# ON THEIR OWN: WHAT HAPPENS TO KIDS WHEN THEY AGE OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Each year, as many as 25,000 teenagers "age out" of foster care, usually when they turn eighteen. For years, a government agency had made every important decision for them. Suddenly, they are on their own, with no one to count on. What does it mean to be eighteen and on your own, without the...



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### On Their Own: What Happens To Kids When They Age Out Of The Foster Care System

Author	Martha Shirk
Original Book Format	Hardcover
Number of Pages	320 pages
Filetype	PDF / ePUB / Mobi (Kindle)
Filesize	7.81 MB

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The psychological trauma created by the removal, combined with the neglect or abuse that preceded it, leaves the child forever changed and forever different from other children. Martha Shirk, On Their...

For as many as 25,000 other children who reach their eighteenth birthdays each year, the emotions are similar. But there is a defining difference. These are young people who step through a doorway into a world full of unknowns, without the connections and supports that other children take for granted. Something has happened in their lives that forever makes them different: Usually through no fault of their own, they were taken away from their families and placed in foster care. 1 They entered...

## **Reader's Opinions**

Heartbreaking and important book