


**THE EXTRAORDINARY INSPIRATIONAL STORY**

**THE #1 WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER**



# **A Child Called**

**“It”**

**One Child's  
Courage to Survive**

**DAVE PELZER**

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“*A Child Called ‘It’* is a heart-stopping, compelling book. It is one of the most important books of our time and a ‘must read’ for anyone who searches for the secret of internal motivation.”

Vicki Binninger, Executive Director  
Parents’ Place  
A California Child Abuse Prevention,  
Intervention and Treatment Center

“ Once this book was in my hands, I couldn’t put it down. This is the best book on the subject of child abuse I have ever read. As the reader moves with David through fear, loss, isolation, pain and rage to eventual hope, the dark world of the abused child becomes painfully clear. We become aware of the child’s cry through David’s eyes, ears and body. *A Child Called ‘It’* made me want to hold my family close to my heart and cherish our love.”

Valerie Bivens, Social Worker  
Child Protective Services  
The State of California

“ Dave Pelzer’s child experience is a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit. This book vividly articulates the abuse he suffered at the hands of his mother and the unbelievable apathy of others to his plight. Pelzer’s courage and determination will go a long way in helping the millions of children in America who, too often, suffer every day in silence.”

Mark Riley  
Child Welfare League of America

“ Everything began to point to one thing: this kid was being beaten and punished far beyond normal parental practice.”

Steven E. Ziegler, Teacher  
Daly City, California

“In my 31 years of teaching, David Pelzer was the most severely abused child I have known.”

Athena Konstan, Teacher  
Daly City, California

“To know the torment of abuse and how one child willed himself to survive, read this compelling, spellbinding account. One can only hope it will help us focus on stopping abuse before it occurs.”

Anne Cohn-Donnelly  
National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse

“David Pelzer is a triumphant survivor of his childhood abuse. David’s story will help people understand that each year hundreds of thousands of helpless

children are being brutalized and tortured.”

Glenn A. Goldberg, former Executive Director  
California Consortium  
for the Prevention of Child Abuse

# **A Child Called “It”**

**One Child’s Courage  
to Survive**

**Dave Pelzer**



**Health Communications, Inc.  
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*This book is dedicated to my son Stephen,  
who, by the grace of God, has taught me  
the gift of love and joy through  
the eyes of a child.*

*This book is also dedicated to  
the teachers and staff members of  
Thomas Edison Elementary School to include:*

*Steven E. Ziegler  
Athena Konstan  
Peter Hansen  
Joyce Woodworth  
Janice Woods  
Betty Howell  
and the School Nurse*

*To all of you, for your courage and for  
putting your careers on the line  
that fateful day, March 5, 1973.  
You saved my life.*

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## Acknowledgments

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And lastly, to Phyllis Colleen. I wish you happiness. I wish you peace. May God bless you.

## Author's Notes

Some of the names in this book have been changed in order to maintain the dignity and privacy of others.

This book, the first part of the trilogy, depicts language that was developed from a child's viewpoint. The tone and vocabulary reflect the age and wisdom of the child at that particular time.

This book is based on the child's life from ages 4 to 12.

The second part of the trilogy, *The Lost Boy*, is based on his life from ages 12 to 18.