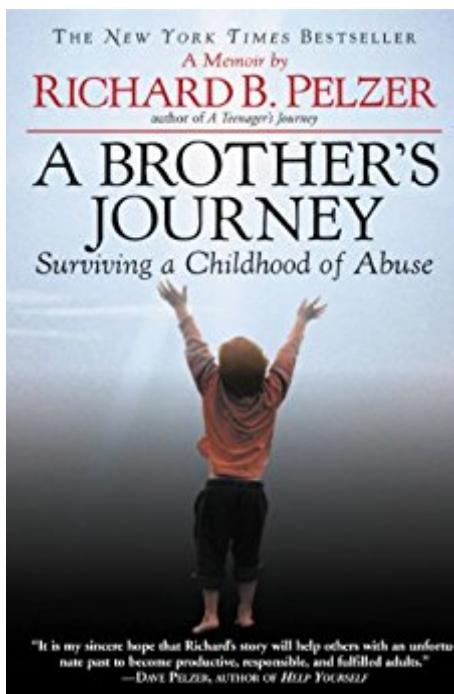


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# A Brother's Journey: Surviving A Childhood Of Abuse



## **Synopsis**

Mom has no one like David around to beat on anymore. I am more afraid of her than ever...I get in more trouble for anything I do or say. Now I find that I'm always in trouble and I don't know why. Now that David is gone, I'm afraid that she will try to kill me, like she tried to kill him. I'm afraid that she will treat me like an animal like she did him. I'm afraid that now I'm her IT. The Pelzer family's secret life of fear and abuse was first revealed in Dave Pelzer's inspiring New York Times bestseller, *A Child Called "It,"* followed by *The Lost Child* and *A Man Called Dave*. Here, for the first time, Richard Pelzer tells the courageous and moving story of his abusive childhood. From tormenting his brother David to becoming himself the focus of his mother's wrath to his ultimate liberation--here is a horrifying glimpse at what existed behind closed doors in the Pelzer home. Equally important, Richard Pelzer's touching account is a testament to the strength of the human heart and its capacity to triumph over almost unimaginable trauma.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*A Child Called "It"* moved the world to appreciate the extent that child abuse can take . . . and the

need to do more to stop it. Over 2 million copies of that vivid memoir have been sold. In that story, Dave Pelzer described the role his brothers were forced to play in his abuse. Younger brother Richard was a particular problem as he would tell lies about Dave that led to more beatings by their mother. But Richard would also leave food for the starving Dave. In *A Brother's Journey*, Richard tells his perspective both on what happened to Dave, his guilt for his role, and how the family functioned after Dave was taken away to a foster home. In limited ways, Richard was selected by their mother to replace Dave as the butt of her alcoholic rages. Although his abuse was horrific, it failed to be as bad as Dave's. Thank God for that. But the interesting part of this book is the insight it provides for psychologists, social workers and the families of abused children concerning the impact of abuse on the more favored children in the family. Most books about child abuse don't get into this aspect of family life, and I found the added perspectives to be very revealing and interesting. Naturally, no one can read this book (or *A Child Called "It"*) without wondering how a grandmother, a father, neighbors or the school could have permitted this to go on so long. The lesson seems to be that if you suspect even the possibility of abuse, you'd better do something. What you see is probably less than 1% of the problem. Professionals can learn from this book the importance of on-going observation and the need to build trust in those who are suspected of being abused.

It's about time one of David's brother stepped up to the plate and admitted the abuse occurred and this book is a shining achievement. I am disgusted with anyone who could read this book and then deny the truth it expresses. From my own personal experience of an abusive mother the pattern that both Dave and Richard describe and their responses to it are psychologically accurate. When my father lived with us a lot of the abuse was directed at him, when he left it was all focused on me and my sister was the child who could do no wrong and she (my sister) loved to join in tormenting me. Then when I left, my sister became my replacement and suffered abuse. This is exactly the pattern that Dave and Richard describe. Richard has written a book that is very compelling. Unlike David he actually touches (all too briefly) on what was going on in his mother's head and possible motivations for her behaviour. He suffered unbelievably horrific abuse and yet it was less than David's and this makes the book somewhat less painful than reading *A Child Called IT* because he manages to squeeze in a rare moment of pleasure here and there which David as "IT" never had a chance to do. But it is still horrific. I think Richard is a fine writer and his bravery in admitting the abuse he inflicted on his brother at the ages of 5, 6, and 7 in order to get his mother to notice him is so commendable. I doubt David blames a 5 year old for what happened. How could a 5, 6 or 7 year old

possibly be expected to stand up to a mother like that. The only time Richard had praise or attention was when he collaborated in his elder brother's abuse. The really disgusting brother was Scott who was still abusing Richard at 17.

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