

# **The perspective of an unwanted child**

By Eternity Hunter

Roe v. Wade established a woman's legal right to an abortion nearly half a century ago. The right to safe and legal abortions has polarized political debate, and the Roe verdict is still being disputed today with increased intensity.

Whether the U.S. Supreme Court knew its ruling would turn into a political war is impossible to know, but it has remained one of the most controversial Supreme Court decisions in American history.

The focus of the debate falls heavily on the rights of mothers, role of doctors, and all the legal ramifications of abortion laws.

But what about the unwanted children who the young parents want to abort because they are too unprepared for the responsibility they necessitated when getting pregnant?

The children who are not aborted often get passed off to other family members or get placed in foster care.

## **Deseree's story**

Deseree Rose was born to two teenage parents. At six months old, her grandmother took full custody of her after finding out her biological mother locked her in a dark bathroom for hours crying with no food or water.

Deseree's grandmother kept her until she was four years old.

After living with her grandmother, Deseree's aunt planned to adopt her legally, but instead Deseree's mother, now married, took her back and moved to Germany with her new family.

Deseree says her upbringing was one of turmoil and emotional abuse. During her early childhood Deseree's biological mother constantly degraded, abused and blamed Deseree for any perceived transgressions while always telling Deseree how grateful she should be to her for keeping her.

Deseree describes her experience as an unwanted child like "being dragged to a party, only to find out when you get there that nobody invited you. And nobody wants you there. But you can't leave."

After her biological mother and stepfather divorced, Deseree moved with her mother only to continue suffering emotional and physical abuse.

At the age of 11, she moved back with her stepfather, who would eventually remarry a woman who also emotionally abused her. While the abuse continued behind closed doors, Deseree received praise for surviving her traumatic history with her biological mother.

Deseree tried to seek help on multiple occasions - informing teachers, calling Child Protective Services - in attempt to seek treatment. All failed to result in the proper help.

But at 19, Deseree would find herself in an abusive relationship, marrying her abusive boyfriend and having two children with him. She would stay with him for five years. A long-term relationship with an abusive narcissist was not the only trauma she would deal with in her early adulthood.

While at college, Deseree would be the victim of rape. With no support from her family and a college and justice system not conducive to finding rapists, Deseree would navigate this trauma all alone.

Not only that, none of Deseree's parents keep any medical records, and as a result, Deseree has no medical history for herself or her two children. Deseree as an adult, has been diagnosed with [Ehlers-Danlos syndrome](#), a hereditary disorder of the connective tissues that affect the joints and other parts of the body. Along with EDS, Deseree has asthma, endometriosis, and ADHD. Of this which Deseree did not discover till her late 20s.

When asked if the "system" failed her, she responded, "I have seen the justice system fail me so many times, I want to throw up, like domestic violence, they don't care. If you don't have a man advocating for you. They don't care if you don't have money to put into a lawyer, they don't care."

Unfortunately, Deseree's story is not unique. According to the [CDC](#), 45% of the six million pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended, with 42% of those pregnancies ending in abortion. Of the 2.5 million women who give birth, 500,000 children will still be unwanted by their birth parents, and only [4% will result in adoption](#).

Despite her hard life, Deseree calls herself one of the lucky ones. Many unwanted children are in the system, homeless, institutionalized, or in prison because the government and society do not teach children of unwanted pregnancies how to advocate for themselves or even how to survive. Instead, Deseree and many like her must build their own foundation while likely operating in poverty.

Deseree was laid off from her job in 2020 due to Covid-19. But in losing her job, Deseree would set out on a journey of sharing her story on TikTok. Deseree has created a safe space for others to connect and reclaim a tiny part of them that society has silenced for so many years. Almost two years later, Deseree has a following of over 260k with 8.3 million likes on [TikTok](#). Even though Deseree has created this safe space for unwanted, emotionally, and physically abused children, she wishes she could do more.

With so many people flooding her DMs, she longs to have the ability to respond to all of them. But her DMs and comment section aren't all filled with supportive and heartfelt stories. Many pro-lifers and people who do not understand Deseree's lived experience often write hateful comments. Some even go as far as to tell Deseree to unalive herself. In response to her sharing her trauma on the internet. Although these comments can be hurtful, Deseree does not let them get to her because she realizes that it's coming from a place of projection, and she does her best not to internalize the hate.

When asked what she wanted out of sharing her story online, Deseree shared this: "Everyone's purpose here on Earth is just to connect with each other and to share experiences and stories so that we don't feel so alienated. And I don't know how a story is going to resonate with people. I just hope that it does. And even the people who get mad, good, get angry, explore it. Figure out why. Because if I'm invoking an emotion, That's good. We should feel things."

There are thousands of more stories like Deseree's. If society is to take anything out of Deseree sharing her story, there is a whole other perspective to the abortion debate that is being undervalued and pushed aside.

Deseree does not have an agenda by sharing her story. The only thing Deseree wants to give to the world is perspective into the difficulties of being born unwanted. Deseree's dream is to continue to "create, educate and inspire" the people around her.