



Playground: A Childhood Lost Inside the Playboy Mansion

By Jennifer Saginor

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You are six years old. Every day after school your father takes you to a sprawling castle filled with exotic animals, bowls of candy, and half-naked women catering to your every need.

You have your own room. You have new friends. You have an uncle Hef who's always there for you.

Welcome to the world of *Playground*, the true story of a young girl who grew up inside the Playboy Mansion. By the time she was fourteen, she'd done countless drugs, had a secret affair with Hef's girlfriend, and was already losing her grip on reality. Schoolwork, family, and "ordinary people" had no meaning behind the iron gates of the Mansion, where celebrities frolicked, pool parties abounded, and her own father—Hugh Hefner's personal physician and best friend, the man nicknamed "Dr. Feel Good"—typically held court.

Every day was a party, every night was an adventure, and through it all was a young girl falling faster and faster down the rabbit hole—trying desperately hard not to get lost.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

On her first visit to the Playboy Mansion, six-year-old Saginor happened across John Belushi having sex with a Playmate. What was a child doing alone in such a place? Saginor's dad, a "fitness" doctor liberally prescribing weight loss and other prescription pills to show-biz types, sports figures and Playmate wannabes, had become one of Hugh Hefner's cronies, with his own quarters at the Mansion. Divorced from Saginor's mother, he took his daughter everywhere and let her run wild once there. Saginor grew to love the Mansion, her own "magical kingdom" with constant attention from servants and Playmates, where she never had to follow her mother's boring rules. As soon as she could, she asked to be in her father's custody, though she feared his bipolar rages, aggravated by compulsive promiscuity and the ubiquitous drugs of the 1970s and '80s. Predictably, as she grew older she joined the nonstop party; as a high school sophomore in 1985, she dated both an older soap-opera actor and, surreptitiously, Hef's own "girlfriend." Names have been changed throughout this made-for-daytime-talk memoir, except for walk-on celebrities (who misbehave only when safely dead, like Belushi), but readers seeking colorful general-issue dish, sleaze and bad behavior will find it in spades.

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From [Booklist](#)

Saginor grew up in Los Angeles during the 1970s and 1980s in the most unusual of places: the Playboy Mansion. Saginor's father was Hugh Hefner's personal doctor and, after his divorce from Saginor's mother, spent much of his time at the mansion surrounded by other powerful men and scores of Playmates. It was in this environment that Saginor and her sister, Savannah, got their first impressions of sex and how men and women relate to each other. Their mother tried to curtail the girls' visits, but when she entered high school, Saginor demanded to live with her father and found herself thoroughly swept into a world where sex and drugs abounded and a typical evening was spent at the club with her father and a gaggle of Playmates. Unable to find the unconditional love she craved with her father, Saginor fell in love with Hef's mercurial girlfriend, Kendall. Saginor is obviously still processing her dysfunctional childhood, which leaves the memoir feeling inconclusive at the end, but the ride is never anything less than engaging. *Kristine Huntley*
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About the Author

Jennifer Saginor was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, where she still lives. She has worked in production and development at Spelling Entertainment, Miramax Films, and the Motion Picture Corporation of America.

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