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## Accused: My Fight for Truth, Justice, and the Strength to Forgive

*Tonya Craft*

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**Tonya Craft : Accused: My Fight for Truth, Justice, and the Strength to Forgive** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Accused: My Fight for Truth, Justice, and the Strength to Forgive:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. This was an excellent book. I saw Tonya on some of the ...By HazelAccused by Tonya Craft. This was an excellent book. I saw Tonya on some of the Talk Shows but I had no idea what she must have been going through. I don't think I could ever forgive Joel, Sarah and the Mothers. Those little

girls will someday know what their Mothers put them through and the bitterness they had toward Tonya. Tonya is right -if you are angry, bitter or hate someone, you are only hurting yourself. She showed her greatness by just letting it all go. The Mothers will have to live with themselves and perhaps remember "what goes around will come around."16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Hard to Read, Hard to Put DownBy MALThis book is a well written, disturbing, yet fascinating account of injustice at the hands of an overzealous, good ol' boy network in a small town. It was difficult to read, at times giving me nightmares and causing me to revisit one of the lowest points in my life. I am a former resident of Catoosa County, having lived the better part of 50 years there and the surrounding area. During all those years, having never run afoul of the law, I believed it was a great place to live and raise a family. That all changed for me in one night, when I saw firsthand what it was like to be falsely charged, booked, bullied, and intimidated by the very people I always counted on for protection. When something like this happens to you, you eventually get on with your life, but you are NEVER the same. I have often wondered if those involved gave any thought to the impact of what they did or how it permanently and inexorably changed my life. Sad to say, probably not. It is to Tonya Craft's credit that she could endure and suffer so much and still forgive. Wish the same could be said for me. Godspeed, Tonya.17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. I think the book was great and even brought me to tears at one pointBy pfreeI was really interested in reading this womans story. I think the book was great and even brought me to tears at one point. As a mother myself, I could not imagine my child being taken from me.I truly believe this women did nothing wrong and I'm happy she is getting her life back, even though it should never have happened.

This is the true story of a woman who prevailed against the most heinous accusations imaginable.Tonya Craft, a Georgia kindergarten teacher and loving mother of two, never expected a knock on her door to change her life forever. But in May 2008, false accusations of child molestation turned her world upside down. The trial that followed dragged her reputation through the mud and lent nationwide notoriety to her name.Tonyas life spiraled into a witch-trial nightmare in which she was deemed guilty before her innocence could be determined by a jury. Her children were taken away without even a goodbye, and her own daughter was forced to take the stand against her in a courtroom. The situation seemed hopeless, and Tonya was shell-shocked and heartbroken. But that didnt keep her from finding the strength to fight.Over the course of two terrifying years, Tonya rallied to take charge of her own defense, flying across the country and knocking on doors on a desperate quest for answers, and defying her own lawyers on more than one occasion. Tonyas goal was not only to avoid conviction; it was to clear her name, and, most of all, regain custody of her children.Accused is about more than Tonyas shocking trial and fight for justice. It is the story of a mothers extraordinary love, the faith that sees her through it all, and the forgiveness that sets her free.

"One of those candidly personal memoirs that linger in the mind and memory long after the book is finished and set back upon the shelf."Midwest Book "Nothing prepared me for the power of this book and its markedly human perspective of the realities of being criminally accused. Tonya reveals the strength of her own character and gives the reader a look beyond legalities and into the heart of a caring mother. Accused is a must-read, a true tour de force."R. Champ Crocker, Cullman Attorney named one of the Nations Top One Percent by the National Association of Distinguished Council"Tonya Craft found herself in an unspeakable situation that rocked her world. Through the grace of God and her tenacious spirit, today she is a trusted expert highly sought by the falsely accused and those who defend them. You will be amazed at the power of forgiveness and its impact on an impossible situation."Jan Silvius, author of Foolproofing Your Life and Same Life, New Story"Accused, the true story of a Tonya Crafts fight against the criminal justice system, is much more than a blow by blow account of a woman facing a prosecutorial steamroller. It is also a deeper journey of the heart, and how the power of forgiveness is greater than the bitter root of false accusation."Robert Whitlow, bestselling author of The Confession"Sexual abuse of children is a serious crime, and should be dealt with fairly and carefully. Over the years attempts to bring offenders to justice have often been abusive in their own right. Cases built by so-called experts pressuring children through suggestive and leading questions, combined with overzealous prosecutions, have led to the debacles we experienced in California in the McMartin case, and in the Kern County prosecutions I reviewed when I was California Attorney General. They should have created a warning, a yellow light, to be careful when dealing with child witnesses. When those warnings are not heeded injustice can result, and the lives of the accused, when innocent, can be irreparably damaged. Tonya Craft's own story, and the jury's findings of Not Guilty on 22 counts, more than twenty years after the California cases, proves once again that when dealing with allegations of this sort, the best practices we learned the hard way need to be front and center. Will we ever learn?"John Van de Kamp, Former California Attorney General