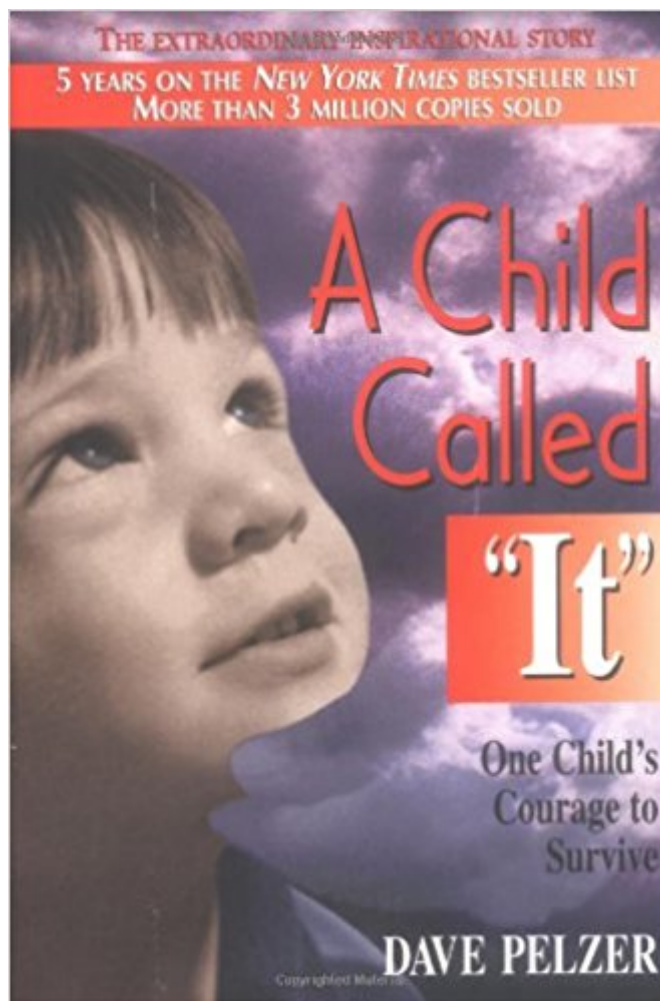


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A Child Called It: One Child's Courage To Survive



Synopsis

This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother: a mother who played tortuous, unpredictable games--games that left him nearly dead. He had to learn how to play his mother's games in order to survive because she no longer considered him a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "it." Dave's bed was an old army cot in the basement, and his clothes were torn and raunchy. When his mother allowed him the luxury of food, it was nothing more than spoiled scraps that even the dogs refused to eat. The outside world knew nothing of his living nightmare. He had nothing or no one to turn to, but his dreams kept him alive--dreams of someone taking care of him, loving him and calling him their son.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

View larger An unforgettable story of courage A Child Called "It" is a real life story of the indomitable human spirit told through the eyes of a child--who will pay any price in order to succeed. At age 12 Dave was finally rescued and placed in a series of foster homes until he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at age 18. Even with all that was against him, Dave was determined to better himself - no matter what the odds.

David J. Pelzer's mother, Catherine Roerva, was, he writes in this ghastly, fascinating memoir, a devoted den mother to the Cub Scouts in her care, and somewhat nurturant to her children--but not

to David, whom she referred to as "an It." This book is a brief, horrifying account of the bizarre tortures she inflicted on him, told from the point of view of the author as a young boy being starved, stabbed, smashed face-first into mirrors, forced to eat the contents of his sibling's diapers and a spoonful of ammonia, and burned over a gas stove by a maniacal, alcoholic mom. Sometimes she claimed he had violated some rule--no walking on the grass at school!--but mostly it was pure sadism. Inexplicably, his father didn't protect him; only an alert schoolteacher saved David. One wants to learn more about his ordeal and its aftermath, and now he's written a sequel, *The Lost Boy*, detailing his life in the foster-care system. Though it's a grim story, *A Child Called "It"* is very much in the tradition of *Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul* and the many books in that upbeat series, whose author Pelzer thanks for helping get his book going. It's all about weathering adversity to find love, and Pelzer is an expert witness.

Grade 9 Up? This autobiographical account charts the abuse of a young boy as his alcoholic mother first isolates him from the rest of the family; then torments him; and finally nearly kills him through starvation, poisoning, and one dramatic stabbing. Pelzer's portrayal of domestic tyranny and eventual escape is unforgettable, but falls short of providing understanding of extreme abuse or how he made his journey from "Victim to Victor." It takes some work to get past the poor writing and the self-aggrandizing back matter, but the book tries fervently to provide a much-needed perspective. One of the greater obstacles to healing for males is admitting that they have been victims, especially if their perpetrator is a woman. This author has overcome that obstacle and succeeded in life by such masculine norms as joining the Air Force and receiving awards for his volunteerism. However, while personal accounts of child maltreatment provide crucial information about the realities of childhood, youngsters need insight and hope in order to digest the raw material of abuse. James Deem's *The 3 NBs of Julian Drew* (Houghton, 1994) is a well-crafted, fictional work that effectively covers much of the same ground. Carolyn Polese, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Once I started reading this book, I did not want to put it down. I am so grateful for having discovered, ' *A Child Called It*', as I was severely abused from the ages 5 to 17 years old. This book has started an inner healing process. As I started reading, I started crying, crying so loudly that I started wailing. Uncontrollable tears rolling down my cheeks, and many, many tissues. I applaud Dave Pelzer for using his torturous past to help bring healing to so many people. I can not wait to read his other books. If you can read this review Dave, I want to say Thank you, Thank you, and

Thank you.

Wow! What a book. It completely floored me emotionally, grounded me. Throughout the entire book I wanted to rescue this little boy. Hold him and show him true love. If you are looking for a book to make you feel something, this is it. It is deep and a bit depressing, but definitely a book you should read at least once in your life.

This book was very good. I heard one of my rock musician idols talk about the book so I looked for the book and I found the book on Amazon, so I ordered the book. This is a true story and the author is the boy in the book. I always say that if I want something, check Amazon and if it does not have an item or a seller with the item, then I do not need what I was searching for. Amazon always has what I need and what I am looking for.

This book reminded me that this just doesn't happen in movies but real life too. I've appreciated my mother more. It's usually hard to make me cry but this book though.....I literally had to stop reading because I couldn't see anymore. It's greatly written. The author did a great job writing the book. He will make you feel like it was the kid himself telling the story and it felt like it was right from his diary. This has been a great read and also the second book.

It really bothers me how people could leave such bad reviews saying it wasn't up to your expectations. Go on Google or any book site and it will let you read what the book is about! It will even let you read some pages of it! I'm 23 and I personally love this book. I admit it did scare my heart a bit. But, I love how this man overcomes all the bad things he has been put through. Anyways I love this book and thank you so much for it. You guys deliver the book to me so fast. It said it would be here by Monday so the fact I received it a couple days earlier was awesome! I already have this book wrapped and under my Christmas tree. Thanks again!

Because I have spent so much of my life around children who were growing up in the foster care system, I know that every child there has a story to tell. I was interested in finding out what David's story was like. I was not quite prepared for the journey through his life. But, I was touched by his story, often even moved to tears. I think this is a must read for people thinking of reaching out to children from broken homes, and opening up their hearts and homes to orphan children. I think all parents or potential parents should read these books. They should read them to help them

understand what creates a lost child. It is truly a what not to do for both foster and biological parents. I read to learn and this book is truly a learning experience

This book speaks to the person who may question a child's appearance but provide an unknowing explanation. It teaches us that we need to listen to instinct and report any case. We could be saving a child's life.

Such a strong and brave human being... So courageous... I can't imagine the mixed emotions that must be tied to this story and sharing it publicly. I admire the courage that you have to talk about your experience so that others are more aware. We all have the power to change someone's life for the better if we can just be strong enough to say something, to tell someone, to "try"... As a social worker I read this book and feel re-energized and motivated...

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