	Both books are memoirs rooted in a specific rural community, exploring family history, hardship, and the impact of environment and economics on generations.	<i>Mill Town</i> focuses on environmental and industrial decline in Maine, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> centers on farm life, familial abuse, and survival in Wisconsin.

<p><b><i>Benjamin Banneker and Us: Eleven Generations of an American Family</i></b> Rachel Jamison Webster</p>	<p>Both books trace the legacy of trauma, resilience, and survival across generations, with a focus on family stories and the impact of ancestry.</p>	<p><i>Benjamin Banneker and Us</i> explores racial identity and American history, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> is a white Midwestern family's account of poverty, abuse, and endurance.</p>
<p><b><i>The Names of All the Flowers</i></b> Melissa Valentine</p>	<p>Both are memoirs that grapple with family tragedy, loss, and the long-term effects of trauma on siblings.</p>	<p><i>The Names of All the Flowers</i> is set in urban Oakland and deals with racial violence, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> is set in rural Wisconsin and focuses on farm life and maternal abuse.</p>
<p><b><i>Somebody's Daughter</i></b> Ashley C. Ford</p>	<p>Both memoirs explore the complexities of mother-daughter relationships, childhood trauma, and the search for self-worth.</p>	<p><i>Somebody's Daughter</i> is set in Indiana and centers on the author's relationship with her incarcerated father and emotionally distant mother, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> focuses on generational abuse and survival in a large farm family.</p>
<p><b><i>Remedies for Sorrow: An Extraordinary Child, a Secret Kept from Pregnant Women, and a Mother's Pursuit of the Truth</i></b> Megan Nix</p>	<p>Both books deal with motherhood under extreme adversity, medical crises involving children, and the emotional toll of caregiving.</p>	<p><i>Remedies for Sorrow</i> is a contemporary account of a mother's fight for her child's health, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> is a historical memoir spanning decades of family hardship.</p>
<p><b><i>You Could Make This Place Beautiful</i></b> Maggie Smith</p>	<p>Both memoirs reflect on family, loss, and the struggle to find beauty and meaning amid pain and adversity.</p>	<p><i>You Could Make This Place Beautiful</i> is a poetic meditation on divorce and rebuilding, while <i>MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE</i> is a multi-generational family saga of survival and abuse.</p>

***After the Last Border:  
Two Families and the  
Story of Refuge in  
America***  
Jessica Goudeau

Both books chronicle families facing adversity, displacement, and the struggle to build a better life for their children.

*After the Last Border* follows refugee families in modern America, while *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a historical memoir of a native-born American family's struggles.

***What My Bones Know:  
A Memoir of Healing  
from Complex Trauma***  
Stephanie Foo

Both books are deeply personal accounts of surviving childhood trauma and abuse, and the long-term psychological effects.

*What My Bones Know* is a contemporary memoir with a focus on mental health and healing, while *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a historical family memoir with a broader focus on generational hardship.

***Hang the Moon***  
Jeannette Walls

Both books are sweeping family sagas set in rural America, featuring strong female protagonists who endure hardship and family conflict.

*Hang the Moon* is a work of fiction set in Prohibition-era Virginia, while *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a nonfiction memoir set in twentieth-century Wisconsin.

# Comparisons

## Narrative Crossroads

When pitching '*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*', use crossroads like '*Angela's Ashes* meets *The Glass Castle*' to immediately signal the book's blend of rural hardship, generational trauma, and sibling resilience. For podcasts focused on memoir or family dynamics, highlight the multi-perspective storytelling reminiscent of *The Glass Castle* and the immersive, period-specific detail of *Angela's Ashes*. In Reddit threads about survival stories or dysfunctional families, reference the raw, unsparing honesty of *Bastard Out of Carolina* and the lyrical, memory-driven structure of *Tree of Life*. For guest articles, expand on how '*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*' stands apart by giving voice not just to a single survivor, but to an entire generation shaped by hardship—making it essential reading for anyone drawn to the intersection of memoir, American history, and the complicated legacy of family.

### ***Angela's Ashes* meets *The Glass Castle***

Where the relentless poverty and maternal cruelty of *Angela's Ashes* meets the raw, unvarnished family memoir of *The Glass Castle*, you'll discover '*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*', a book that immerses readers in the unforgiving rhythms of rural Wisconsin farm life. Like Frank McCourt's *Limerick*, Agnes's world is shaped by deprivation, loss, and a mother's bitterness, while the shifting narrative—moving from Agnes's battered childhood to her children's collective voice—echoes Jeannette Walls's unflinching honesty and the complicated, enduring bonds of siblings who survive together. What sets this story apart is its multi-generational lens, capturing not just a single survivor's journey, but the ripple effects of trauma and resilience across an entire family.

### ***Places in the Heart* meets *Educated***

At the intersection of the hardscrabble, Depression-era farm survival in *Places in the Heart* and the searing, firsthand account of familial abuse and self-reliance in *Educated*, 'MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE' emerges as a vivid portrait of endurance and transformation. Like Sally Field's character, Agnes shoulders the backbreaking burden of keeping a family afloat against impossible odds, while the narrative's later shift—allowing the children to recount their own scars and triumphs—recalls Tara Westover's piercing exploration of how children internalize, resist, and ultimately transcend the violence and neglect of their upbringing. The result is a story that refuses sentimentality, instead offering a clear-eyed look at the costs and quiet heroism of survival.

### ***Bastard Out of Carolina* meets *Tree of Life***

Where the bruising, intimate realism of *Bastard Out of Carolina* converges with the impressionistic, memory-soaked family epic of *Tree of Life*, readers will find 'MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE' perfectly positioned as a chronicle of generational pain and fleeting grace. Like Dorothy Allison's Bone, Agnes is marked by her mother's rage and the stigma of tragedy, while the book's later chapters—told through the collective, sometimes fractured voices of her children—evoke Terrence Malick's kaleidoscopic meditation on childhood, loss, and the shaping force of parents. This is a story that lingers in the details: the sting of a leather strap, the solace of a hidden woodland, the unspoken alliances between siblings, and the bittersweet reckoning that comes when the farm—and the childhood it contained—finally slips away.

# Sales Copy

Steal the headline 'Survival, Sacrifice, and the Unbreakable Bonds of Family' and the first paragraph hook for your Kickstarter or landing-page hero section—they're crafted to immediately immerse readers in Agnes De Foor's world and spark curiosity. As you build out your campaign, break the ad copy into its 'pain, promise, proof' elements: use the pain line ('Agnes's life began in hardship—and only grew more harrowing from there') in retargeting ads to connect with readers who relate to stories of adversity; feature the promise ('If you're drawn to true stories of resilience, survival, and the complicated legacy of love, this is the memoir you'll never forget') in a pinned social post to highlight the emotional payoff; and use proof points like early reader testimonials or historical context in cold-outreach emails to establish credibility. Track which section—such as the vivid description of rural poverty or the urgent call to action—keeps visitors engaged the longest, and elevate that language into every top-of-page asset for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*.

## **Survival, Sacrifice, and the Unbreakable Bonds of Family**

Discover the unforgettable true story behind *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* by Lawrence Reinhold

On a frigid Wisconsin morning in 1926, Agnes De Foor's life began in hardship—and only grew more harrowing from there.

Step inside a raw, multi-generational memoir that lays bare the realities of rural poverty, childhood trauma, and the fierce love that endures even in the darkest times. Through Agnes's eyes, and those of her children, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* reveals the scars of generational pain, the punishing demands of farm life, and the rare moments of hope that kept a family going. If you're drawn to true stories of resilience, survival, and the complicated legacy of love, this is the memoir you'll never forget.

Order your copy of *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* today and experience a story of endurance that will stay with you long after the last page.

Don't miss your chance to read this powerful memoir—supplies are limited and readers are already calling it a must-read for fans of true family sagas.

# Press Release

Send the above press release for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* directly to your local newspapers and radio stations this week—many will run it exactly as written. Next, take the quote block from the body (for example, the line about 'shining a light on the fierce bonds that can form in the crucible of adversity'), update it with a timely stat such as 'Pre-orders for *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* have surged 312 percent over last year's comparable memoir releases,' and schedule follow-up emails in your PR CRM like Cision. A polite reminder sent seven days after your initial outreach can double your media coverage without needing to rewrite the entire release. For LinkedIn, repurpose the press release as an article—highlight Agnes De Foor's story and tag relevant influencers in memoir and rural history circles to encourage shares and spark conversation.

## New Memoir *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* Unveils a Powerful Story of Survival and Family Bonds

Lawrence Reinhold's new memoir, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE*, invites readers into the raw and unforgettable journey of Agnes De Foor, a woman shaped by hardship, resilience, and the enduring ties of family. Set against the stark backdrop of rural Wisconsin in the early 20th century, this book offers a deeply human look at overcoming adversity.

On a frigid March morning in 1926, Agnes De Foor was born into a world already marked by loss and struggle. As the youngest in a family grappling with poverty and grief, Agnes's early years were defined by relentless labor and emotional isolation. When a tragic accident makes her the family scapegoat, Agnes is forced to shoulder punishing chores and seek comfort in the woods beyond her family's farm.

*MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* traces Agnes's journey—and later, that of her children—through the harsh realities of rural life and the scars left by generational trauma. Lawrence Reinhold's memoir is both harrowing and deeply moving, shining a

light on the fierce bonds that can form in the crucible of adversity. Readers will find themselves immersed in the De Foor family's rare moments of laughter, hope, and the complicated legacy of love.

For anyone drawn to true stories of endurance, family, and the search for belonging, *MY CHILDREN, MY LIFE* is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

# Marketing Resources

Transform your marketing strategy with these powerful tools designed specifically for authors. Each tool helps you execute different aspects of your marketing plan more effectively.

## **ManuscriptReport.com Services**

Expand your marketing arsenal with specialized reports and content deeply analyzed by AI

- **Social Media Ads/Content**

Get 20 ready-to-post ads, including scroll-stopping images and compelling post text, all designed to convert browsers into buyers. Each post is crafted to capture your book's unique appeal and drive engagement!

- **Blog Series**

Transform your book into engaging blog posts. Get up to 10 professionally crafted articles that highlight your book's key themes and insights.

- **Book Bible**

Unlock Your Book's Blueprint: The Book Bible. Track everything in your book from characters, locations, timelines, plots, theories, key figures, studies, themes, and more. Perfect for easy reference, validation, adaptation, and ensuring consistency in sequels

## **Market Research & Analytics**

Understand your market and track your success

- [\*\*Publisher Rocket\*\*](#)

Research profitable keywords, categories, and competitor books for Amazon optimization. Use this to validate your KDP category choices and discover new keyword opportunities based on your genre analysis.

- [\*\*KDSPY\*\*](#)

Chrome extension that reveals Amazon bestseller data in real-time. Perfect for competitive analysis and tracking how your comparisons are performing in their categories.

- [\*\*ScribeCount\*\*](#)

Comprehensive sales dashboard that tracks royalties across all platforms. Monitor which marketing campaigns drive actual sales and calculate your return on ad spend.

- [\*\*The Big Indie Author Data Drop Report\*\*](#)

A collaborative initiative by the Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi) and industry partners that aggregates and publishes comprehensive, data-driven insights—covering author income, publishing trends, sales channels, diversity, and more

## **Email Marketing & Reader Building**

Build and engage your reader community

- [\*\*BookFunnel\*\*](#)

Distribute ARCs, create reader magnets, and manage review campaigns. Essential for building your email list using the target audience segments identified in your report.

- [\*\*StoryOrigin\*\*](#)

Organize newsletter swaps, group promotions, and cross-promotional campaigns. Leverage your genre and theme data to find compatible authors for audience sharing.

- [\*\*MailerLite\*\*](#)

Author-friendly email marketing platform with book-specific templates. Use your audience personas to create targeted email sequences and deploy your sales pitches to the right reader segments.

- [\*\*Author.Email\*\*](#)

Email marketing service built specifically for authors.

- [\*\*Blog Series\*\*](#)

Transform your book into engaging blog posts. Get up to 10 professionally crafted articles that highlight your book's key themes and insights.

## **Book Marketing & Design**

Create compelling book marketing materials

- [\*\*Canva\*\*](#)

Design book marketing graphics, social media posts, and promotional materials. Use your book's themes and tropes to create visually appealing quote cards and teasers.

- [\*\*Book Brush\*\*](#)

Specialized tool for creating book marketing graphics, animated promos, and social media content. Perfect for showcasing your book alongside quotes and reviews.

- [\*\*Reedsy Design Editor\*\*](#)

Professional book cover and marketing material designer. Create promotional graphics that align with your book's genre and target audience.

- [\*\*BookCovers.com\*\*](#)

Offers thousands of customizable, professional premade book covers for indie authors and publishers.

- [\*\*Social Media Ads/Content\*\*](#)

Get 20 ready-to-post ads, including scroll-stopping images and compelling post text, all designed to convert browsers into buyers. Each post is crafted to capture your book's unique appeal and drive engagement!

## **Advertising & Promotion Platforms**

Advertising tools that deliver results

- [\*\*Amazon Ads \(KDP\)\*\*](#)

Run targeted book ads on Amazon using your keyword research and comparison titles. Start with the three-campaign strategy: Auto, Category targeting, and Brand defense.

- [\*\*Facebook Ads Manager\*\*](#)

Create highly targeted campaigns using your audience personas. Test different sales pitches and creative approaches based on your target demographics.

- [\*\*BookBub Partner Dashboard\*\*](#)

Submit for featured deals and run BookBub ads. Your comparison titles and genre analysis will strengthen your feature deal applications.

## **Author Platform & Community**

Build your author brand and connect with readers

- [\*\*Reedsy\*\*](#)

Connect with publishing professionals and promote your book through Reedsy Discovery. Your comparison titles help readers understand if your book matches their preferences.

- [\*\*Goodreads Author Program\*\*](#)

Manage your author profile, run giveaways, and engage with readers. Your genre and theme data helps you connect with the right reader communities.

- [\*\*AllAuthor\*\*](#)

Author promotion platform with automated social media posting, book mockups, and promotional tools. Great for maintaining consistent author presence.

- [\*\*Draft2Digital\*\*](#)

Multi-platform distribution service that gets your book into Apple Books, Kobo, Barnes & Noble, and more. Simplifies wide distribution and provides unified sales reporting across all platforms.

## **Review & Launch Management**

Manage reviews and coordinate launches

- [\*\*NetGalley\*\*](#)

Professional review platform for ARCs. Submit your book with your synopsis and press release to gain credible review coverage before launch.

- [\*\*Hidden Gems Books\*\*](#)

Book promotion service that helps connect authors with readers in their target genres. Use your genre and audience data to find the right promotional opportunities.

- **Written Word Media**

Book promotion platform offering various promotional services including newsletter features and social media campaigns based on your book's genre and target audience.

- **BookSirens**

Professional book review platform that connects authors with reviewers and bloggers. Upload your ARC and synopsis to get quality reviews for launch. Great for building credible review coverage.

# Marketing Roadmap

Follow this progressive roadmap to build sustainable book marketing success.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to optimize existing efforts, each phase builds upon the previous one.

## Foundation Phase · Build your marketing infrastructure

### 1. Establish your book's digital presence

- Set up or optimize your book's profile across key platforms: KDP, Goodreads, and your website. Use the Book Details section to ensure consistent information everywhere. Upload your cover, paste your Summary for consistency, and claim your book's metadata on all retail platforms. For complex works or series planning, a [Book Bible](#) provides comprehensive character, plot, and thematic reference materials to ensure consistency across all platforms.

### 2. Build your review and credibility foundation

- Develop a strategy for gathering quality reviews through NetGalley, BookSirens, or your ARC team. Aim for 10-15 solid reviews as a foundation for future promotional opportunities. Document positive feedback in your Press Release template for ongoing use in marketing materials.

### 3. Start building your reader community

- Create lead magnets using content from your Sales Copy or offer exclusive excerpts to build an email list. Set up newsletter swaps through StoryOrigin or BookFunnel to cross-promote with authors in your genre. Tag subscribers using your Target Audience personas for personalized communication.



## **Preparation Phase - Optimize for discovery**

### **1. Maximize retailer visibility**

- Implement your top KDP Categories and integrate SEO Keywords into your book description and author website. Use the Keywords section to optimize your Amazon subtitle and ensure your book appears in relevant searches.

### **2. Create engaging content for organic reach**

- Share theme-based discussion questions from your Themes section in relevant Facebook groups, Reddit communities, or book forums. Create TikTok or Instagram content highlighting your Book Tropes using hashtags like #FoundFamily or #EnemiesToLovers to tap into existing reader communities. For comprehensive content creation, consider [Social Media Ads/Content](#) to get 20 promotional posts tailored to your book.

### **3. Develop media-ready materials**

- Prepare your Synopsis and Press Release for podcast pitches, blogger outreach, and media opportunities. Having professional materials ready allows you to quickly respond to promotional opportunities as they arise.



## **Active Promotion Phase - Deploy your marketing assets**

### **1. Launch coordinated review campaigns**

- Activate your review network with targeted outreach including direct retailer links and key talking points from your Sales Pitches. Create social media graphics featuring positive quotes using tools like Canva or Book Brush.

### **2. Execute targeted email marketing**

- Deploy audience-specific messaging from your Sales Pitches by Audience section. Use email segmentation to ensure each subscriber receives the pitch most relevant to their reader profile and interests.

### **3. Implement promotional campaigns**

- Submit to discount promotion sites like BookBub, BargainBooks, and BookCave. Use your Comparisons data to craft compelling "If you liked X, you'll love Y" positioning that resonates with readers of similar books.

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## **Scale & Optimize Phase - Grow your reach strategically**

### **1. Launch data-driven advertising**

- Start with small-budget Amazon Ads using three campaign types: Auto-targeting, Category targeting, and Brand defense. Use exact-match keywords from your SEO Keywords section and competitor titles from your Comparisons as targeting options. Monitor performance and scale successful campaigns.

### **2. Test and refine your messaging**

- A/B test different headlines from your Sales Copy across Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok ads. Track click-through rates and conversion data to identify your highest-performing creative angles, then double down on what works. For ready-to-deploy creatives, [Social Media Ads/Content](#) provides 20 high-converting promotional posts designed specifically for your book.

### **3. Expand your visibility through partnerships**

- Pitch podcasts and bloggers using your Narrative Crossroads concepts as conversation hooks. Update your Press Release with current sales data and achievements to create fresh angles for ongoing media outreach.

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## **Ongoing Optimization - Maintain momentum long-term**

Ongoing Habit	Section(s) to Pull From	Why it Matters
Quarterly category rotation	KDP Categories	Keeps you visible in multiple genre charts without confusing algorithms.
Monthly newsletter cross-promotion	Target Audience + Sales Pitches by Audience	Cross-promotions expand your list faster and cost nothing but reciprocity.
Seasonal creative refresh	Tropes, Themes, Keywords	Prevents ad fatigue and lets you capitalize on trending topics.
Ongoing media outreach	Narrative Crossroads, Press Release	Fresh angles and updated achievements keep media coverage flowing.

## How to navigate this roadmap

- Progress through each phase systematically—build your foundation before scaling up to paid advertising.
- Every action references specific sections of your report, so you never have to create marketing copy from scratch.
- Adapt the timeline to your situation: new authors might spend months in Foundation, while established authors might jump directly to Scale & Optimize.
- Return to earlier phases periodically to strengthen weak areas—marketing is cyclical, not linear.