A Project of Homeschool Alumni Reaching Out

The Media Is Doing Exactly What Rachel Dolezal’s Abusive Homeschooling Parents Want

Posted on June 16, 2015 by R.L. Stollar 207 comments


Note from R.L. Stollar, HA Community Coordinator:

We are covering Rachel Dolezal’s situation because she is a homeschool alumna. Rachel was homeschooled through Christian Liberty Academy (http://www.cdapress.com/news/local_news/article_385adfe4-76f3-5050-98b4-d4bf021c423f.html?mode=jqm). Her father, Larry Dolezal, worked for Creation Ministries International and was charged in 1999 with felony theft though the charges were later dismissed (http://missoulian.com/uncategorized/judge-tosses-charges-against-former-lincoln-county-official/article_c63c8743-8ccc-5228-87ff-b0066a53bd99.html). We have also heard testimonies from numerous homeschool alumni who grew up knowing the Dolezal family that frequent and significant child abuse occurred in the family. The parents allegedly forced both Rachel and her
older, biological brother Joshua to beat their younger, adopted siblings with plumbing supply line and two foot long glue sticks, a practice inspired by Michael and Debi Pearl’s book, 
(https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/tag/to-break-down-a-child-pearl-style-discipline-week/)To Train Up a Child (https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/tag/to-break-down-a-child-pearl-style-discipline-week/). (Forced sibling-to-sibling corporal punishment (https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/2013/09/17/sibling-v-sibling-giving-the-child-the-rod-libby-annees-story/) is sadly not uncommon in some homeschooling circles.) Such a practice conjures up troubling images of Larry and Carri Williams, another homeschooling family that abused to death their adopted child (http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2013/11/hana_williams_the_tragic_death_of_an_ethiopian_ad optee_and_how_it_could.html), Hana. According to our sources, infant spanking (in public in their church parking lot, even) and blanket training (https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/2015/05/20/blanket-training-is-about-adults-not-children/) were also common in the Dolezal family. Additionally, Rachel’s adopted brother Izaiah Dolezal has himself raised public allegations against his parents (http://www.nbcrightnow.com/story/29310159/new-information-about-spokane-naacp-president) involving physical punishment, forced labor, and isolation in out-of-state group homes. With this background in mind, now comes the latest development in the Rachel Dolezal saga: Dolezal’s older brother Joshua is awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused a black child. Insinuations have been made (http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/06/16/rachel-dolezals-brother-author-joshua-dolezal-faces-trial-for-alleged-sexual-abuse-of-a-black-child/?tid=pm_pop_b) that the parents spoke up now to retaliate against Rachel’s attempts to get her brother charged for abuse.

Because of this latest development, we believe the following statement from Carmen Green is important. Please do keep in mind that this statement is not meant in any way to dismiss the wrongness of cultural appropriation or the lies stated by Rachel regarding her history. This statement does, however, add another dimension of complexity to this whole story that needs to be considered.

About the author: Carmen Green is a homeschool alumna and an attorney who specializes in the First Amendment, child abuse law, and homeschooling regulations. Also by Carmen on HA: “A Homeschool Alumna’s Thoughts on Megyn Kelly’s Interview of the Duggars” (https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/2015/06/04/a-homeschool-alumnas-thoughts-on-megyn-kellys-interview-of-the-duggars/).

*****

I have a complicated thing to say.

The Rachel Dolezal story has everyone up in arms right now, accusing her of racism, appropriation, and flat-out fraud. I don’t think I’m qualified to talk about the racial aspects of this story, but I am very concerned about this:

The national media has gleefully paired itself with Rachel’s parents and is now just one more tool that her parents are using against her.
Rachel is an abuse victim. She cut off her parents years ago, and she received guardianship of one of her adopted brothers. Her biological brother currently faces charges for sexual assault, and Rachel has, apparently, been aiding the victim of that crime, prompting her parents–after years of not having any relationship with Rachel–to retaliate by outing her.

Every time we go after Rachel, we are doing exactly what her abusive parents want. Read their quotes. Their tone, their word choice–it’s what I’ve seen again and again from abusive parents, hiding behind their own self-righteousness. They want you to hate Rachel. They want you to believe that she is lying about them. They want you to hurt her.

Abuse victims are complicated people. They can and do hurt others. They can and do make awful decisions. But blaming and pointing fingers at them without acknowledging the searing impact of child abuse doesn’t help anyone but their abusers–who want, more than anything, for you to believe that everything is the victim’s fault.

**Please, when you discuss this case, do so in a way that will not make Rachel’s abusers happy.**

*For further reading:*

- Rachel Dolezal Quits Her NAACP Post – ‘This Is Not About Me. It’s About Justice’ (http://www.people.com/article/rachel-dolezal-parents-interview-today-show)

tagged with child abuse, Featured, Hana Williams, homeschool, Joshua Dolezal, Larry and Ruthanne Dolezal, Michael and Debi Pearl, Rachel Dolezal, sexual abuse

- Child Abuse

**207 comments**
Newer Comments »

Dragonfly  June 16, 2015 1:04 pm (Edit)
Very interesting, thank you for posting these obscure facts of the story.

Reply

Holly  June 16, 2015 1:19 pm (Edit)
I am unsure of HOW we can talk about this in a way that acknowledges her parents as abusers without minimizing the impact of her actions. Any ideas? I am interested, but also hurt by how she has potentially damaged the believability of other homeschool child abuse victims.

Reply

Cindy K  June 17, 2015 4:20 am (Edit)
I am caught in an odd place in the discussion of homeschooling. My peers and closest friends homeschooled their children, and those who would even allow me into their lives as friends were few. I was a pariah to most of them. On the other hand, I identify as an adult who faced similar challenges as disenfranchised homeschoolers in terms of religion and parenting, though the details are different.

I think that perspective has a great deal to do with how one interprets a caution to consider someone who does something wrong, particularly something that results in suffering. What I see from such situations is a short term and a long term objective, both that are in the best interests of everyone who is in the midst of a complicated, messy experience. Justice is a primary and immediate concern, but the circumstances that contributed to the injustice are important in the long term — particularly if you aim at eradicating or limiting that injustice. Both elements are important, and it is dependent on focus and perspective.

When I was first exit counseled, a few weeks after leaving a very abusive church with a “selectively abusive” pastor, my counselor also said something very similar to Carmen Green’s call for cautious consideration of the bigger picture. I remember the shock and awe when it was suggested that my pastor was more trapped in the system than I was and was also a pawn who was under the thumb of others who abused him. I was angry and shocked, and I pondered what was said. (I had so many other ideas and problems to juggle at the time, so I put her comment aside to attend to more pressing matters.)

I now identify that time with the analogy of abuse as much like a violent abdominal wound. It is disabling, and it requires immediate critical care, pain management, medicine to counteract the body’s own harbored poisons, nutrition, rehabilitation and rest before someone who has sustained such an injury can be expected to have any kind of objectivity. They are rightfully concerned with their own survival and pain — which is needful for their healing. We wouldn’t expect a soldier to go back out to fight on the front lines after sustaining such an injury just a day or two after surgery. Abdominal muscles take much time to heal as well, providing protection and stability. The older one is when they sustain such an injury, the longer it takes to heal. The degree of damage suffered and the speed in which they receive adequate care also
play a significant role in how they recover. Who cares about how you’re going to manage to walk the dog when you get out of the hospital when you’re bleeding to death and your guts are hanging out?

When you’re early in the process of healing, quite understandably, what seems like support for those who do wrong and seem to get away with seemed to me like a slap in the face. It can sound as if it is some kind of justification for those who have clearly done something wrong. It’s like another shot to an already wounded gut. The more pervasive and painful the effects of a wrong done, the more strongly it impacts us. That is healthy for us because it resonates with our own pain — like something bearing witness to the own wrongs that we’ve suffered. This becomes especially hard when people seem to get away with things with no negative consequences that we can see from our vantage. We are focused on the harm and the wrong.

Fundamentalism also sees everything in terms of black and white, and when were raised to see the world in extremes, this also takes time to sort out and “unlearn.” We don’t walk away from the system that trained us and flip a switch to turn on a world of shades and hues. Especially when we are in pain, we tend to go right back to the black and white. If we’re struggling to survive, this is also healthy. When we’re triggered by things that seem unrelated but also seem so similar, we do what our brains and bodies do to protect us.

But think of the larger landscape and what might be considered in a court of law. When a criminal is tried for an alleged crime, the focus of the proceedings attempts to seek the truth regarding their guilt or innocence. The nature of the harm done to others and the details about the crime become paramount. “Just the facts, ma’am.” We often don’t see any of that when addressing unintended abuse such as is suffered in families like this one. We would like things to be laid out into the open and for all involved to show up, ready to tell the truth. Not only are many unwilling to participate in such a reckoning, many are not emotionally able. We don’t see justice, and justice is VERY HEALING. Even when someone who has been harmed like us gets some justice, we get some sense of vindication and hope.

After arriving at a just verdict, the court system holds a different proceeding to consider the consequences for the criminal/abuser/offender. The court enjoys the discretion of considering contributing factors, whether a particular consequence will adequately punish crime, whether rehabilitation might be feasible or perhaps required by law, depending on the offense. In that separate proceeding, the information concerning all of the contributing factors comes into play. Mercy is inappropriate during the first court proceeding because the objective concerns establishing guilt or innocence. In the sentencing, however, it may be something that the court might elect to consider.

Dolezal is guilty of many things. That’s necessary for the verdict. Consideration of the factors that brought her to the place that contributed to her guilty actions comes into play when society figures out not only what to require of her but also what duty we all have to society to
stem those factors. Each is significant and vital, and each is inappropriate when applied wrongly, depending on the long term vs the short term objective.

Reply
Cindy K  June 17, 2015 4:36 am (Edit)
After getting that tome out of my system, a more direct answer might be that though it might “feel” like something that minimizes the impact of her actions, but only if you let it. Abusers use things like this to lessen their own guilt and blame shift. Other abusers use such things to add to their own moral disenagagement. You personally don’t have to fall into that trap (though many people will and do). Society at large, a court, or an employer doesn’t have to use such info about the parents as justification, either.

Reply
Holly  June 17, 2015 3:19 pm (Edit)
Hmm, it sounds as though you just used fundamentalism as an accusation against those of us who are concerned with the fact that Ms. Dolezal did indeed appropriate a culture that is less privileged than her own. It is not, in fact, a sign of black-and-white thinking to acknowledge that Ms. Dolezal is apparently not being honest and that she has hurt others. I am not responsible for forgiving her. She did not hurt me. I will not take on that role.

sheila0405  June 17, 2015 3:24 pm (Edit)
Well, if she took out student loans to help her pay for her tuition at Howard, then she used our tax dollars to further her deceit. But I see a woman who was broken long before she started lying and manipulating others. I hope she gets the help she desperately needs.

Cindy K  June 17, 2015 4:33 pm (Edit)
Holly, I’m sorry that I failed to communicate my meaning. I hoped to echo the spirit what I understood the authors here to stress. I endeavored to affirm that exploitation and abuse should never be excused by any means; that life is not often fair when it comes to just consequences for those who exploit and harm others; and that the effort to understand and prevent such exploitation (consideration of alleged abuse that possibly fostered the development of an abuser) has value. The latter can seem like an affront to justice, but not if it is a consideration that aims at stopping or limiting any and all abuse. I apologize if I implied or stated anything other than that.

WantNoFollows (@WantNoFollows)  June 16, 2015 1:42 pm (Edit)
you just don’t get it. she LIED. should we excuse Ted Bundy of his murders because he was abused as a child? do you want us to excuse Josh Duggar of what he did because of his religious homeschooling background?

many children have been abused but don’t grow up to lie or worse. don’t you get it? we are not sorry for any abuse Rachel suffered, just saying it doesn’t excuse what SHE did.
R.L. Stollar June 16, 2015 1:58 pm (Edit)
“This statement is not meant in any way to dismiss the wrongness of cultural appropriation or the lies stated by Rachel regarding her history.”

“Abuse victims are complicated people. They can and do hurt others. They can and do make awful decisions.”

No one is saying her history of abuse excuses what she currently is doing or has done. In fact, we said the opposite.

Reply

Marilyn Martinez June 17, 2015 1:42 am (Edit)
Are there recorded abuse allegations against the Dolezals? Are their police reports re allegations? Any actual charges and prosecution? Civil cases? Not unbelieving of victims’ stories, but am interested in learning if these things do exist.

sheila0405 June 17, 2015 5:47 am (Edit)
Read more of this blog and follow links to others. Of course there are no police reports. The people in these cults do not report any abuse to the police. Everything is handled within the church. I spent all of last summer researching this. It’s really quite chilling.

Yasmin June 17, 2015 12:06 pm (Edit)
Are there records?

There are no records of my child abuse and yet it still exists.

If you think that records are required then you are silencing a vast number of survivors of abuse.

R.L. Stollar June 17, 2015 1:06 pm (Edit)
Is this in response to me? If so, no, I don’t think records are required at all. There are no records of my child abuse either. I will always side with survivors regardless of "records."

sheila0405 June 16, 2015 2:30 pm (Edit)
Of course lying is wrong. But it’s a matter of degree. Comparing her to Ted Bundy is ridiculous.

Reply

Monique Gordon June 17, 2015 10:40 am (Edit)
It seems that some readers of this post have poor comprehension. Don’t waste your time trying to explain. You will become mentally drained.

Monk June 16, 2015 3:12 pm (Edit)
She is not the first victim of abuse to react in an extreme way. We are not validating her reaction. Merely discussing it. Check out the story of Binjamin Wilskorski who underwent very real abuse, but wound up writing the memoir of Holocaust survival that was very fraudulent.

Was her behavior inappropriate? Yes. Justifiable? Depends. But it was a reaction of a very, very real hurt. Her behavior had no intent to cause harm, but her parents did. Her parents behavior reeks of emotional manipulation and public shaming.

Reply

TruthCaster  June 17, 2015 6:48 am (Edit)
Rachel is clearly very good at lying, so forgive me if I don’t believe a single word out of her mouth about her “troubled past.”

Cheryl Folston  June 16, 2015 6:35 pm (Edit)
Are you her parent because you sure sound like it? “Dont you get it, she lied”. LOL, like you never lied. And quite possibly she didn’t. Sounds like a complicated situation here. I feel very sorry for her.

Reply

Kristin James  June 16, 2015 7:10 pm (Edit)
quoting WantNoFollows: we are not sorry for any abuse Rachel suffered, just saying it doesn’t excuse what SHE did.
Did you really mean to say that you are not sorry that Rachel suffered abuse?

Reply

kat  June 17, 2015 8:28 am (Edit)
Are we just taking the word of a pathological liar that there was abuse in the home?

R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 11:16 am (Edit)
No, there are court affidavits from the alleged victims.

Ashley  June 16, 2015 7:18 pm (Edit)
She is mentally ill, delusional, and no wonder, if her upbringing was as described here.

Reply

Northman  June 17, 2015 8:34 am (Edit)
And as of right now thats a big “if”. Right now the “allegations” of abuse are just that, allegations, not fact. The other problem here is the claim that her parents outed her in retaliation. But that is incorrect. Its been widely reported that a reporter actually sought out the family and asked them questions when following up on Rachel’s claim of a hate crime against her. When it was discovered that she was actually white and not black is when the story began to rise to a whole new level. The family could of “outed” her a long time ago if they were truly looking to damage her but instead answered questions honestly about their daughter when confronted by the reporter. I’ve said a few days ago i felt she needed to step
down (to which she ultimately did) but that the NAACP should find another role for her in the organization since she had been doing a good job. The problem was that she was deceitful and disingenuous on her rise up the ladder. At the end of the day integrity and honesty should matter as it directly effects ones personal character. As for the alleged abuse by the parents, until that is verified it is nothing more than just speculation at this time.

Holly  June 17, 2015 7:38 pm (Edit)
Please don’t attempt to diagnose someone over the internet. This is not appropriate.

Jo  June 16, 2015 8:03 pm (Edit)
Comparing her to Ted Bundy or even to Josh Duggar is absurd. Lying is not, in any way, the same thing as murder or molestation. Molestation is never excusable. Killing someone is only excusable in self defense (real self defense, not Zimmerman self defense). Lying is a thing that human beings do every single day. It’s part of what separates us from other animals. And while her lies are a lot bigger and more problematic than telling a friend you love their terrible new haircut, the idea that they are anywhere on the level of Josh Duggar or Ted Bundy is ludicrous.

I find the Duggar comparison interesting, though. Odd choice. You do realize that she was raised and abused in that same type of household, and has been helping literally save the lives of her abused adopted siblings. She told a really big, really awful lie. But to compare her to Josh Duggar doesn’t even make sense. She’s fighting against, basically, the Duggars.

Reply
  Mike Frye  June 16, 2015 11:17 pm (Edit)
You equate pretending to be Black with being a serial killer? are you deranged?

Reply
  Evelyn Cook  June 17, 2015 6:36 am (Edit)
The comparison is ridiculous. Ted Bundy murdered many people.

Reply
  Brian R.  June 17, 2015 10:32 am (Edit)
Seriously? You are making those comparisons?

That is just plain crazy.

Reply
  Headless Unicorn Guy  June 17, 2015 10:41 am (Edit)
you just don’t get it. she LIED. should we excuse Ted Bundy of his murders because he was abused as a child? do you want us to excuse Josh Duggar of what he did because of his religious homeschooling background?

Can you say “Sin-Levelling”?
Just usually Sin-Levelling goes in the opposite direction. As in “You told a fib when you were 5; that makes you just as much a SINNER SINNER SINNER as Adolf Hitler AND Ted Bundy!!!!!!”

Reply
Tere June 17, 2015 3:27 pm (Edit)
Are you really comparing what Ted Bundy did to this situation? If it turns out she was in fact abused it could explain why she wants to identify as someone else. Who knows what the real story is. Bottom line she didn’t murder anyone so please don’t try to use that as your argument.

Reply
Kristin Rawls (@kristinrawls) June 16, 2015 1:47 pm (Edit)
I mentioned on twitter that I suspected this on the first day based on the picture with the prairie dress and the adoption of four black children. I’m aware that various white homeschooling fundamentalists see black children as a “mission field.” I also noted that they had been described as “Pentecostal homesteaders.” I have no doubt that your sources who knew the family are telling the truth.

That said, I am also concerned that Rachel herself may be a child abuser. She is the only person in question who currently has a minor child in her home, other than the brother charged with molestation. There have been indications that she herself is the architect of death threats against her own son, and that she may have placed the noose in her mailbox. If she has convinced her middle school-age son that he is under threat of imminent death, she is an abuser. And she has committed hate crimes against her own son, who is actually black. That is what I’m most concerned about at the moment, and it astonishes me that the media has not thought about this.

Reply
anonymous June 16, 2015 2:04 pm (Edit)
I’ve been reading a lot of African American media on the subject, and I agree this is something that deserves more focus.

Reply
Cheryl Folston June 16, 2015 6:38 pm (Edit)
I’m sorry but that really doesn’t make any sense what you just said. When I see someone writing like this it makes me think of her parents trying to discredit her. Everyone needs to think about why her parents are outing her like this. WHY?

Reply
flamidwyfe June 16, 2015 7:05 pm (Edit)
Your compassion is beautiful. Just thought I’d tell you that.

Tip June 17, 2015 4:31 am (Edit)
Every woman that has a black child unfortunately HAS to have that talk with her child he IS in constant fear. It’s her job to explain why and ways to protect himself just to make it home each day. I know you can’t understand this. But if nothing else you do remember Trayvon Martin.

Reply

Headless Unicorn Guy June 17, 2015 10:44 am (Edit)
I mentioned on twitter that I suspected this on the first day based on the picture with the prairie dress and the adoption of four black children.

Just out of curiosity, was the “prairie dress” in question an actual 19th Century “sack dress” (completely shapeless) or the 1950s Hollywood version of a prairie dress (showing some of the female figure) used in Fifties/Sixties Westerns, Little House on the Prairie, and FLDS plural wife compounds?

Reply

Anonymous June 16, 2015 1:52 pm (Edit)
At the end of the day she’s a scammer. What is more interesting is that this abusive couple was able to adopt four black children. I think that deserves attention- children of color in the adoption system are very vulnerable. Adoption has been popular in Christian circles for a long time, and abusive fundamentalist groups have started to acquire children that they treat horribly. I believe adoption agencies and the foster care system alike need to be aware of this. And act on it.

Reply

R.L. Stollar June 16, 2015 1:59 pm (Edit)
Have you read Kathryn Joyce’s book on the subject? It’s quite eye-opening:

Reply

cagey June 16, 2015 2:10 pm (Edit)
As someone who survived and graduated from CLASS, I cringe every time I see the program mentioned in association with this woman, as if it had something to do with her parents behavior or worse still, her own behavior. I do have some insight into how her educational background in CLASS literature may have shaped her interest in African American culture as a child, but it certainly didn’t lead her into the extreme psychosis and insulting behavior for personal gain we see now.

Reply

Brian R. June 17, 2015 10:30 am (Edit)
My condolences to you for suffering that cult programming. Even the website for CLASS Homeschools is creepy. While the religious programming itself may have not played a role in her delusions, Rachel’s parents could easily have done some severe damage to her on a psychological development.

Reply
Abuse leads to extreme psychosis and other issues. It derails your life and you learn a lot of coping skills, many of which are detrimental in the long term.

I can totally see why a black identity would be appealing to someone in her situation. It makes it easier to separate herself from her abusers. It doesn’t make what she did right, but it makes it understandable.

Reply

cagey June 17, 2015 4:23 pm (Edit)
Unfortunately I cannot see any links between abuse and her decision to ”cope” by pretending to be African-American. She makes no claims in fact that any abuse she may or may not have suffered is related to her ”feeling black”. Being that I did graduate from the same program though, I understand this particular kind of homeschool may have made her feel a desire to become extremely interested in African-American studies, especially if she had a questioning mind of the subjects she was forced to learn. I can safely say I know she more than likely ”self-taught” the majority of her entire adolescent education with this program, that she would have grappled disgust at the more negative aspects of coursework (involving slavery, the Civil War with a positive slant, a lack of information/false information about African-American history), and perhaps interest in her own adopted siblings. The link of wanting to be more like her adopted siblings would make more sense if they had largely grown up together. But… she was born in 1977, and her siblings did not enter the family until 1995. Her sister, Esther, claims it’s a shame it all boils down to race. And she’s right, it is a shame. It is a shame that Rachel needed to pretend to be something she’s not (whether it’s intentional or out of psychosis) to accomplish all that she has or to be an advocate. I am sympathetic if there is any truth to abuse in her upbringing, but her long history of false actions now are damaging to race relations, abuse victims, and homeschoolers alike.

sheila0405 June 16, 2015 2:28 pm (Edit)
Thank you for this! From the very beginning, I found the actions of Rachel’s parents reprehensible. This was obviously a family matter. To go on national tv and trash talk their own daughter was horrific to witness.. I have two grown children and I’d NEVER do that to them, no matter what they chose to do in life. The parents are the real bullies here. I posted this on my fb page.

Reply

Debbie Key June 16, 2015 5:07 pm (Edit)
My understanding is that her parents did not out her. . . .they were contacted by a reporter doing a story on the death threats. Can anyone confirm or deny?
I’ve read multiple reports that the reporter was doing a story on Rachel because of her role supporting her brother’s victim in the abuse case and that it had nothing to do with the death threats.

mrtapeguy  June 17, 2015 2:43 am (Edit)
That is accurate. They didn’t initiate anything. Should they have remained silent? Perhaps. But why should they have to deny they are her parents?

sheila0405  June 17, 2015 5:29 am (Edit)
I think you’re right. IMHO the right words to the media should have been “no comment. she’s our daughter’.

Person  June 17, 2015 6:23 am (Edit)
The Spokane station that broke the story has a very in-depth article on how this all came down. It confirms they reached out to the parents “on a phone number found through a simple search”.

anonymous  June 16, 2015 5:49 pm (Edit)
Well, she did have a very public position that centered around her identity, so I do feel they were morally obligated, when asked, to tell the truth. But why would a person do such a strange thing? Many an abusive upbringing had something to do with it?

Reply
Headless Unicorn Guy  June 17, 2015 10:47 am (Edit)
Well, Bruce/Caitlin Jenner gets all this CELEBRITY support for His/Her gender identity, why the opposite reaction for Rachel Doelzal’s ethnic identity? “A black woman trapped in a white woman’s body” doesn’t sound that different from “a woman trapped in a man’s body” — or does the Race Card trump all other trump cards?

Sylvia  June 16, 2015 7:54 pm (Edit)
Agreed.

Reply
Monique Gordon  June 17, 2015 10:43 am (Edit)
I agree. Something is not right about those people. I can’t call them parents.

Reply
Amy  June 16, 2015 5:21 pm (Edit)
This doesn’t even make sense to me; it’s based on speculation and further more the parents role in the Rachel drama is one of stating their daughters race which was brought out when a reporter called and asked if Rachel is their daughter. I do recognize there are some layers to this family dynamics however we are not privy of court case info. Rachel’s ‘judgement’ in the media is based on her own issues she is having to face now as consequences in which she continues her poor
attempt of rationalization. 
If in fact her bio brother did this then he has consequences as does the rest of the family. 
This does not excuse Rachel’s behavior which has affected many in her sphere. 2 separate issues.

Reply

Eric London  June 16, 2015 5:41 pm (Edit)
The “national media?” Could you be a teensy bit more specific. Your accusatory brush has a pretty wide swath. I know it’s easy to take shots at the media as of they are some sort of singly entity — which, of course, they are not. Maybe you might want to give some examples.

Reply

Morénike  June 16, 2015 6:04 pm (Edit)
Important point that wasn’t mentioned here: the “black child” Joshua Dolezal “allegedly” sexually abused was his younger sister (the Dolezal’s adopted daughter.) But her allegations are being dismissed as “lies” due to her supposed “RAD.”

Of course.

Reply

Holly  June 17, 2015 7:44 pm (Edit)
It’s pretty disgusting. Regardless of what Ms. Dolezal did, her sister deserves to be heard and treated fairly by both the media and the justice system. Right now it sounds as though there are several sources who confirm at least physical abuse of the younger adopted siblings.

Reply

lori morgan  June 16, 2015 6:05 pm (Edit)
So let me get this straight.. She was abused… So if thats the case the people that blew the whistle on her.. Here she has this massive amount of ammo and nothing..based on hear say this is to be true… Hmmmmm and your info came from where?

Reply

R.L. Stollar  June 16, 2015 6:54 pm (Edit)
The article already states where the information came from.

Reply

Pingback: There’s More To This Than Meets The Eye | Why Not Train A Child? (Edit)

Ashley  June 16, 2015 7:26 pm (Edit)
Similarities in child-rearing (glue sticks) with that promoted by The Remnant Fellowship here in Franklin, TN.

Reply

tambrathegreat  June 16, 2015 8:46 pm (Edit)
I think her story and actions go deeper than just scamming. I really get the feeling that she honestly believes herself to be African American. I thought there was some deeper story to her actions than what were first reported, and this explains a lot to me. That I recognize this doesn’t excuse her actions, it just explains them to me.

Reply

OutsideLookingIn  June 17, 2015 7:55 am (Edit)
The problem with that theory is that she’s on video being asked about her race, and she hems and haws and evades. She claims not to understand the question (?!). Then the reporter presses and she just walks off. If she believed she was African American, then that question is pretty easy to answer. Her response there suggested to me that she knew exactly what she was doing.

Here’s the vid (start at the 8:17 mark): https://youtu.be/oKRj_h7vmMM?t=8m17s

That being said, it doesn’t mean that she’s not a victim of abuse by her parents and I do think that’s an important aspect to examine here. Unfortunately, it doesn’t excuse her behavior in my mind but it might provide useful context.

Reply

Headless Unicorn Guy  June 17, 2015 10:49 am (Edit)
I wonder if this is some sort of “ethnic identity discrepancy” similar to Bruce/Caitlin Jenner’s “gender identity discrepancy”.

Reply

findingyourblessings  June 16, 2015 9:36 pm (Edit)
Reblogged this on God does reassemble shattered pieces and commented:
If we only knew the whole story why people make some of the decisions they make. …..

Reply

Liz Nagle  June 16, 2015 10:07 pm (Edit)
Nope. Her adopted brother has come out to say that she fabricated abuse details to get custody of him and the other kids.
“She was treated really well as a child,” he said, adding, “I think I would know if I was abused growing up, and I definitely wasn’t.”

Reply

R.L. Stollar  June 16, 2015 10:26 pm (Edit)
You’re quoting her adopted brother Ezra. Her other adopted brother Izaiah has claimed his parents were abusive and the sexual abuse claims are from another sibling.

Reply

Headless Unicorn Guy  June 17, 2015 10:49 am (Edit)
Sounds like we have a “WHOSE TRUTH?” situation.

sheila0405    June 17, 2015 5:43 am (Edit)
Yea, the Duggar girls say the same thing–they completely minimize what was done to them. Denying abuse is very common in this cohort.

Reply

Katie @ Stress and Stars    June 17, 2015 10:36 am (Edit)
especially if you’re still financially dependent on or emotionally connected to your abusers.

Drafty Meadows    June 16, 2015 10:35 pm (Edit)
There are no excuses for Rachel any more than there are for Josh Duggar. Where the two stories coincide are they were both homeschooled and their parents were fundamental Christians. What really makes my blood boil is that article after article is written on the subject and it’s not the crazy, cult like evangelicals that appear in their attention getting headline. No… It’s homeschooling. Yes… They were homeschooled but homeschooling does not lead to abuse nor crazy cult like behavior. The Pearls did not write a book about how to homeschool. They wrote a book about how to beat the crap out of your child when they aren’t being submissive and feel guilt free by doing it in the name of Jesus! Most of us don’t homeschool so that we can cover up child abuse. We homeschool because we love our children and want to do the very best by them. So maybe, just maybe instead of looking at homeschooling as the culprit in these types of abuse issues, we could look to the real source… Fundamental religion.

Reply

R.L. Stollar    June 16, 2015 10:40 pm (Edit)
“There are no excuses for Rachel any more than there are for Josh Duggar.”

Definitely agreed. Both are well into their adulthood and have assumed positions of privilege and power and are thus responsible for their actions.

Reply

Mike Frye    June 16, 2015 11:20 pm (Edit)
Privilege and power as a volunteer at the Podunk WA NAACP? WTF?

anonymous    June 17, 2015 4:56 am (Edit)
There is an overlap between fundamentalist homeschooling and Pearlesque abuse. YOU are not a child abuser, but the homeschooling movement as a whole has had a dark side since its inception. Rather than try to actually protect homeschooled kids, the primary reaction of members has been denial, blame on liberals, and hysterical fears of government intrusion. Please don’t come here to explain to victims of the movement where they need to correct themselves. You are probably an excellent homeschooler and by all means, let your light shine before all men. Also take a stand against abuse in the movement. Acknowledge that it’s there, and try raise awareness and promote safer norms to protect children.
Reply
cizarny76 June 16, 2015 11:42 pm (Edit)
Are people really comparing a pedophile molester to this girl who lied about her ethnicity? Calling it the same? Did I really just read that???

Reply
Headless Unicorn Guy June 17, 2015 10:50 am (Edit)
It’s called “Sin-Levelling”, but it’s usually done in the other direction.

Reply
Rulon James Downard (@RJDownard) June 17, 2015 12:12 am (Edit)
From here in Spokane it’s been interesting following the national fuss our local case has spawned, but the connection made here to homeschooling and in turn to Creation Ministries International (which is a full tilt creationist organization that often shows up in grassroots antievolutionist apologetics) was a most interesting set of links. I will be adding this post to my #TIP resources http://www.tortucan.wordpress.com as I continue to cover the antievolution scene and its sundry allies.

Reply
Mindi June 17, 2015 12:16 am (Edit)
Rachel is a pathological liar. What part of that don’t you understand? She brainwashed her own adopted brother into thinking her parents were racist. She manipulated people into thinking she was black and came up with false stories of her as a victimized black woman. Rachel fabricated hate crimes against her getting police involved. How are you for sure she wouldn’t manipulate a little girl into thinking someone sexually abused her? She views her family as a threat to her false identity as they know all. The reporters went to the parents. The parents did not come to them.

Reply
Tip June 17, 2015 4:45 am (Edit)
She may have lied about a lot of things, but to be able to describe the suffering and mistreatment of being a black woman like she did was as true as red white and blue. It happened. You will never understand. But I do because I’m BLACK

Reply
Catherine June 17, 2015 12:27 am (Edit)
I read someone comparing this woman to Ted Bundy! Really? One kwas a serial killer and the other claimed to be Black! Are those two acts remotely similar? Didn’t think so! Doh!

Reply
Pingback: Here’s What Joshua Dolezal Wrote About His and Rachel Dolezal’s Christian Fundamentalist Upbringing | Homeschoolers Anonymous (Edit)

Diana Brancoveanu June 17, 2015 1:56 am (Edit)
the privilege and power position is bizarre. Arguably she is an intelligent person and as a white woman she could have advanced faster. If anything by claiming to be black she made her own life harder.

But in light of what we are reading here and assuming it was true- is it possible that she felt a deeper connection to her black adopted brothers than with her white family which led to a psychosis that made her feel that she was oppressed therefore she was black?

Reply
mrtapeguy  June 17, 2015 2:41 am (Edit)
While I’m no fan of religious fundamentalism, where is the proof that Rachel’s allegations are accurate. Have any of the 4 boys corroborated her claims? The far left loves to find dirt on anyone who is a more traditional Christian, such as the Duggars…so to claim the media has an agenda while pretending as if you don’t is pretty darn funny.

I am amazed that anyone is defending this woman. At worst if these allegations are true, was it appropriate for her to repeatedly lie as she decided to become someone other than who she is? Maybe she doesn’t want them to be her parents but they are.

Giving them the benefit of the doubt, it’s quite possible that if these allegations are false, this woman has basically disowned the very people who introduced her into black culture to start with. They certainly aren’t racists but she’s not just turned her younger brother against them but against all white people. She’s spoken out against white actors playing black roles. Seriously?

Time will tell if the parents were guilty of any wrongdoing but whatever they did doesn’t justify her actions.

Reply
mrtapeguy  June 17, 2015 2:44 am (Edit)
“We have also heard testimonies from numerous homeschool alumni who grew up knowing the Dolezal family that frequent and significant child abuse occurred in the family. The parents allegedly forced both Rachel and her older, biological brother Joshua to beat their younger, adopted siblings with plumbing supply line and two foot long glue sticks….”

Serious allegations. Source?

Reply
thegoldenjade8  June 17, 2015 3:29 am (Edit)
I’ve worked with a lot of people from abusive homes and many of them have ‘invented’ idyllic childhoods that they didn’t really have, or have re-invented themselves to escape their past. Many children become very bright or even psychic, so they can read the adults around them better, to protect themselves. Since this happens from babyhood even, it becomes very ingrained. Anne Heche is a good example of this and luckily, she received good therapy. I have nothing but compassion for Rachel but I strongly urge her to find a very good therapist. Since abuse usually
causes children to compartmentalize or ‘split’, hypnotherapy is best. Abused siblings can go
together, to support each other and then, the therapist can determine if her behavior is hurting the
sibling that she has custody of. The state should definitely be investigating her parents, as well.
The statute of limitations on child abuse can probably be waived, in light of the successful
Catholic class-action lawsuits, of late. None of us can fathom or understand the programming that
Rachel has received, so I feel for her and her brother but it’s true, she doesn’t realize that she may
be mentally harming him and needs help.

Reply
Rocky       June 17, 2015 5:39 am (Edit)
As enlightening as this post was there sure are some ignorant people leaving comments… Thanks
to the author for showing us another side to consider. Everyone is always quick to say “No
excuses” until something happens to make them consider a grey area..

Reply
Maber       June 17, 2015 6:24 am (Edit)
Honestly, I wish the title said “fundamentalist” instead of “homeschooling.” They’re not
interchangeable.

That said, I whole heartedly agree with everything that you said. Yes, she’s a fraud. And I
absolutely believe that is a result of a childhood home full of hidden abuses.

Regarding her “brainwashing” the alleged victim, the victim is an adult that reached out to her
when her abuser had a child (and full access to a new potential victim. The parents’ assertions that
one adopted child is mentally ill, one biological child is a sociopath, and the two that are on their
side are the only believable ones are ludicrous.

Reply
R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 11:23 am (Edit)
This is our first piece about the situation and our primary audience are current and former
homeschool students and parents, hence the inclusion of “homeschooling” in the title.

And incidentally, our new post today about the situation uses “fundamentalist” instead of
homeschooling. So we’re on the same page.
https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/2015/06/17/heres-what-joshua-dolezal-
wrote-about-his-and-rachel-dolezals-christian-fundamentalist-upbringing/

Reply
Anthea      June 17, 2015 6:30 am (Edit)
“the homeschooling movement as a whole has had a dark side since its inception” Do you mean
the modern homeschooling American movement? (Just so that people don’t think that every
home educator the whole world over is part of a movement.)
Anthea  June 17, 2015 6:52 am (Edit)
BTW, I am in the UK. Our local council has disbanded the Home Education Advisory Service, which liaised with parents and kept contact with families. Our advisor has seen us 8 times in the last 7 years. Now we have been allocated to the Educational Welfare Service — all of us. This dept was set up for truanting children. i.e., schoolchildren who are not receiving an adequate education because they are truanting. Sometimes there will be family issues, I suppose.

By reallocating us to this dept, our local council has de facto declared all home educating parents to be neglectful, whose children are not receiving an adequate education. We are all lumped in together. So stereotyping of home educators does happen, and it has consequences. In the UK, some parents take children out of a school system that has left them broken and traumatised, and they have a very different attitude to home education. Before you blast me and accuse me of not taking abuse seriously, it is possible to be concerned about abuse and make fair, nuanced statements.

This tragic story of someone “passing as white” has gone around the world, but it is not about the whole world, and that statement I quoted above is a gross generalisation. For what it’s worth, most British people guessed that the lady must have suffered a trauma to make her adopt a new personality, and many thought that she was reacting to it by moving to another “camp”. As a black woman — and the mother of mixed race children — I did not condemn her, I was just confused. Now we know that she was reacting to painful events and fractured relationships.

Reply
DK  June 17, 2015 6:53 am (Edit)
Do you clowns just suck anything you read on the internet?????? Were there police reports of abuse??? Who is reporting the abuse and where they in the house with this nut case????? I love how the “media” have to make the parents out to be the bad guys when SHE is the one lying and putting on a false face (so to speak).

Reply
R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 11:19 am (Edit)
Yes, the oldest brother is out on bail.

And there are court affidavits from the alleged victims.

Reply
Pat M.  June 17, 2015 7:24 am (Edit)
She is a white female, not black. If she wants to pretend...so be it. But all of this ” I feel” crap is nothing but that. I feel I’m 6 ft. tall but that doesn’t make it true. If the allegations regarding her real dad are true then she learned her life of deceit from him. oh wait....you didn’t hear? She earned a degree in ” experimental art studies” from Howard U. Oh yeah...Howard U doesn’t offer any such program! She is a lying scam artist!
Did anyone bother to click on the links? The abuse and death of Hana was done by a COMPLETELY DIFFERENT family. They were sent to jail in 2013 for 30 years and look nothing like Rachel Dozel’s parents.

...of course it’s a different family. That’s why they have different last names.

It seems as though the only time we consider issues of mental illness and abuse are when White people have committed crimes and hurt others. We are always searching for the root cause or the real reason which is not a courtesy we allow people of color. When people of color commit crimes or hurt others there is no other explanation there is no exploration of history of abuse or mental illness. I honestly could care less about this story because all it is doing is taking attention and meaningful conversation away from actual issues that effect Black women and other people of color, the McKinney incident for example. This is not uncommon though, we are obsessed with the death of and violence against Black bodies until a White person does something more interesting.

Reblogged this on Simone Samuels and commented:
The plot thickens…there are so many layers to this story. I think we’ve only scratched the surface.

And what proof is there of this abuse other than her word? And we already know SHE lies. We have no evidence the parents do other than what she tells us but… she lies.

So…

Court affidavits from the alleged victims.

Sounds like someone has an agenda involving religion based home schooling! Even if any of this is true it has no bearing on the facts involving this women’s lying. As an adult he has strong narcissistic behavioral corrector problems, given that she seems to show little remorse.
R.L. Stollar June 17, 2015 1:08 pm (Edit)
“This statement is not meant in any way to dismiss the wrongness of cultural appropriation or the lies stated by Rachel regarding her history.”

Already beat you to it.

Lynn June 17, 2015 12:51 pm (Edit)
My understanding is that while affidavits have been submitted, no findings have been files. The allegations are still, in fact, allegations. She also sued Howard University in 2002 and filed affidavits alleging discrimination that the court ruled as unfounded. She had to reimburse the university for it’s fees. Be wary of using affidavits that are submitted evidence as a judgement.

R.L. Stollar June 17, 2015 1:11 pm (Edit)
I don’t think affidavits are conclusive proof. I was responding to the comment, “We have no evidence the parents do other than what she tells us,” and my response was pointing that there are affidavits from people other than her, namely, the alleged victims (one brother and one sister).

Eri June 17, 2015 9:04 am (Edit)
“Every time we go after Rachel, we are doing exactly what her abusive parents want.” “They want you to believe that she is lying about them.”

I don’t believe she’s lying about *them*. I believe she’s lying about Herself. Simple.

My speculation: She was abused and felt that her parents loved her black, adopted, sibling(s?) more than her, so she grew up wishing she were black (which she equated with lovable to her parents).

Reply
Lisa (@OrganicHSL) June 17, 2015 9:16 am (Edit)
According to the news reports, Rachel was only partly “homeschooled” for *part* of her high school years. She was 17 yrs old when Michael Pearl published his book on “child discipline”. I do see similarities between the baboon whip and Pearl’s plumbing supply line, but connecting the two as if her parents may have used his books is quite a stretch. It sounds like the alleged child abuse was happening early on in their cult lifestyle and had nothing to do with “homeschooling”. Is there even any solid connection at all to her parents even being a part of that Pearl movement or is it more possible that they were racist parents who used back woods cult abuse as “child discipline”?

According to reports, Rachel moved away at the age of 19 to be wed and attained a full scholarship for college. She must have been educated quite well to have achieved that scholarship and to have gotten as far as she has in her career. I’m interested in knowing what her education
consisted of prior to her high school years. How much public school was involved, if any school officials ever reported signs of abuse, etc.

Reply

R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 11:14 am (Edit)
They didn’t get the adopted children until around the time she was 17. It was when the oldest son Joshua was in his senior year:
https://homeschoolersanonymous.wordpress.com/2015/06/17/heres-what-joshua-dolezal-wrote-about-his-and-rachel-dolezals-christian-fundamentalist-upbringing/ The information from our sources didn’t say Rachel herself was subjected to Pearl-like corporal punishment but that the adopted siblings were.

Reply

Lisa Elaine Scott  June 17, 2015 9:21 am (Edit)
How can we discuss this without minimizing her actions? WTF? What actions? No one has been harmed. Why is this even a story? Again the mainstream press has glommed onto this story to improve ratings. This woman has done nothing wrong. WHY aren’t we having a national firestorm about the fact that 20 year old Andrea Farrington was murdered by Alex Kozak because she told him to leave her alone. WHY isn’t this where our outrage is?

Reply

Greg  June 17, 2015 9:34 am (Edit)
Proof? If there was proof, the media would be all over it.

Reply

Brian R.  June 17, 2015 10:11 am (Edit)
I have been of the opinion that Homeschooling itself is a form of abusive, as it intentionally isolates children from their peers, and allows parents to maintain a very unhealthy level of control over their children.

The homeschooling relationship is also very similar to the pattern of abuse suffered by many women, whose husbands/partners isolate them from social contacts and control their ability to communicate with family members.

Homeschooling is the perfect environment for abusive parents to operate, and allows for unrestrained physical and psychological torture to be used as a means of behavioral manipulation.

I personally have a lot of sympathy for home-schooled children, especially those who are isolated in a religious-based setting and prevented from being exposed to alternative information. The false assumption is that any parent is just as qualified to provide a well-rounded and comprehensive education for their children. In practice, it allows parents to restrict information from their children and force them into a predetermined belief system.
I see no place for homeschooling in a free society.

Reply
  Brian J. Birmingham   June 17, 2015 10:12 am (Edit)
She lied and lied and lied. Then we she got busted, she played the victim some more and justified everything. No remorse, no apologies, no admission of guilt. She offers only justifications and poses as the victim some more. I say the fact that she is a former homeschooled kid has little to nothing to do with it. She’s a psychopath. What’s so complicated about it?

Reply
  Linda Rosa   June 17, 2015 10:13 am (Edit)
It is possible that Larry and Ruthanne Dolezal were also involved in a highly abusive practice called Attachment Therapy/Parenting (aka Holding Therapy, Rebirthing, Rage Reduction, Nancy Thomas parenting, etc.) which has been especially popular in that area of Colorado. (A 10yo girl was killed in an Attachment Therapy session in Evergreen, Colorado.)

Why I suspect this is because a PEOPLE magazine article reveals that the Ruthanne claims the [victim] adoptive daughter has “Reactive Attachment Disorder,” but describes this rare disorder not as is done in the DSM, but as this fringe practice does:

“Ruthanne [adoptive mother] says the victim [adoptive daughter] suffers from reactive attachment disorder, a condition in which a child can’t bond with a parent or caregiver, and ‘seeks to cause trouble in the family…. I was a stay-at-home mother and very attentive to the kids because of her disorder. I never left her at home with our son or anything like that.’ ”

For reliable information about Attachment Therapy/Parenting:

http://www.childrenintherapy.org/essays/index.html

Reply
  Holly   June 17, 2015 7:36 pm (Edit)
Thanks for bringing this up.

Reply
  Rena   June 17, 2015 10:22 am (Edit)
With all the lies she has perpetrated against others and the lie she was living I have a huge problem believing that she was abused and that her brother also abused anyone. I home-schooled my girls and at no time did I ever abuse them or have anything to hide.

Reply
  Holly   June 17, 2015 7:37 pm (Edit)
Her siblings’ history, of abuse is not negated by her behavior.
Brian J. Birmingham  June 17, 2015 12:06 pm (Edit)
Ooooooh, so the REAL victim here is Rachel Dolezal herself, right? Is THAT what Ryan Stollar is say saying?

Reply
   R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 1:07 pm (Edit)
   Nope, not what I’m saying.

Reply
   Lynn  June 17, 2015 12:43 pm (Edit)
I’m sorry, but I don’t believe that any amount of childhood abuse justifies or excuses staging hate crimes. Her actions have been targeted to inflame relationships, bring out bad relationships, and possibly incite violence or hate. I’m sick and tired of reading articles and blogs that only want to talk about pieces of the fraud this woman has perpetrated. This is my community. I am NOT okay with what she has done. And the charges of abuse are allegations. As you caution people to only discuss Rachel Dolezal with respect to what she has been through, perhaps we should all only talk about the parents as alleged abusers. I know the reporter who broke this story. The parents did NOT approach the media. She and her team approached them. They were hesitant to talk about Rachel at all, until they heard the scope of multiple false police reports being filed.

Reply
   R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 1:12 pm (Edit)
   I don’t believe that any amount of childhood abuse justifies or excuses staging hate crimes, either, and I am not okay with what she has done. That was already stated in the original piece.

Reply
   jsd  June 17, 2015 1:36 pm (Edit)
Thanks for writing this. I haven’t listened to any of her interviews, but i suspected her tying to make herself into a completely different person was an effort to sever her ties with her abusive white parents and align herself with her adopted siblings who she felt more of a connection with. Her story should be one of a hurt woman who went to bizarre measures to distance herself from those who abused her. The wrong that was done by her parents was huge and terrible. What she did seems complicated and personal.

Reply
   Brian J. Birmingham  June 17, 2015 1:42 pm (Edit)
Then what ARE you saying, Mr. Stollar?

Reply
   R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 1:51 pm (Edit)
I am saying what I already said, which was, “This statement is not meant in any way to dismiss the wrongness of cultural appropriation or the lies stated by Rachel regarding her history. This statement does, however, add another dimension of complexity to this whole story that needs to be considered.”

Reply

Lynn  June 17, 2015 2:01 pm (Edit)
But it’s MORE than cultural appropriation. The painted swastika…. the “hate mail”… the nooses…. ALL investigated. ALL pointing back to her. THESE are the issues that spurred the original reporter to investigate. I don’t feel you can have a true conversation about cultural appropriation without consideration to the sabotage she was instigating in the very community she was thought to be helping. I don’t feel that’s the media manipulating us to agree with the parents. That the media warning us that there was a fox in sheeps clothing leading our city’s naacp chapter.

R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 2:10 pm (Edit)
I don’t think the media coverage of those issues is manipulation. That coverage is important and entirely justified.

Brian J. Birmingham  June 17, 2015 1:57 pm (Edit)
Sir, with respect I just don’t see how you are connecting the dots here. She was homeschooled by her Christian parents. Any and all allegations that she was abused in any way as a child, by these homeschooling parents, are purely speculative in nature. Can we agree on that point, first of all?

Reply

Brian J. Birmingham  June 17, 2015 1:59 pm (Edit)
Mr. Stollar, I think that YOU are doing exactly what Rachel Dolezal wants for YOU to do: a) talk about Rachel Dolezal and b) feel sorry for Rachel Dolezal. I just don’t see how she is the victim of anything; I think that she is just a psychopath, and these people are born, not made.

Reply

R.L. Stollar  June 17, 2015 2:09 pm (Edit)
I feel sorry for the adopted children and the authoritarian, fear-based home environment they grew up in. I don’t feel sorry for Rachel, necessarily. As a fellow homeschool alum who is familiar with the home environment she grew up in, I can empathize with her past. But I can’t empathize with her present nor do I feel her past justifies her present.

As far as Rachel being an abuse victim herself, that was part of Carmen’s statement, not mine. Her brother Joshua’s memoir makes it sound like their upbringing was at least an emotionally and spiritually abusive one, but as far as physical abuse goes, I’ve only received evidence that it was inflicted on the adopted siblings.

Reply
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