

Even from the deepest valley of despair there is a way

Her brutal father stole her childhood, and her vicious neighbors stole her trust in people. There was only one thing she never lost: the will to fight.



HAPPINESS FOUND
Isabelle Müller, née Gaucher, has been together with Stephan (53) for 27 years. The author and trained interpreter and the IT specialist have two daughters. The family lives near Pforzheim.

Isabelle Müller (47): "Love is my Weapon"



Severe depression drove her to two suicide attempts. But Life didn't let Isabelle go, and she returned home both times – unharmed and shaken: "Suddenly, something clicked in my head.

I realized I'm not alone, there's someone up there with a message: You should live!"

The indomitable will that Isabelle had inherited from her mother returned. Through her own strength, she put her father in his place, then fled to freedom, to Germany. She found the man of her dreams, started a family, and a small business.

She inherits her almond-shaped eyes, drive, and energy from her mother. But Isabelle Müller (47) has the worst memories of her father: The brutal man stole her childhood, nearly breaking her. But she found a way out into a new life...

Isabelle grew up in the French provinces in the 1960s and 1970s. Her parents, a former soldier and a Vietnamese woman, lived in abject poverty. Their five children had to cope with deprivation, hard work, and beatings from their father. Building trust was impossible in this atmosphere and a vicious neighborhood that excluded and mocked the family. The only bright spot for the youngest child, Isabelle, was her mother *Mê Loan* (Vietnam: *Mother Phoenix*). "From her," the daughter recalls today, "I learned to

She wanted to kill herself, but life wouldn't let her go

To discover something hopeful in moments of deepest despair."

And hope was what the girl needed more than anything else! When Isabelle was eight years old, her father began to abuse her. She didn't want to confide in her mother out of shame, deeply



BEAUTIFUL MEMORY
Isabelle with her mother Loan in front of the living room: "Here I still had a carefree life!"

HAPPY IN TOURS
One of the few pictures of her childhood. Isabelle (almost 3) in the Botanical Garden

FIRST COMMUNION
At the age of eleven, Isabel-le lived in Germany with her Surrogate mother Tharsila



SAD CHILDHOOD
At almost seven years old, Isabelle had already learned how serious and cruel life can be



THE PLACE OF HORROR
Isabelle Müller's parents' house: "I will never enter it again as long as my father is alive"

Book tip
In her biography *Phoenix Daughter* (Krü-ger, ca. 18 E), Isabelle Müller tells her dramatic life story