



## Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love

By Diane Lierow

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**Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love** By Diane Lierow

**The story that captivated a nation?how a horribly neglected little girl was rescued by her loving adoptive parents**

In July 2005, a six-year-old girl named Danielle was removed from her Florida home after authorities found her living in bug-ridden squalor, subjected to horrific neglect and so damaged by her own mother that recovery seemed hopeless. But hope was waiting for Dani?and help. In October 2007, Bernie and Diane Lierow, a hard-working couple with five boys of their own, adopted her and utterly transformed her life. This book tells the moving story of how the Lierows rescued Dani and helped her recover to the point where she can not only communicate, something once thought impossible, but can say of herself, ""I pretty.""

- Dani's story was featured on Oprah and the subject of a Pulitzer Prize-winning article published by the St. Petersburg Times
- The Lierows describe their struggle to adopt Dani, how they bonded with her and made a home for her, how they satisfied her craving for contact and stimuli, how Dani began to overcome her severe learning disabilities, how she learned she no longer had to steal food, and how their son Willie may be the greatest brother ever
- For readers who enjoyed Mistaken Identity: Two Families, One Survivor, Unwavering Hope; Hope's Boy; and Sickened: The True Story of a Lost Childhood

Charting a perilous journey from hardship to hope, a new family, and a second chance at life, Dani's Story is a book you cannot put down and will never forget.

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## **Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love By Diane Lierow Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Inside Flap

"The photo of the little girl was grainy black and white, even a little blurred. There was no pretty background, no fun props, and no cute outfit. Her bangs were uneven and jaggedly cut, and she wasn't smiling. She had a vacant, distant look in her eyes. But it was those eyes that pulled me in and grabbed my heart. I looked at my husband and said 'Bernie, she needs us.' He answered, 'I know.'"

When young Danielle was rescued from a dark room in her mother's filthy, roach-infested home, she spoke only in grunts and yelps, walked on her tiptoes, was not toilet-trained, and drank from a baby bottle. She was almost seven years old.

This book shares the deeply moving story of how Diane and Bernie Lierow were led to this remarkable little girl and became determined to overcome every obstacle so that she would become their daughter and receive the care and love that all children deserve.

A special ed classroom at Sanders Memorial Elementary School in Land O' Lakes, Florida, was where they would first meet Danielle, the child whose photo had captivated them at an adoption event several weeks earlier. They were filled with excitement, but also trepidation: What if they saw her and decided that she was just too much for them to handle? What if she harmed their son Willie, or took too much of their attention away from him? What if this young girl who drooled, bit her own arms and hands, and did not engage with others, threw a tantrum at the sight of them?

Once the Lierows entered the classroom, their fears fell away in a moment that was as surprising as it was simple—the moment when a little game with a Slinky toy established their first bond with Dani and marked the beginning of their new life together as a family.

Even more remarkable is what has happened since—how the Lierows learned to satisfy their daughter's craving for contact and stimuli, how Dani began to overcome her severe learning disabilities, how she learned she no longer had to steal food, and how their son Willie may be the greatest brother ever.

Charting a perilous journey from hardship to hope, love, and a second chance at life, *Dani's Story* is a book you cannot put down and, like the girl in the photo, you will never forget.

From the Back Cover

The Story That Captivated the Nation

In July 2005, six-year-old Danielle was removed from her Florida home after authorities found her living in squalor, subjected to horrific neglect, and so damaged by her own mother that recovery seemed impossible.

But hope and help were waiting for this little girl when Diane and Bernie Lierow, a hard-working couple with five boys of their own, adopted Dani and utterly transformed her life. Here is her—and their—incredible story of a journey from neglect to love.

About the Author

**DIANE** and **BERNIE LIEROW** are parents to six children, including Dani, as well as foster parents. Their

story won a Pulitzer Prize for the St. Petersburg Times and was featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show. They live on a farm in Tennessee with miniature horses, goats, chickens, and Great Pyrenees dogs.

**KAY WEST** is a veteran print media journalist who has also written three books.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Milford Garrett:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love. Try to make the book Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love as your good friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Wilma Baca:**

The feeling that you get from Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love is a more deep you digging the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love giving you joy feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this kind of Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love instantly.

#### **Loren Hatfield:**

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. On the list of books in the top collection in your reading list will be Dani's Story: A Journey from Neglect to Love. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

#### **Dennis Ramirez:**

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