

A young girl with blonde hair in a bun, wearing a white leotard, is captured in a ballet pose with her arms raised high. She has a serious expression. In the background, another person is partially visible, also in a similar pose.

WHEN THE LITTLE GIRL YOU LOVE IS LIVING A STORY YOU DIDN'T EXPECT

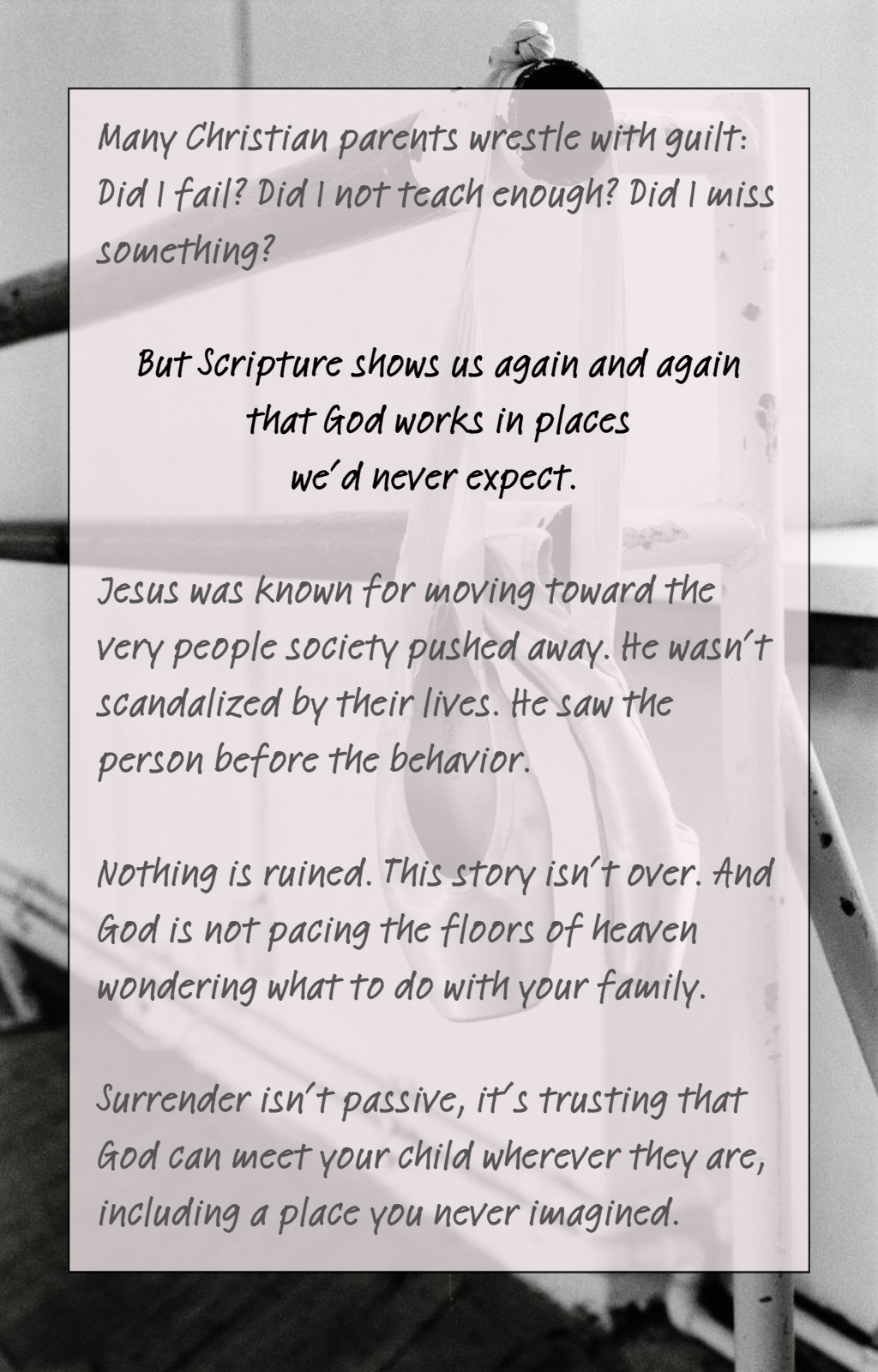
*A Parent's Guide to
Adult Entertainment and Surrender*

A resource for parents from Jesus Loves Strippers

When the Little Girl You Love Is Living A Story You Didn't Expect

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Many Christian parents wrestle with guilt:
Did I fail? Did I not teach enough? Did I miss
something?

But Scripture shows us again and again
that God works in places
we'd never expect.

Jesus was known for moving toward the
very people society pushed away. He wasn't
scandalized by their lives. He saw the
person before the behavior.

Nothing is ruined. This story isn't over. And
God is not pacing the floors of heaven
wondering what to do with your family.

Surrender isn't passive, it's trusting that
God can meet your child wherever they are,
including a place you never imagined.

Who this resource was written for...

This resource is written with a specific audience in mind: Parents of daughters working in the adult entertainment or sex-industry spaces. That does not mean sons are never involved in these environments, nor does it mean their experiences are unimportant. Men do appear in various parts of the industry, and some of what is written here may still feel helpful to their parents. But the emotional, relational, and safety dynamics for women in these spaces are often significantly different from those experienced by men. Because of that, this guide uses language centered on daughters, not to exclude, but to be accurate, specific, and truly supportive.

We also want to acknowledge something equally important: in our ministry, we regularly meet and work alongside transgender women, transgender men, nonbinary performers, and drag queens inside the clubs. Their stories matter deeply to us, and we care for them with the same dignity, compassion, and presence we offer anyone else. Their experiences, however, come with unique nuances: Different pressures, different vulnerabilities, and different forms of stigma or risk. Those differences deserve resources crafted specifically for their journeys.

This guide focuses on daughters because that is where most of the parents we serve are seeking clarity, comfort, and understanding. It is not about exclusion. It is about being as gentle, informed, and genuinely helpful as possible for the families most represented in our community. Everyone we encounter in the clubs is loved, seen, and worthy, and we remain committed to treating them that way.

Introduction: When Your World Shifts Overnight

There are moments in parenting when the ground beneath your feet moves. Learning your child works in adult entertainment can feel like one of them. Most parents describe the same emotions: Shock, fear, confusion, grief, shame, and a deep, aching worry about what comes next. Many say they feel blindsided. Others feel unsure of what they did wrong or terrified about what people will think.

You're not alone. And you're not a bad parent.

The truth is, your child's choices don't erase the years you've spent loving, guiding, and sacrificing. Parenting has always reminded us how little we actually control and how fiercely we want to protect our children. But before she was your little girl, she belonged to God.

Hannah's story in 1 Samuel gives us a picture of this. She prayed desperately for a child, and when God entrusted her with Samuel, she did the hardest thing a mother could do: She surrendered him back to the Lord. Her story reminds us that surrender isn't giving up. It's trusting that God sees what we cannot, knows what we do not, and loves our children even more deeply than we ever could.

This resource is here to help you breathe again. To understand the world your child is navigating. To break through the fear and stereotypes. To offer practical ways to reconnect with your child without shame or pressure. And to remind you that God is still writing their story, and yours, with tenderness, protection, and purpose.

A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a white sleeveless tutu, white tights, and pink ballet slippers, is looking down. The background is a plain, light gray.

WHAT EXACTLY IS ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

A plain-language overview

Adult entertainment refers to venues that regularly feature sexual content. This includes places like strip clubs, adult video stores, online platforms, private events, and similar establishments. Local cities and states define and regulate these businesses through zoning laws that control where they can operate and licensing rules they must follow. While the exact legal definition varies from place to place, what makes something adult entertainment is that it focuses on sexual content and restricts access based on age.

It is filled with people from every possible background, and there is no stereotypical industry woman. They are students, single moms, married, caregivers, creative entrepreneurs, trauma survivors, and sometimes just young adults trying to make ends meet.

Many parents imagine the worst because movies and TV rarely show the truth: This industry is a complicated mix of performance, customer interaction, business skills, and emotional labor. Some women work full-time. Others work a few nights a month to supplement their income. Some leave quickly; others stay longer. Every story is unique.

Understanding this doesn't mean you need to approve of everything. But it does help you see your child as a whole person making real-world decisions inside real-world pressure.



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

Misconceptions create distance between parents and children. These clarifications can help you see your child more clearly and respond from a place of truth instead of panic.

*Misconception #1
Only broken or immoral people
choose this profession*

Most dancers come from ordinary backgrounds and step into this industry during financial pressure, emotional hardship, or times of transition. For some, the industry provides fast income that feels like survival. For others, it feels empowering. The majority are neither broken nor immoral, they're simply trying to make life work.

*Misconception #2
Everyone in the industry is being exploited*

Exploitation does happen, but not everyone is experiencing it. Many women set their own boundaries, choose their own shifts, and maintain strong agency. However, pressure, objectification, or unsafe situations can occur.

*Misconception #3
If she knew her worth, she wouldn't be there*

Many dancers present confidence, humor, and strength. But the truth is layered. Some love the work; some don't. Some feel powerful in the spotlight; others feel numb. Some are healing from the past; others are simply paying bills. Worth and circumstances don't always align, and human stories rarely fit simple narratives.

Misconception #4

If she believed God loves her, she wouldn't do this

This is one of the most painful misconceptions parents carry. Shame has driven more people away from faith than sin ever has. Many dancers grew up in church. Some still pray. Some are angry and experiencing church hurt. But God's love is not limited by their workplace or choices. He loves them all, fully and fiercely, and will never give up on His children.

Misconception #5

She must like men looking at her or touching her

This assumption is one of the most painful disconnects between parents and their daughters. In reality, most adult entertainers do not work there because they crave male attention. "Attention" is part of the job, but it is something they manage, not something they're seeking. Many dancers describe it like flipping a switch: They step into a role, perform, and then step back into their real life the moment they walk off the floor.

And as for touching, most clubs have strict boundaries, and dancers often enforce their own. Women in this industry are often more aware of their personal safety than the average person, because they've had to be. When unwanted or inappropriate contact happens, it isn't "enjoyed," it's tolerated, managed, shut down, or endured to keep the situation safe.

The truth is, many dancers actually feel unseen as people, even while being looked at. What they long for isn't physical attention, but dignity, respect, and the chance to be known beyond the stage.

Misconception #6

She must have been promiscuous before this

Choosing to dance has nothing to do with someone's sexual history or personality. Many dancers are introverts, homebodies, or fiercely private. Some are in committed relationships. Some dislike dating altogether. The job is a performance, not a reflection of their personal life. Assuming otherwise creates unnecessary shame and shuts down the possibility of safe conversations.



Misconception #7

She's doing this to rebel against us

Parents often feel personally wounded, but the decision to dance is almost never about getting back at family.

Most dancers are trying to solve a financial problem, survive a hard season, or feel a sense of control in a world that hasn't always been kind.

Even if your child made choices you don't understand, it isn't typically about rebellion, it's about coping.

Misconception #8 *She must be surrounded by constant danger*

Movies and headlines paint strip clubs as nonstop chaos and crime, but most nights look far more mundane and ordinary than people imagine. Yes, it can be risky, just like in any late-night environment, but most women know how to protect themselves, set boundaries, and they quickly learn how to read a room. They work with other dancers and together they function like a tight-knit team. Danger isn't the daily reality people assume.

Misconception #9 *She's stuck forever*

Many parents fear their daughter will never leave the industry, and that this choice will define her whole life. But most dancers don't stay long-term. Some leave within months; others stay for a few years before transitioning into school, different careers, or family life. The industry is a chapter, not an identity. People change, grow, pivot, heal, and start over all the time.

Misconception #10 *This means I failed as a parent*

This is one of the heaviest lies parents carry. But adult children make choices shaped by hundreds of factors: Experiences, pressures, personalities, opportunities, trauma, identity, finances, not by their parenting. Your child's story is still being written. Their choices do not erase your love or your efforts. And you are not defined by the parts of their journey you never saw coming.

Many Christian parents feel guilt, fear, or spiritual confusion. But Scripture shows God moving toward people in unexpected places.

Jesus spent time with women, outcasts, and those society judged harshly. He saw dignity where others saw scandal. He offered compassion where others offered condemnation.

Your child is not spiritually abandoned. And you haven't failed as a parent. God is present in your child's story, even in the chapters you don't understand. This is where faith and fear collide.



A photograph of two young girls in a dance studio. They are both wearing pink leotards and white tutus. The girl on the left is looking towards the right, and the girl on the right is looking towards the left. They are sitting on a dark floor. In front of them is a doll wearing a pink polka-dot dress and white shoes. The background shows a dance studio with a barre.

WHAT ABOUT TRAFFICKING?

Setting the record straight

Parents often jump to the worst-case scenarios, especially around trafficking. But evidence paints a clearer picture: Though trafficking absolutely happens, law-enforcement surveys and national hotline data indicate that the percentage of cases where it occurs inside strip clubs is extremely small, and far lower than many parents assume. Most reported trafficking in the U.S. occurs through escort services, pornography, and illicit massage/health & beauty establishments. Other outlets for trafficking include romantic partners, family members, friends, online manipulation, and acquaintances the victim already knows.

This doesn't mean the industry is trouble-free. But assuming your child is being trafficked because they dance is statistically inaccurate and emotionally harmful. Keep in mind dancers generally choose which club they will work in, set their own boundaries, enforce their own rules, and walk out when it no longer serves them, which are all things they could not do in a trafficking situation.

Additionally, club owners have strong business reasons to keep trafficking out of their establishments. Trafficking brings attention from law enforcement, licensing boards, and city officials – any of which can shut a club down instantly. Clubs operate under strict regulations, and any hint of trafficking puts their licenses, income, staff jobs, and entire business at risk. Club owners generally want dancers who choose to be there, manage their own boundaries, and follow house rules, because that keeps the environment safer, more predictable, and legally compliant. In short, trafficking isn't just illegal, it's bad for business, dangerous for everyone, and something most club owners work hard to prevent within their walls.



WHY WOMEN CHOOSE THE INDUSTRY

*There is never just one reason.
Usually, it's a mix of several.*

Financial urgency

Rent, tuition, medical bills, caring for children...many start dancing to solve a financial crisis quickly.

Escaping minimum-wage cycles

A woman can earn in one shift what she might earn in a week elsewhere. For someone stuck in low-paying jobs, this can feel life-changing.

Confidence and validation

Some women enter the industry because they feel seen, appreciated, or in control. Sometimes this is empowering. Sometimes it's masking deeper pain.

Trauma and survival

For some, adult entertainment becomes a familiar environment because of past trauma. It can feel like the only place they understand how to navigate emotional power dynamics.

Agency and independence

Some choose it simply because they want to. Not out of desperation, but autonomy. They like the flexibility, the schedule, the environment, or the financial opportunity.

Feeling they have no other options

This is especially true for women with criminal records, gaps in employment, immigration barriers, or limited education.

Understanding these reasons often helps parents approach conversations with empathy instead of fear.

A photograph of four young girls, likely in a dance studio, wearing black leotards and pink tutus. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The girl on the far left is leaning forward, while the girl on the far right is looking towards the camera with a wide smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a ceiling vent visible in the upper right corner.

A MOTHER'S STORY

My name is Carolyn and I'm a mother learning what it means to love unconditionally. My daughter, Destiny, is 22 years old and works as a stripper. If you had told me years ago that this would be part of our story, I wouldn't have believed you. But life has a way of taking unexpected turns, and through it all, I've learned so much about patience, love, and trusting God's plan -- even when I can't see the bigger picture.

I want to share my journey with you, not because I have all the answers, but because I've found hope and strength in loving my daughter where she is. If you're a parent walking a similar path, I hope my story encourages you to stay connected with your child and trust in the power of love, prayer, and grace.

When Destiny first told me she was stripping, I'll admit, I felt like the ground had been pulled out from under me. I was heartbroken, confused, and even a little angry. But I quickly realized that shutting her out wasn't an option. I love my daughter too much to let anything come between us, even choices I don't fully understand.

I decided to approach Destiny with love and gentleness, even when it was hard. I asked her about her life. Not just her job, but her dreams, struggles, and joys. I listened without interrupting or judging, even when her answers weren't what I wanted to hear. I wanted her to know that no matter what, she could always talk to me and that my love for her wasn't conditional on her choices.

While I worked hard to stay connected with Destiny, I also had to set healthy boundaries for myself. For

example, I let her know I wouldn't financially support her stripping or be involved in aspects of her life that went against my convictions. But I made sure she understood these boundaries weren't about rejecting her, they were about staying true to my own values while loving her fully.

These boundaries gave me the space to protect my emotional and spiritual well-being while still being present in Destiny's life. I learned that it's possible to say, "I don't agree with this, but I still love you," and mean it with all my heart.

Over time, Destiny began opening up to me about the toll her lifestyle was taking on her. She admitted that while stripping gave her financial freedom and independence, it also left her feeling drained and sometimes disrespected. She didn't regret her choices or feel ashamed, but she started asking bigger questions about herself and her worth.

One day, Destiny asked me, "Mom, do you think God really loves me?" That question hit me like a ton of bricks. Here was my daughter, strong and self-assured in so many ways, wrestling with something so deeply personal. I told her, "Absolutely, He does. There's nothing you could ever do to make Him stop loving you."

I didn't push her to accept my faith or force her into conversations she wasn't ready for. Instead, I answered her questions honestly, shared my experiences with God's love, and prayed for her daily. Sometimes more than once a day.

Destiny isn't a Christian, and I've come to accept that her faith journey is hers to navigate. My role is to love her, pray for her, and trust that God is working in her life, even if I can't see it. I've learned to let go of my need to control or "fix" her and instead focus on being a source of steady, patient love.

I've also leaned heavily on prayer. There are nights when I cry out to God, asking Him to guide her, protect her, and reveal His love to her in ways I never could. I trust that His timing is perfect and that He's writing a story for Destiny that's far beyond what I can imagine.

If you're a parent in a similar situation, I want you to know that you're not alone. Loving a child whose choices challenge your beliefs isn't easy, but it's one of the most important things you'll ever do. Show them grace, set healthy boundaries, and keep the lines of communication open. Pray for them, even when it feels like nothing is changing. Trust that God loves them even more than you do and that He's working in ways you can't see.

Destiny and I are still on this journey together. She's still asking questions about God, and I'm still praying and loving her as best as I can. I don't know what the future holds, but I know that love, patience, and faith will continue to guide us.

From one parent to another, I encourage you to hold on to hope. God is faithful, and His love never fails—not for me, not for Destiny, and not for your child, either.

Reprinted from Hey Friend, a blog for parents of adult entertainers located at www.jesuslovesstrippers.vip

A young girl with light brown hair in a bun, wearing a pink short-sleeved leotard, a full pink tutu, and pink ribbed socks with ballet slippers. She is smiling and holding a black ballet barre with her left hand, while her right arm is raised in a graceful pose. The background is a bright, minimalist room with white walls and a light-colored floor.

**HOW TO LOVE
YOUR CHILD
THROUGH THIS**

Stay steady

Even if your insides are shaking. Your child needs safety, not shock. Your calm will be remembered more than your reaction.

Ask questions instead of assuming

“What led you to choose this?”

“How are you feeling about everything?”

“How can I support you right now?”

Keep the relationship bigger than the job

Your child is not their industry. Keep the relationship bigger than the job by allowing them to feel like your son or daughter before they feel like a dancer.

Lead with listening

“You don’t have to defend anything, I just want to understand,” will go a lot further than accusations and pointed fingers.

Release the pressure to fix

Your job is not to rescue, it's to remain.

Create gentle boundaries

Boundaries with love still feel like love. They sound like: “I care too much to shut you out, and I care too much to pretend I don’t have concerns. Let’s walk this together.”

Pray in surrender, not panic

Prayer is not a tool to force a change. It’s a way to hand your child back to the One who sees the whole story. You have to let go in order for God to work.

A photograph of three young ballerinas in a dance studio. They are wearing white leotards and tutus, with their arms raised in a graceful pose. The studio has a wooden floor and a ballet barre in the background. The text "WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO IN THIS SEASON" is overlaid in a large, bold, pink font.

WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO IN THIS SEASON

Keep communication open and consistent, but don't demand details or interrogate.

Affirm your unconditional love, don't use shame as a motivator.

Encourage safety (transportation, boundaries, self-care).and don't pretend unsafe things can't happen.

Seek your own support if needed. Don't try to carry this alone.

Remember this is a season, not the end of the story. Don't assume this will define their future.

Offer to listen when they're ready, but don't pressure them to talk before they're comfortable.

Celebrate their strengths and progress, but don't reduce them to their struggles.

Ask how you can support their goals, and don't assume you already know what they want.

Model honesty and calmness, don't unload your emotions onto them.

Keep the relationship rooted in respect, and don't treat them like a child who needs fixing.

Let them set boundaries about what they share, and don't pry into things that aren't yours to carry.

Pray for them with hope, but don't pray at them with fear-driven language.

Validate their feelings, even the hard ones. Don't dismiss their experiences because they make you uncomfortable.

Show interest in their world outside the club, but don't make every conversation about the club.

Invite connection in small ways such as coffee, meals, time together. But don't force closeness they aren't ready for.



Use words that build trust. Don't use Scripture as a weapon or a lecture.

Focus on their humanity, humor, dreams, and heart. Don't focus solely on what they do for work.

Notice their exhaustion and care gently. Don't shame them for the toll their job takes.

Keep showing up reliably, but don't disappear when conversations get uncomfortable.

Remind them they deserve safety, rest, and dignity, but don't assume they're making reckless choices.

Offer practical help when appropriate, but don't use resources as leverage or control.

Stay curious about who they're becoming. Don't box them in to who they used to be.

Choose empathy when they share something painful, but don't react with panic or anger.

Protect the relationship as sacred, but don't let fear dictate your voice or actions.

Give yourself grace in the learning process, but don't expect to get everything perfect the first time.





**CARING FOR
YOUR OWN
HEART**

Parents often forget they're allowed to feel things, too. You're allowed to grieve expectations. You're allowed to feel confused or overwhelmed. You're allowed to seek therapy, pastoral counseling, or a support group. None of this defines you as weak. You're just human.

This resource isn't about pretending everything is fine. It's about helping you find peace in the middle of something you never expected, remembering that God doesn't only redeem children, He also restores parents.

As you navigate this journey, I pray you feel the presence of a God who doesn't shame you, pressure you, or question your worth.

He simply asks you to trust Him, one surrendered moment at a time.

A Prayer for You

God,

I bring to You the parents reading this resource, doing the best they can with a heart that loves deeply and aches quietly. You know the hopes they had, the dreams they held, and the fears they've carried. You know the places where they feel strong and the places where they feel tired or unsure. Help them breathe again.

Give them the courage to walk this road with compassion instead of panic, curiosity instead of assumptions, and hope instead of despair. Teach them how to love their children well, not with fear or control, but with steadiness, kindness, and presence. Remind them that love is not weakness, and surrender is not giving up. It is trusting that You see the whole story when they can only see a chapter.

Strengthen their hearts when it feels heavy. Quiet their worries when they grow loud. Fill the empty places with Your unconditional love. And remind them, again and again, that they are not walking this journey alone. Just as You hold their children, You also hold them: Their questions, their tears, their joy, their growth, and their desire to do right by the one You entrusted to them.

Give them peace in this moment, knowing that You are with them both.

Amen.



When you learned your daughter was working in adult entertainment, your world may have shifted in an instant. The dreams you held, the fears you pushed away, the love you've carried for years...suddenly everything felt heavier. This book was written for that moment, and for the long, tender journey that follows.

She is still your daughter.

She is still loved.

And you are still the parent she needs.

This resource offers a gentle, honest look at the realities your daughter faces, the misconceptions that cloud the truth, and the reasons many women step into the industry. It will help you communicate with compassion, understand without judgment, and resist fear-based assumptions.

With practical guidance, grounding insight, and a steady reminder that you are not walking this alone, this book invites you to move from panic to peace, from shame to understanding, and from grasping to surrender, one loving step at a time.



Jaz James is the founder of Lace Warriors and director of Strip Church, which collectively uses the name Jesus Loves Strippers, because, well, He does.

She's spent the last decade showing up in dressing rooms, brothels, and red-light districts across Texas and Mexico with coffee in one hand and compassion in the other.

She now lives in Northern Mexico, where she juggles ministry, writing, and figuring out how many cups of coffee it takes up with God's plans (spoiler: it's a lot).



Your next step starts here.
Find more resources for parents at
www.JesusLovesStrippers.vip.