

I Got It from Here: A Memoir of Awakening to the Power Within

Francesca Miracola

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I Got It from Here is a memoir about persistence and personal growth in spite of dire odds.

Francesca Miracola's memoir *I Got It from Here* is both a bid for understanding and a cautionary tale by a woman who married the wrong man.

Although Miracola had early misgivings about Jason, a law student whom she met at a party, she accepted a date and then entered a relationship with him. She didn't love him and felt that he was phony with his formal gestures and phrasing, but she saw him as a ticket away from her toxic Italian family. She also felt pressure to conform to social expectations. Instead of following her heart, which may have led to her underachieving high school boyfriend, she thought she should choose someone who was more her equal in education and ambition. Ignoring red flags (such as an incident where Jason shoved her and grabbed her by the throat), she allowed Jason to charm her fears away and married him.

Miracola maintains a calm tone as she recounts her decisions and mistakes with the benefit of hindsight. Her self-awareness engenders understanding and empathy, and her decision to divorce Jason after the birth of their two boys comes as no surprise. However, freeing herself of him and beginning again turned out to be more difficult than she could have imagined, leading to harried scenes: Miracola was awarded full custody of their sons, but Jason had visitation rights and began stalking her and their boys. He drew her into endless litigation, too, using his connections to rig court proceedings and outcomes. Miracola came to realize that he was involved in other forms of corruption as well.

The book's references to Montauk and the Hamptons imply a privileged social milieu. Miracola does not seem to suffer financially in spite of costly legal fees incurred in her fight to maintain full custody of her children. She had a professional career and a supportive family. Although she was reluctant to ask for help, her father lent her money and her mother babysat her sons. Still, though the book acknowledges such fortunate means, its story reiterates the importance of a woman having her own job and money, even after marriage.

I Got It from Here is an inspiring memoir about overcoming an upbringing in a dysfunctional family, social conditioning, corruption, and a sociopathic ex-husband to claw one's way to happiness.

SUZANNE KAMATA (October 28, 2022)

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