

1  
you have been battling all your  
life trying to explain to people  
how I feel not bearing able to  
read write they don't understand

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At 2 year you ~~not~~ went to  
Bergrane nursery

Then Kindergarten at B.

Went there untill 3rd grade

When mother had a baby we  
were in and out of homes

Came out of home ~~to~~ after  
John went B.G. and they  
would not take us because they  
fill up.

Then went to ~~the~~ catholic  
school they told us we could  
stay for we had no uniform

1959 2 Distress letter

didn't go to school for awhile  
because NO one wanted us.

We not told much

The worse part for me was the  
schooling and I was always  
put there to learn Catechism  
down at the kindergarten and  
I was 12 year old kids all  
laugh alway getting hit for  
for not knowing the work from  
the Nun. after that they put  
me on laundry Kitchens

No more schooling

When change the orphanage  
into a special school for Mental  
Retarded girls I had to do  
the Kitchen or laundry and also  
look after some of the new  
girl that couldn't look after  
their self

I was very fustrated I couldn't  
help myself there was NO one  
to help me and I had to look  
after these kids



Nerved went on Holiday's always left behind to cook for the Nuns and wash because alot of Nuns came from abroad for there holiday.

Noone worry about that - They separated the three us all the time not to speak to each other at all.

I was 14, teen @ 11 months I went to my Nuns for the last Xmas Holiday and they said I was not to come back because I was turning 15 in Feb. how do you think I felt NO education, NO Job and going out into that big world that I didnt know anything out NO friend that normal girl grow up with.

All I could do is factory work I got a job at a sewing factory all I did was go to work and home at Nuns.

Only worked for 2 years and met

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a boy show me a bit of love  
and next thing I was having  
a baby I was 16teen so you  
were married and had a baby  
↖ by the time you were 17teen

I was only out of the orphanage when  
I 1 year and my little brother  
John ~~was~~ drowned I'm so glad  
six months before that mum and I  
went up to see him in his  
orphanage it was 4 years since  
I had seen him dose anyone  
know what that done to me  
thats what I think I felt pregnant  
2 months after his death.

Then my big sister Rhonda  
died she was only 20 years ~~and~~  
a few month later I was expecting  
a other baby she was the only  
one that didnt go to a orphanage  
she was nealy 15teen she went  
to oldest cousins



I don't think anyone could understand how hard it has been for me. and life has been a roller coaster and I am so tired of fighting for ~~every~~ <sup>every</sup> thing in life.

Years later my niece and I went at an afternoon tea and there was a friend there how said I would like you to read this joke I said I'm sorry I can't read she laugh she thought I was joking and said don't tell me that in this day and age ~~that~~ at your age you can't read! I said I'm not joking you don't know how many bus train I have got on and ended up in all different places. It has made my life so hard no one know and it's not my fault and then she said to me I can help you here, I said how can you help me and she said leave it with me and I'll get back to you.

A few weeks later I got a pho

call from a lady Rita she got me a one to one teacher at home for I said I couldn't go into a classroom with my bad experience I had in the orphanage.

I had this teacher for 2 year 3 hours a week after coming home from Grandville to Eastlakes at 6.00 to 9.00pm.

~~But~~ The teacher couldn't see that I was getting any better so Rita from tafe rang me and asked me if I would go to tafe I didn't want to go into a classroom so Rita rang my sister Vesatta and asked if she and her other sister Raylene would like to learn reading writing so that is how we all got to go to tafe.

I never told my two daughters so I could not help them



I  
with any school work I couldn't  
write any letters I told them they  
would have to wait till the  
father comes home also I had  
to ask my friend where I lived  
to read any correspondence I had  
for my kids How hard it was  
to even go shopping for instance  
I gave my husband whiskers  
I thought it was salamon

I'm surprised <sup>with</sup> myself when at 55 years  
old I got my licence it took 1 year  
with a driving instructor and  
a lot of money and it payed off  
I was very proud of myself  
and I'm still driving to this  
day and never had an accident  
~~at~~ at the age 67 years

I'm proud of my ~~to~~ to girls and  
my sec grandchildren and great  
grandchildren and that's all I  
can do in life I can only

get my family to help me with  
the important things in life  
I can't do they are the only  
ones I trust no outsiders

I worried about my sister  
putting this down I could go  
on and on it is so hard  
to get all my life down on  
paper.

What I'm trying to say here  
is I think I deserve better of  
life than I had and someone  
has to be responsible for it

I'm living in Ballina  
with one of my daughters and  
my sister Venetta Lohse has  
done this for me.

Deane Withard