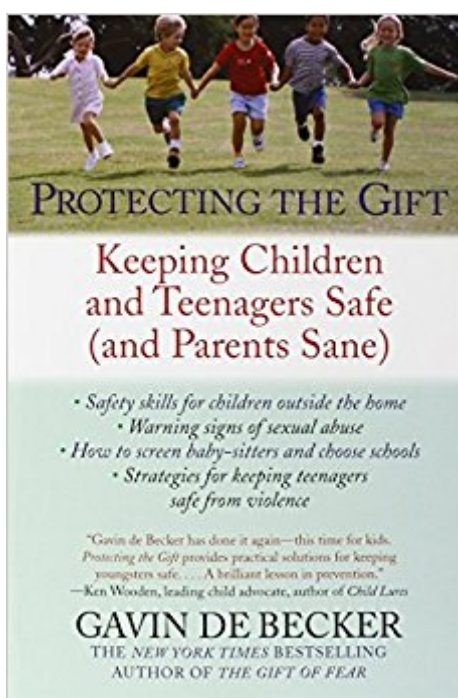


The book was found

Protecting The Gift: Keeping Children And Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane)



Synopsis

Safety skills for children outside the home Warning signs of sexual abuse How to screen baby-sitters and choose schools Strategies for keeping teenagers safe from violence All parents face the same challenges when it comes to their children's safety: whom to trust, whom to distrust, what to believe, what to doubt, what to fear, and what not to fear. In this empowering book, Gavin de Becker, the nation's leading expert on predicting violent behavior and author of the monumental bestseller *The Gift of Fear*, offers practical new steps to enhance children's safety at every age level, giving you the tools you need to allow your kids freedom without losing sleep yourself. With daring and compassion, he shatters the widely held myths about danger and safety and helps parents find some certainty about life's highest-stakes questions: How can I know a baby-sitter won't turn out to be someone who harms my child? (see page 103) What should I ask child-care professionals when I interview them? (see page 137) What's the best way to prepare my child for walking to school alone? (see page 91) How can my child be safer at school? (see page 175) How can I spot sexual predators? (see page 148) What should I do if my child is lost in public? (see page 86) How can I teach my child about risk without causing too much fear? (see page 98) What must my teenage daughter know in order to be safe? (see page 191) What must my teenage son know in order to be safe? (see page 218) And finally, in the face of all these questions, how can I reduce the worrying? (see page 56)

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Dell; Reprint edition (May 9, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780440509004

ISBN-13: 978-0440509004

ASIN: 0440509009

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 284 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Safety & First Aid](#) #44 in [Books > Self-Help > Relationships > Conflict Management](#) #48 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Conflict Resolution](#)

Customer Reviews

Be warned: In many ways this is a terrifying book. It deals with a subject--violence against children--that most of us never want to consider. But, as Gavin de Becker stresses, such situations, though rare, can occur, so all parents must deal with the facts in order to protect their children properly. De Becker's aim is to create awareness of potential dangers and provide parents with the knowledge necessary for prevention and control. As he emphatically states in *Protecting the Gift*, much of this knowledge is already hard-wired in the form of intuition: "This natural ability is deep, brilliant, powerful. Nature's greatest accomplishment, the human brain, is stunningly efficient when its host is at risk, but when one's child is at risk, it moves to a whole new level, one we can justifiably call miraculous." The trick, he stresses, is trusting and acting on intuition. In this valuable, even necessary, book, he shatters many myths about the typical profiles of regular offenders and the prevalence of such problems as sexual abuse and kidnapping. He also deconstructs the wisdom of traditional maxims such as "Never talk to strangers" and "If you are ever lost, go to a policeman." Without offering a compendium of every conceivable danger, he identifies warning signals and real risks that are often easy to spot once you know what to look for. He offers practical advice on recognizing signs of sexual abuse, choosing a baby sitter or nanny, how to prepare kids for walking to school alone, and how to teach children about potential risks without making them afraid to venture out of the house. And he continually stresses that denial and ignoring intuition are the biggest mistakes that parents make in protecting their kids from those that mean them harm. Well written and infinitely informative, *Protecting the Gift* affords parents more confidence and less reason for unnecessary worry. --Shawn Carkonen --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Dostoyevski said that child abuse is evil because it destroys a child's faith in the goodness of God. In this painstakingly practical yet impassioned guide, de Becker, author of last year's bestselling *The Gift of Fear*, demonstrates that a child who was himself abused can grow up to be a vigilant protector of the gift of children's innate faith in the goodness of life. Writing with a precision honed from his long experience as a security expert predicting violence in order to protect high-profile clients, and with a depth born of his own childhood understanding of how it feels to be hurt by the adult you love, de Becker describes how we can keep our children safe. Although he devotes separate chapters to the special threats facing children and teens, females and males (the murderous romance of boys and guns is covered), his basic message is encapsulated in 12 steps. Echoing his previous book, the first step involves teaching children to honor their feelings--specifically, the intuition that makes them fear certain people. Children also need a parent's permission to be assertive, to defy adults, to yell and fully resist. Throughout, de Becker stresses a

children need to trust that a parent will be open to listen about any experience, no matter how unpleasant. He opens and concludes with tales of ordinary mothers who overcame their doubts and inhibitions to experience a brilliantly intuitive wild brain as they fought off attackers to protect their children. De Becker offers a guide to fostering this fierce intelligence in our kids, ourselves and our society. Everyone in contact with children should read this important book. It can help save lives. BOMC, QPB and Childrens BOMC featured alternates; first serial to USA Weekend; second serial to Good Housekeeping; author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Facing the worst in humanity is difficult but as the author notes, if we don't then we will never recognize it enough to stop it. This book was difficult for me as a parent who strives 24/7 to protect my son...in part to protect him from my childhood. Education is key and de Becker is a master at communicating amazingly insightful science with everyday words. I give his book *The Gift of Fear* as gifts to women often...this might be the one for parents now.

This should be a must read for all parents and grandparents. My daughter, who works at a facility for sex offenders, recommended this book to me. I work as a guardian ad litem, representing children in abuse and neglect cases. There is so much good info in this book to help you protect your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews and other children you come in contact with that you would be remiss in not reading this book. A lot of what is contained in this book is common sense, but the perverts have a way of explaining away their conduct so that you doubt yourself; this book tells you to trust your gut and first reaction. If you can't afford the book, get it from your library. Tell others you know who have kids to read it. Help protect future generation, please.

I read this when training to become a self defense instructor. I never would have if it hadn't been assigned as I'm not a parent and don't intend to become one. This ended up being the most valuable read of all the assigned books. I tell parents about it all the time. I've given it as a gift several times. It's uncomfortable to think about children being victims to predators, but we have to be willing to think about it if we have any hope of protecting them or intervening quickly should they be harmed. Buy it and read it. When you know what to look for, you can help keep kids safe.

Mr de Becker writes about violence and personal safety. The short explanation is he had a violent childhood and instead of growing up and becoming violent, he grew up and runs a bodyguard/

safety consultation company. A lot of what he has to say, be more aware of your surroundings and trust your gut, feels like common sense to me, however, although it is common sense, I do not practice it 100% of the time. The reason I don't practice it 100% of the time, and the reason it is not "common" sense to a lot of people is that a lot of us have been brought up in the modern world to be "nice", to be polite, to want to be liked, and, perhaps most centrally, to entrust our safety to professionals (police), and trust all the polite people around us. While that does work a lot of the time, our intuition, and just general awareness is something that has evolved over the millenia to keep us safe, our bodies as well have evolved over the millenia to fight and protect. In a nutshell, de Becker writes to encourage us to use our brains/ intuition to take care of ourselves more, and to not be afraid to use our bodies for violence when it is the last resort. It is very interesting and encouraging to read about how to do that. A lot of what he wrote is a more detailed version of certain parts of his other book, the Gift of Fear, which I highly recommend. A lot has been added that concerns children in particular, so I would recommend this for anyone who has or deals with children, but perhaps recommend the Gift of Fear first, and especially for those without children. Sprinkled throughout Protecting the Gift (and the Gift of Fear) are short anecdotes of people who were attacked or abused and how the situation ended up. Some end up well, some in failure. My favorite was the mother who fought off a dangerous attacker ONE-HANDED while holding her baby in her other hand.

After having been raised by an overprotective parent I found myself drowning in a sea of worry after becoming a mother myself. This book along with "The Gift of Fear" has helped put my mind and heart at ease, and gave me the courage to listen to my inner voice. Tough to read in some spots because of the sheer brutality that reality sometimes brings, I still believe the book should come as a manual to every person, parent or not, for the responsibility of protecting children should fall on every man and woman's hands.

I have already purchased de Becker's Gift of Fear and try to re-read it every couple of years. But now I have a grandson and a whole 'nother set of concerns. I was delighted to see this book available in the Kindle format and found it useful and touching. De Becker is such a skilled author that anything he chooses to write is not only readable, but compelling and often wry. Having read the previous book several times, I recognize that part of the new book repeats some of the advice given there, but I did not feel that this new book is superfluous -- to the contrary, there is much new material, fresh takes on older material, personal revelations and observations that will teach you as

they break your heart, and appendices that will blow your socks off if you take time to look them over. After I read the book almost nonstop over the course of two days, I took it with me on two back-to-back short road trips with my husband. I read parts of it aloud to him and we had many productive conversations. He initially felt that the book might be just fear-mongering and he gave me "the look" when I purchased it. But after I read the opening stories for several chapters and got into things that were very hard to read, he admitted, "I need to hear this." Now I feel that we are literally on the same page when it comes to protecting our grandson and other children, too. Five stars and two thumbs up from me.

This is a very useful book with practical, real-world tips for keeping your children safe. Gavin de Becker is not an alarmist, but he does not shy away from the realities faced by children and their parents. I recommend this for any parent, but be aware that there is some overlap between this book and *The Gift of Fear* (which I recommend even more strongly!)

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