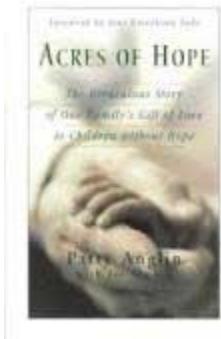


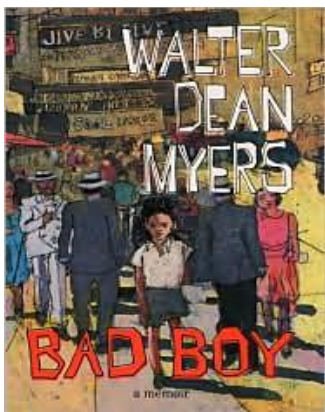
(1). Acres of Hope: The Miraculous Story of One Family's Gift of Love to Children Without Hope



by **Patty Anglin**

This inspiring memoir by a mother who has adopted eight special-needs children calls readers to regard every child as precious in God's sight. Anglin and her husband, Harold, made a commitment, while fostering 50-odd children through the years, to adopt "the ones no one else wanted." These include two crack-addicted babies born to a 13-year-old prostitute; a son with severe emotional problems whose birth parents had tortured him with cigarettes and hung him upside down for punishment; a Nigerian boy born without lower arms and legs; and a five-year-old quadriplegic from India who weighed only 16 pounds at adoption. Anglin emerges not as a self-righteous attention-seeker but a woman of deep faith firmly committed to the individual nurturance of children. Copyright 1999

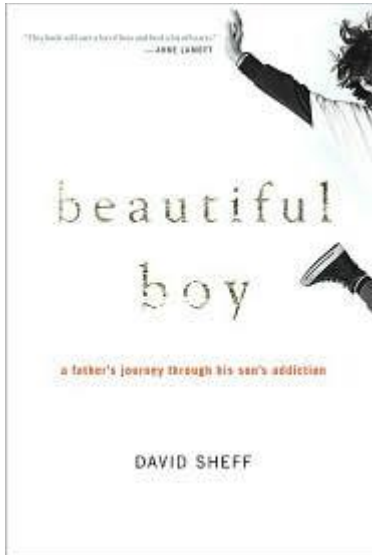
(2). Bad Boy



by **Walter Dean Myers**

Who would ever have thought that celebrated author Walter Dean Myers was once a troublemaker and a truant? Walter recounts what growing up in Harlem was like in the 1940s and 50s—when seeing Langston Hughes and Sugar Ray Robinson on the street was the norm and Jackie Robinson ruled the baseball field. Just how bad was Walter? From instigating mischievous pranks at home to fighting in the classroom—especially when teased about his speech impediment—irrepressible Walter was a handful. Still, he had a tremendous love for books, and by high school, he longed to become a writer. But Walter felt his options were so limited that he dropped out of school. Where was the direction and motivation he needed to pursue his dreams? Readers of all ages will identify with Walter's struggle to find his own way and become a successful writer.

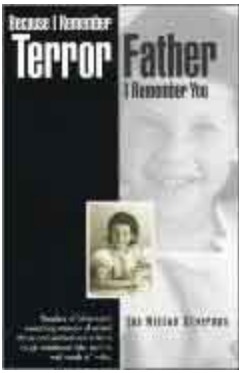
Walter Dean Myers is the renowned author of *Autobiography of my Dead Brother*; *Shooter*, a Children's Book Sense Summer Pick; *Monster*, the first winner of the Michael L. Printz Award; *The Dream Bearer*; *Handbook for Boys: A Novel*; and the Newbery Honor Books *Scorpions* and *Somewhere in the Darkness*. He wrote *The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage*; *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam*, illustrated by Ann Grifalconi; *I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* and *Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly*, both illustrated by Leonard Jenkins; and the Caldecott Honor Book *Harlem and Blues Journey*, both illustrated by Christopher Myers. He makes frequent appearances with the National Basketball Association's "Read to Achieve" program.



(3). **Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey through His Son's Addiction** by David Sheff

Sheff's story is a first: a teenager's addiction from the parent's point of view—a real-time chronicle of the shocking descent into substance abuse and the gradual emergence into hope. Before meth, Sheff's son Nic was a varsity athlete, honor student, and award-winning journalist. After meth, he was a trembling wraith who stole money from his eight-year-old brother and lived on the streets. With haunting candor, Sheff traces the first subtle warning signs, the denial (by both child and parents), the three A.M. phone calls (is it Nic? the police? the hospital?), the attempts at rehab, and, at last, the way past addiction. He shows us that, whatever an addict's fate, the rest of the family must care for each other too, lest they become addicted to addiction. Meth is the fastest-growing drug in the United States, as well as the most addictive and the most dangerous—wreaking permanent brain damage faster than any other readily available drug. It has invaded every region and demographic in America. This book is the first that treats meth and its impact in depth. But it is not just about meth. Nic's addiction has wrought the same damage that any addiction will wreak. His story, and his father's, are those of any family that contains an addict—and one in three American families does.

(4). **[Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You](#)**



by Sue William Silverman

“Belying the sensationalistic title, Silverman’s memoir is a subtle, powerful evocation of the tragedy of incest. From the age of 4 until she left for college at 18, Silverman was sexually abused by her father, a powerful government official. Although the family lived in posh surroundings, hers was literally a house of horrors: her mother often retreated to her bedroom with a series of vaguely defined illnesses while her older sister jumped at any opportunity to get out of the house, leaving Silverman alone to deal with her father’s uncontrollable rage and often violent sexual abuse.”

Rendered in often graphic detail, her story annihilates our complacency about who among us could commit such evil - and who could stop it, for this is also a story of complicity, of the blaming silence with which Silverman's mother met her daughter's clear signals of distress. Exposing the inner contours of a family in crisis, Silverman shows how their situation persisted for so long - unreported, undetected, and unconfessed - and how the ordeal colored and controlled her life well into adulthood.

Incest might be one of the most painful subjects to read about, much less experience, and this memoir is an extraordinary example of this torture. She begins at age four, confused and emotionally wary about the sexual activities that she and her father explore. Upon closing the book, you may find yourself unable to rid your mind of the vivid, graphic scenes that are written in perfect clarity. An older sister nearby, a mother who retreats to her own bedroom; and this poor child must learn to deal with her father's anger and bizarre behavior until she is eighteen. It is quite understandable that most of these tragic memoirs are published following the death of the evil perpetrator. Silverman's father was, after all, chief counsel to the Secretary of the Interior, and then an international banker. Their luxurious suburban lifestyle hid the trauma that enveloped the household. Early on she notes, "everyone outside the house believes my father is perfect." Towards the end of the text, while under psychiatric care, she tells her mother, "I was sexually abused as a child." Her mother's unforgivable reply, "I had a terrible childhood, too," will reverberate in your mind. This poignant account of childhood sexual abuse is a tough read, but its message is clear.

(5). [Becoming Anna: The Autobiography of a Sixteen-Year-Old](#)



by Anna J. Michener

Becoming Anna is the poignant memoir of the first sixteen years in the life of Anna Michener, a young woman who fought a painful battle against her abusive family. Labeled "crazy girl" for much of her childhood, Anna suffered physical and emotional damage at the hands of the adults who were supposed to love and protect her. Committed to various mental institutions by her family, at sixteen Anna was finally able to escape her chaotic home life and enter a foster home. As an effort toward recovery and self-affirmation as well as a powerful plea on behalf of other abused children, Anna wrote this memoir while the experience was fresh and the emotions were still raw and unhealed.

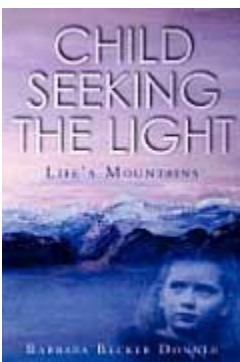
Her story is a powerful tale of survival. "A teen's raw, in-your-face chronicle of events almost as they were happening. As such, it's unforgettable. . . . Michener's story gives voice to the thousands of children and adolescents trapped in 'the system,' biding their time until their 18th birthdays. A candid and unstinting tell-all."—Kirkus Reviews

"Extraordinary. . . . Michener's expressive writing does justice to a topic that is clearly very disturbing to her personally and communicates a profoundly important message on behalf of all abused and neglected children."—Booklist

(6). *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog: And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook: What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us about Loss, Love, and Healing* by Bruce D. Perry, Maia Szalavitz, Maia Szalavitz

What happens when a young brain is traumatized? How does terror, abuse, or disaster affect a child's mind--and how can that mind recover? Child psychiatrist Bruce Perry has helped children faced with unimaginable horror: genocide survivors, murder witnesses, kidnapped teenagers, and victims of family violence. In *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*, he tells their stories of trauma and transformation through the lens of science, revealing the brain's astonishing capacity for healing. Deftly combining unforgettable case histories with his own compassionate, insightful strategies for rehabilitation, Perry explains what exactly happens to the brain when a child is exposed to extreme stress--and reveals the unexpected measures that can be taken to ease a child's pain and help him grow into a healthy adult. Through the stories of children who recover--physically, mentally, and emotionally--from the most devastating circumstances, Perry shows how simple things like surroundings, affection, language, and touch can deeply impact the developing brain, for better or for worse. In this deeply informed and moving book, Bruce Perry dramatically demonstrates that only when we understand the science of the mind can we hope to heal the spirit of even the most wounded child.

(7). *Child Seeking the Light: Life's Mountains*



by **Barbara Becker Donner**

Have you ever wondered what leads a person to the psychotherapist's office? Do you think the present system for detecting troubled youth and/or adults is adequate? Do you sometimes wonder if you need to see a therapist? Do you know someone with traumas in life, and feel they need more than a pill for their problems? Is there enough research in the field of psychology to combat our social problems? What is help? Will volunteers and faith-based support be enough? This is a memoir, and more. The author invites you to look into the "windows" of her life - and her views on getting real help. It's a survival call for more attention to children, youth, and adults who need professionals (not mere government agencies). She calls for massive change in the "welfare system" and redefining goals for a safer and more humane life for this culture. This is not pushing a "one school of thought" or a hand out. Early prevention and responsibility belong to individuals, their histories, families, culture, and "the village."

Mother of four grown children, grandmother of seven, the author wrote this memoir over many years, admittedly, in spurts of creativity and inspiration. Originally, the idea was to write about the effects of divorce - and about Milly, her mother, who desperately needed psychological help before the author was eight years old, too young to grasp any nuances of the ongoing problems. In more recent years, the tragic headlines in the news media depict new evidence that there is far too little help or preventive measures for disturbed and violent behavior - this fact produced a sense of urgency to write and call for new ideas and action.

Subsequent to many months of therapy, Barbara started college classes at the age of forty-six with the specific goal of learning to write, along with getting a background in the humanities. Her classes spanned the years of 1977 to the 1990s - choosing only classes that she found of interest. A degree was not the goal, but she most often took the tests and received A's and B's - loving the learning process. "Learning continues throughout life whether we are paying attention or not..." she says. And, "we will have to pay for the inattention, sooner or later!" The original reason for writing was inspired by her mother's confinement to a state mental institution - the devastating fact that the treatment was not ethical, helpful, or life giving. This continues today (in a different mode) for millions of persons and children in this culture. It is imperative to participate in the changes necessary. "I realize true change will take time, just as the new ideas for real education for all children will take a long time. Hope for these changes is what keeps us going."

(8). [Children Exposed to Violence](#)

Edited by Margaret M. Feerick, Ph.D., & Gerald B. Silverman, M.Ed., M.S.W.



In the past decade, children's exposure to violence has attracted more public interest and media attention than ever before. But addressing this problem will take more than concern and news coverage — it will require a comprehensive, focused research agenda. That's the goal of this timely, much-needed resource, which brings current research together, identifies gaps in our understanding of the effects of exposure to violence on children, and sets a direction for future research to support interventions and violence prevention. Focusing on three major types of violence — **domestic violence**, **community violence**, and **war and terrorism** — two dozen foremost authorities discuss and assess

- up-to-date statistics and research on the prevalence of each type of violence in the lives of children from birth to age 17

- the ways each type of violence might affect a child's physical health, psychological well-being, social development, and academic achievement
- promising interventions and programs for working with children exposed to violence
- current and emerging public policies that address the issue of violence in the lives of children with and without disabilities
- recommendations for future research and public policy that would support best practices

An essential resource for researchers, students, decision makers, and practitioners, this book will give readers the insight they need to work toward violence prevention and develop more evidence-based interventions for children and families. Clear, accessible, and compelling, this important book brings us closer to solving one of today's most prominent social problems.

(9). [Crank](#)



Kristina Georgia Snow is the perfect daughter: gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, Kristina disappears and Bree takes her place. Bree is the exact opposite of Kristina — she's fearless.

Through a boy, Bree meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild, ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul — her life.

Publishers Weekly

Nonfiction author Hopkins pens her first novel, written in verse, introducing 15-year-old narrator Kristina, who reveals how she became addicted to crank, and how the stimulant turned her from straight-A student to drug dealer, and eventually a teen mom. On a court-ordered visit to see her slimy and long-absent dad, she meets-and is instantly attracted to-Adam, who sports a "tawny six pack,/ and a smile." Soon, Adam introduces her to "the monster" (there, she also unleashes a new personality, id-driven Bree).

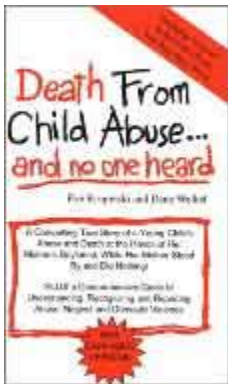
Her addiction grows, as does Bree's control. Readers get a vivid sense of the highs and lows involved with using crank ("I needed food, sleep,/ but the monster denied/ every bit of it"). Her life changes quickly: Soon she's dating two guys, both of whom use crank; says "Fuck you" to her mom, can't keep up with school, and loses her old friends.

There are plenty of dramatic moments: The first time she does crack, for example, her dad joins her. That same night, she stumbles into a bad area and is almost raped, and Adam's girlfriend tries to kill herself. Later in the book, she does get raped and starts selling the drug for the Mexican Mafia.

Readers will appreciate the creative use of form here (some poems, for instance, are written in two columns that can be read separately or together), and although the author is definitely on a mission, she creates a world nearly as consuming and disturbing as the titular drug.

Importantly, I realized how lucky I am to have what I have. Ellen Hopkins writes this novel well, especially from the voice of a troubled teenager. Here is a masterpiece.

(10). [Death from Child Abuse and No One Heard](#)



by Eve Krupinski, Dana Weikel, John G. Cronin

Part I of the book is the powerful true story of a young Florida girl's death from abuse at the hands of her mother's boyfriend, with the acquiescence of the mother. It is an intimate picture of this tragedy, largely told from the perspective of the child.

Part II was extensively updated and revised in 2002. It is a comprehensive but concise guide to understanding and confronting child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and dating violence. It has concrete advice for parents and young people on building healthy relationships.

Readers are often deeply moved and motivated by this book. It enjoys a great popularity with young people and is highly valued by many educators and professional trainers.

(11). [Fat, Stupid, Ugly: One Woman's Courage to Survive](#) by Debrah Constance, Penny L. Marshall, J. I. Kleinberg

In the spirit of *A Child Called "It"* comes an amazing story of resilience from a woman who triumphed over child abuse, cancer, and alcoholism to founder of A Place Called Home. "I began life, it would seem, as some kind of Grimm's fairy tale creature, large and oafish, undesirable, grossly imperfect. Neatly penned in my baby book were the words, 'Debbie was a fat, unattractive baby.' Fat and ugly aside, my life was fairly normal for a couple of years. It would be a while before the abuse began. Before the smoking and pills, the rage and rebellion, the alcoholism and cancer, the broken marriages. In those first uncomplicated years I could have set out on any of a dozen different paths toward an orderly life . . . it was not to be. . . . But this is not a story of defeat."

This is a book about surviving. It's about hope. It's about how each of us-ordinary, imperfect, damaged-can dream and heal. This book weaves the humorous, often outrageous, always courageous tapestry of Debrah Constance's life. Voted Woman of the Year by the State of California Legislature for founding A Place Called Home, (APCH) an organization providing services to at-risk inner-city kids in South Los Angeles, she proves that anyone can rise above life's obstacles and make a better life for themselves-and others.

(12). [“Help Me, Im Sad” \(Recognizing, Treating, and Preventing Childhood and Adolescent Depression\)](#) by David G. Fassler, M.D., and
Lynne S. Dumas

Until the early 1980s, there was no official diagnosis for depression in children. But children can, and do, become depressed. In fact, the National Institute of Mental Health now estimates that 2.5 million youngsters under eighteen have experienced clinical depression--and the real number may be higher still. "Help Me, I'm Sad" discusses how to tell if your child is at risk; how to spot symptoms; depression's link with other problems and its impact on the family; teen suicide; finding the right diagnosis, therapist, and treatment; and what you can do to help. For parents who have – or suspect the may have – depressed children, here is practical, easy-to-understand information from a compassionate and trustworthy source.

(13). [Hope's Boy: A Memoir](#)

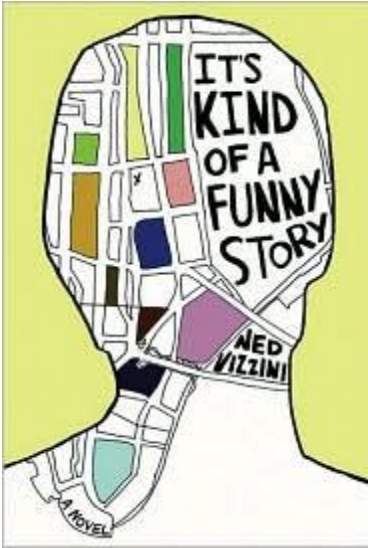


by **Andrew Bridge**

From the moment he was born, Andrew Bridge and his mother Hope shared a love so deep that it felt like nothing else mattered. Trapped in desperate poverty and confronted with unthinkable tragedies, all Andrew ever wanted was to be with his mom. But as her mental health steadily declined, and with no one else left to care for him, authorities arrived and tore Andrew from his screaming mother's arms. In that moment, the life he knew came crashing down around him. He was only seven years old. Hope was institutionalized, and Andrew was placed in what would be his devastating reality for the next eleven years—foster care. After surviving one of our country's most notorious children's facilities, Andrew was thrust into a savagely loveless foster family that refused to accept him as one of their own. Deprived of the nurturing he needed, Andrew clung to academics and the kindness of teachers. All the while, he refused to surrender the love he held for his mother in his heart. Ultimately, Andrew earned a scholarship to Wesleyan, went on to Harvard Law School, and became a Fulbright Scholar. Andrew has

dedicated his life's work to helping children living in poverty and in the foster care system. He defied the staggering odds set against him, and here in this heart-wrenching, brutally honest, and inspirational memoir, he reveals who Hope's boy really is.

(14). It's Kind of a Funny Story



by Ned Vizzini

Like many smart, ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's prestigious Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. So with single-minded determination, Craig acs the entrance exam and gets accepted. And, that's when everything starts to unravel.

Once Craig begins attending classes, he realizes a shocking truth: He is just one of the many brilliant kids who attend the school. In fact, he isn't even brilliant, he is just average. As Craig starts getting so-so grades, he sees his once-perfect future crumbling away. His anxiety mounting, Craig begins to have trouble eating, sleeping, doing simple things that used to be routine. He eventually realizes he is clinically depressed.

So begins Craig's battle with depression -- which will involve seeing a myriad of specialists, taking medication, and at one desperate point, checking himself into a psychiatric hospital. At the hospital, he meets a motley crew of patients, among them his roommate, who is afraid to leave their room, a transsexual sex addict, and a girl who has irreparably scarred her face with a pair of scissors. As a hospitalized patient, Craig is finally forced to disengage from all the pressure in his life and learn how to cope again.

Ned Vizzini, who himself spent time in a psychiatric hospital, has created a remarkably authentic picture of the physicality, the despair, and yes, even the hilarity, of depression.

Ned Vizzini began writing for the New York Press at the age of fifteen. At nineteen, his first book was published, Teen Angst? Naaah

(15). Like Family: Growing Up in Other People's Houses

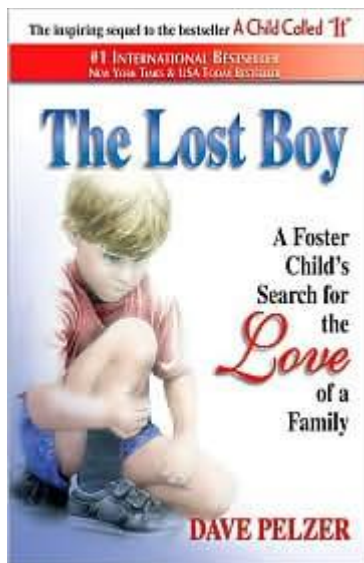


by Paula McLain

A beautiful and arresting memoir of a childhood in foster homes in 1970s California—a real life WHITE OLEANDER.

“What makes *Like Family* so remarkable are not the peculiar circumstances of Paula McLain’s childhood but the depth of understanding that she brings to those circumstances and the beautiful prose in which she renders that understanding. Seldom have I seen so vividly evoked the need to belong to some, any, kind of family and the painful negotiations that time brings to even our closest intimacies.” Margot Livesey, author of *Eva Moves the Furniture*.

Hailed as a memoir of unexpected beauty and arresting power, *Like Family* tells the story of three young sisters universal chord, capturing the loneliness, uncertainty, and odd pleasures that are the very essence of adolescence. who are abandoned by their mother and father and raised as wards of the Fresno County, California, court. McLain's unflinching recollection of being shuttled from foster home to foster home across 14 years manages not only to skirt self-pity but—astonishingly—to strike a



(16).

The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family by *Dave Pelzer*,

Imagine a young boy who has never had a loving home. His only possessions are the old, torn clothes he carries in a paper bag. The only world he knows is one of isolation and fear.

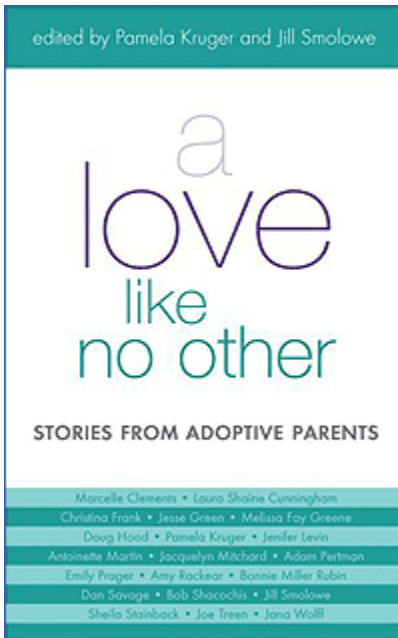
Although others had rescued this boy from his abusive alcoholic mother, his real hurt is just beginning -- he has no place to call home.

This is Dave Pelzer's long-awaited sequel to *A Child Called "It"*. In *The Lost Boy*, he answers questions and reveals new adventures through the compelling story of his life as an adolescent. Now considered an F-Child (Foster Child), Dave is moved in and out of five different homes. He

suffers shame and experiences resentment from those who feel that all foster kids are trouble and unworthy of being loved just because they are not part of a "real" family.

Tears, laughter, devastation and hope create the journey of this little lost boy who searches desperately for just one thing -- the love of a family.

(17). A Love Like No Other: Stories From Adoptive Parents



Twenty adoptive parents – all of them professional writers, but otherwise presenting a broad range of voices and views – contributed to this powerful collection of stories about the fears, joys, pains and triumphs of adoptive families.

Review:

Reviewed by Susan Phillips

Since becoming a parent 14 years ago, I've come to feel that the process of family creation combines the randomness of a Lotto drawing with the painstaking construction and maintenance of a whole small world of rituals, values, quirks and mythologies. And I've wondered whether the effort to engineer a family environment with a breathable atmosphere is any harder—or easier—for adoptive families.

A Love Like No Other, an excellent collection of 20 diverse tales from adoptive parents of very different stripes, doesn't so much answer that question as render it moot. The writers, who include editors Kruger and Smolowe along with 18 others, take the reader directly inside their varied families, some strong and some fragile, in a way that makes them seem at least as real as the family next door. The fact of adoption remains central, but the individual parents and children become so vivid that it is more of a background or frame for their stories than an issue or theme for the book. The theme, instead, seems to be the idea of family creation itself.

Anyone from any family can recognize the families here—some with their boats rocked by divorce, learning problems, mental or physical illness, loss or rage— others floating in calmer waters. Perhaps the most consistent difference between these families and non-adoptive families is that the elements of choice and chance loom a little larger.

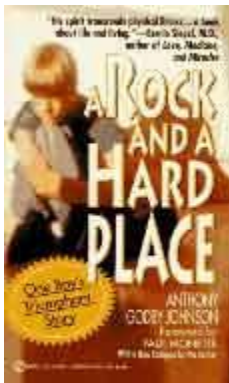
A Love Like No Other is divided into four sections. The first is called "Reflections on Birth Parents," and includes Christina Frank's reflections on the unknown young Vietnamese woman whose daughter, Lucy, Frank has adopted; Pamela Kruger's tale of hiring an investigator to contact the young Kazakh woman who had given up her daughter for eventual adoption by the Krugers. Another chapter describes the relationship between an adoptive gay male couple and the mother of their son, who explore the less-known territory of an open adoption.

"Encounters with the Unexpected" opens with a powerful account of post-adoption depression, or, as author Melissa Fay Greene terms it, panic. Greene's honest description of her conflicted and often hostile feelings towards her adopted son is a bracing corrective to the happy tales of love conquering all that make up much adoption writing, and confronts a phenomenon that is more common than many of us realize. Another chapter looks at the reluctance of extended family members to truly embrace an adopted child into the clan. Jill Smolowe's contribution examines the experience of expanding a family to include children of a different race or ethnicity.

"Variations on Family" and "Personal Transformations" complete the volume.

This is a well-written and compelling book that has a lot to offer both those contemplating adoption and those who simply want to understand it better. Since 60 percent of Americans now report a personal connection to families of adoption, that's a pretty big potential audience. No book can do it all, but it would be nice if the editors could follow up with tales that cast a somewhat wider demographic net—moving out of the middle class, for instance, or perhaps including the stories of adoptive children themselves.

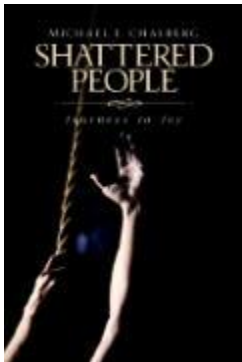
(18). [Rock and a Hard Place: One Boy's Triumphant Story](#)



by **Anthony Godby Johnson**

A 14-year-old boy's powerful, eloquent, and heartening memoir: how he survived abusive parents, made school and the New York streets his refuge, and finally found a genuine family—only to be confronted with the ultimate challenge of AIDS. Like *The Diary of Anne Frank*, this is a young person's personal account of rising above the worst terrors of a troubled time.

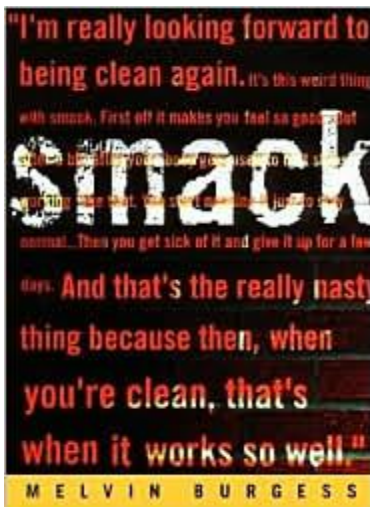
(19). [Shattered People: Journeys to Joy](#)



by Michael E. Chalberg

The Author is pastor and cofounder of Shepherd's Care Ministries based in San Leandro, CA. Out of his ministry as a pastoral counselor to victims of clergy abuse, he chronicles in this first of three books the journeys of people in search of truth about God...from God Himself. Their stories are told of their spiritual healing journeys in their own words, uncensored. As God reveals His love, learn how they break free of the abusive control maintained over them by people and priests who came in the name of God, claiming to exercise His authority. These remarkable true stories follow an individual with Multiple Personality Disorder, a survival mechanism initiated by a lifetime of abuse, in their struggle to find spiritual healing and wholeness through the unconditional love of Jesus. How God chooses to reveal His love and power, while confronting the evil surrounding them, in the midst of their pain and suffering, through forgiveness, mercy, and truth...will challenge your concepts of Him. The author is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

(20). [Smack](#)



Winner of the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Prize for fiction, two of England's most prestigious awards, *Smack* tells a penetrating story about heroin use. Insightful, haunting, and real, this novel is the *Go Ask Alice* of the '90s.

Annotation

After running away from their troubled homes, two English teenagers move in with a group of squatters in the port city of Bristol and try to find ways to support their growing addiction to heroin.

Publishers Weekly

This searing account of two young runaways' descent into heroin addiction and their faltering climb back out won England's Carnegie Medal and Guardian Prize for Fiction. Burgess's (*Burning Issy*) unflinching depiction of the seductive pleasures as well as insidious horrors of heroin will likely provoke controversy and heated discussion: some adults may feel that YA readers shouldn't be exposed to such unvarnished reality; others will recognize it as strong preventive medicine. Both would be conceding the power of the story in these pages. Self-absorbed Gemma, 14, bored with small-town life and her parents' strict rules, runs away to Bristol to join ingenuous, artistic Tar, who is fleeing an abusive home. They find lodging with some older youths in a squat until Gemma, and later Tar, moves in with her newfound "soul sister" Lily and boyfriend Rob, who introduce them to heroin. Though constantly insisting that they can quit any time, all become junkies, with the girls turning to prostitution and the boys to drug dealing, until Gemma makes a desperate bid for salvation. In telling the story through some 10 different voices, Burgess may well dazzle readers with the novel's flawless construction and his insights into character and relationships—most notably Tar's metamorphosis from loving, gentle *naf* into a copy of his violent, self-deceiving father. This is one novel that will leave an indelible impression on all who read it. (PW best book of 1998)

(21). [Somebody Else's Kids](#)

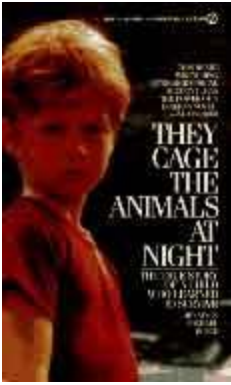


by **Torey L. Hayden**

A small seven-year-old boy who couldn't speak except to repeat weather forecasts and other people's words...A beautiful little girl of seven who had been brain damaged by terrible parental beatings and was so ashamed because she couldn't learn to read...A violently angry ten-year-old who had seen his stepmother murder his father and had been sent from one foster home to another ...A shy twelve-year-old from a Catholic school which put her out when she became pregnant..."What do we matter?" "Why do you care?"

They were four problem children—put in Torey Hayden's class because no one else knew what to do with them. Together, with the help of a remarkable teacher who cared too much to ever give up, they became almost a family, able to give each other the love and understanding they had found nowhere else.

(22). [They Cage the Animals at Night](#)



by Jennings Michael Burch

The true story of a child who learned to survive. Jennings Michael Burch was left at an orphanage and never stayed at any one foster home long enough to make any friends. This is the story of how he grew up and gained the courage to reach out for love.

One rainy day in Brooklyn, Jennings Michael Burch's mother, too sick to care for him, left him at an orphanage, saying only, "I'll be right back." She never returned. Shuttled through a series of bleak foster homes and institutions, he never remained in any of them long enough to make a friend. Instead, Jennings clung to a tattered stuffed animal, his sole source of warmth in a frightening world. This is the poignant story of his lost childhood. But it is also the triumphant tale of a little boy who finally gained the courage to reach out for love-and found it waiting for him.

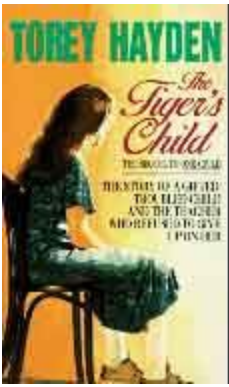
(23). Three Weeks with My Brother by [Nicholas Sparks](#), Micah Spark

As moving as his bestselling works of fiction, Nicholas Sparks's unique memoir, written with his brother, chronicles the life-affirming journey of two brothers bound by memories, both humorous and tragic.

In January 2003, Nicholas Sparks and his brother Micah set off on a three-week trip around the world. It was to mark a milestone in their lives, for at 37 and 38 respectively, they were now the only surviving members of their family. As Nicholas and Micah travel the globe, the intimate story of their family unfolds in the details of the untimely deaths of their parents and only sister. Against the backdrop of the wonders of the world, the Sparks brothers band together to heal, to remember, and to learn to live life to the fullest.

Author Biography: Nicholas Sparks lives in North Carolina with his wife and children. Micah Sparks lives in California with his wife and son.

(24. [The Tiger's Child](#)

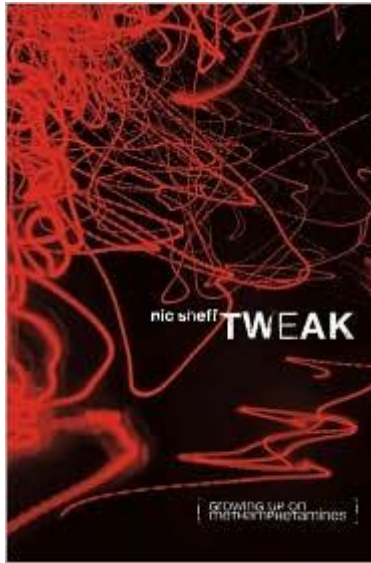


by Torey Hayden

What ever became of Sheila? When special-education teacher Torey Hayden wrote her first book *One Child* almost two decades ago, she created an international bestseller. Her intensely moving true story of Sheila, a silent, profoundly disturbed little six-year-old girl touched millions. From every corner of the world came letters from readers wanting to know more about the troubled child who had come into Torey Hayden's class as a "hopeless case," and emerged as the very symbol of eternal hope within the human spirit. Now, for all those who have never forgotten this endearing child and her remarkable relationship with her teacher, here is the surprising story of Sheila, the young woman.

(25). [Too Scared To Cry \(How trauma affects children..... and ultimately, us all\)](#) by Lenore Terr, M.D.

When children witness or experience sudden, shocking events, how do they assimilate the horror? Dr. Terr found they don't simply forget and grow up unscathed. Evidence proves the trauma is recorded and repeatedly replayed by the mind. That these recurring images manifest themselves in different guises is especially intriguing in light of her speculation about repressed trauma in the work of Hitchcock, Stephen King, and others. The stories here will break your heart, but Dr. Terr's advice for aiding traumatized children can help counter the blows of a violent world.



(26). **by Nic Sheff**

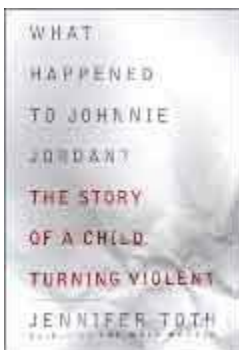
Nic Sheff was drunk for the first time at age eleven. In the years that followed, he would regularly smoke pot, do cocaine and Ecstasy, and develop addictions to crystal meth and heroin. Even so, he felt like he would always be able to quit and put his life together whenever he needed to. It took a violent relapse one summer in California to convince him otherwise. In a voice that is raw and honest, Nic spares no detail in telling us the compelling, heartbreaking, and true story of his relapse and the road to recovery. As we watch Nic plunge into the mental and physical depths of drug addiction, he paints a picture for us of a person at odds with his past, with his family, with his substances, and with himself.

It's a harrowing portrait -- but not one without hope.

Kirkus Reviews

In the publisher's second (and lesser) recent drug memoir, golden-boy-to-be Sheff recounts his descent from casual drinking and pot smoking as a teenager to heroin, cocaine and crystal-meth abuse in his early 20s. Full of jaw-tightening and occasionally grisly scenes of shooting up, deals gone bad, guns and sex, Sheff's story takes off like a shot in the arm with a terse, honest and spontaneous narrative. However, the page after page of needle-packing, drama and fighting among friends, lovers and drug partners eventually leads to desensitization and disconnect, which may be Sheff's point. But less patient readers, numbed by the truckload of troubles dumped on every page, may find themselves flipping through the pages to get to that point. Part 2 begins with what appears to be the author's recovery: Our hero, now seemingly clean-albeit temporarily-works part-time in a salon and publishes film reviews by night. Once again, however, he falls under the spell of romance and cocaine in the guise of a wealthy, L.A. socialite's daughter, and he's shipped off to rehab once again. A raw, directionless search for the truth.

(27). **What Happened to Johnnie Jordan? The Story of a Child Turning Violent**



by Jennifer Toth

When society fails vulnerable children such as Jordan, it allows them to become “superpredators,” writes Toth. “There is never justification for murder. But there are reasons why children kill and why, if we do not heed their cries of pain and intervene decisively to help them, we will see countless more children who murder,” she concludes. This is a troubling book, but one that we ignore at our peril.”

On an icy night five years ago, Johnnie Jordan -- just fourteen years old -- brutally murdered his elderly foster care mother, leaving the state of Ohio shocked and outraged. He could not tell police why he did it or even how it made him feel; all he knew was that something inside him made him kill. At the time, few people predicted the swift emergence of a class of young so-called “super-predators” -- criminals like Johnnie who injure and kill without conscience, personified to the nation by the Littleton, Colorado, tragedy in 1999.

In *What Happened to Johnnie Jordan?* acclaimed journalist Jennifer Toth, author of *The Mole People* and *Orphans of the Living*, once again takes a look at the people in our society whom we so often discard and altogether ignore. As Toth investigates Johnnie's crime and life, she unravels the mysteries of a child murderer unable to identify his emotions even after they converge in acts of fury and rage. In the course of her research, Johnnie grows dangerously into a young man who “will probably kill again,” he says, “though I don't want to.” Yet he also demonstrates great kindness and caring when treated as more than just a case number, when treated as a human. Through Johnnie's harrowing story, Toth examines how some children manage to overcome tragic beginnings, while others turn their pain, anger, and loss on innocents.

More than a beautifully written narrative of youth gone wrong, this is the story of a child welfare system so corrupted by bureaucracy and overwhelmed with cases that many children entrusted to its care receive none at all. It is also the story of a Midwestern town struggling with blame and anger, unable to reconcile the damage done by so young an offender. From Johnnie's early years on the streets to his controversial trial and ultimate conviction, *What Happened to Johnnie Jordan?* is a seminal work on youth violence and how we as a society can work to curtail it. Ultimately, Toth ponders one of the most difficult and important questions on youth violence: If we can't control the way children are raised, how can we prevent them from destroying other lives as well?

(28).

What's Wrong With Children's Rights



Author:

Martin Guggenheim

It might motivate you, it might enrage you, and it will definitely get you thinking. In eight chapters, Guggenheim – who began work as a children's rights lawyer more than 30 years ago – offers a skeptical overview and analysis of the development of children's rights as a legal concept. He argues that in practice, children's-rights rhetoric most often serves the needs of adults; that it serves as a cover for unprecedented state

intrusion into family matters, and that it insidiously undermines efforts to carve out meaningful legal rights for older juveniles in criminal proceedings.

Review:

Reviewed by Susan Phillips

As someone who starts from the position that children are individuals deserving of respect, rights, and representation in court, I read Martin Guggenheim's book *What's Wrong With Children's Rights* with a certain skepticism of my own. I found it challenging, exhilarating, and occasionally maddening. I was surprised by the extent to which I found Guggenheim's arguments, particularly in the critically important area of child welfare, both compelling and well-reasoned.

In short, it's a great mental workout for anyone who is concerned with creating a fairer and more equitable world for children.

As Guggenheim explains in his preface, he began working in the field of children's rights at a time when the concept was undergoing major changes – a few years after the landmark Supreme Court ruling *In Re: Gault*. That decision held that children facing delinquency charges in juvenile court have a constitutional right to legal representation.

In Guggenheim's telling, whatever the merits of *In Re: Gault* for juveniles, it opened the door to an ever-expanding understanding of the right of children to legal representation. In his chapter on divorce, custody and visitation, for instance, Guggenheim makes a powerful argument that the increasingly common practice of assigning lawyers to represent children in custody cases actually ratchets up the conflict and makes it harder for divorcing parents to negotiate an agreement that is good for kids.

One of the most compelling chapters in the book is "Child Protection, Foster Care, and Termination of Parental Rights." Here, Guggenheim wades into the fierce battle over the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. This law substantially shortened the amount of time parents are given to regain custody of their children before states come under pressure to file a petition to terminate parental rights and free the children for adoption.

"For the first time in American history, federal policy supports as a prominent aspect of foster care the permanent severance of all legal ties between foster children and their parents," Guggenheim writes (p. 191).

Such a major shift, he writes, can only be justified if we know that children in foster care would face the risk of serious harm if returned to their parents. Guggenheim then argues that in too many cases, parents lose their children to foster care for the sin of "parenting while poor," and then struggle to meet seemingly arbitrary requirements imposed by hostile and overburdened caseworkers in order to try and win their children back.

Some analysts estimate that about 10 percent of the nation's child welfare caseload involves serious and criminal cases of neglect and abuse. Guggenheim believes that media attention to the most horrific cases of abuse have magnified their impact on law and policy. (This "the media made them do it" argument is one of the least persuasive in Guggenheim's arsenal, in my view – journalists focus on those stories because people find them compelling, not the other way around.)

More persuasively, Guggenheim points out that foster care placement rates cannot be rationalized. Placement rates vary widely between states, even when there is no statistically significant difference in rates of abuse and neglect: there are twice as many children in foster care in Minnesota than in Wisconsin, for example. New York City's foster care population soared by almost 50 percent in the late 1990's following a notorious child abuse case.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, more than 95 percent of the foster care caseload is African American. In New York City in 1997, only 3.1 percent of children in care were categorized as "non-Hispanic white." This, says Guggenheim, means that "somehow or other, New York City has found a way to maintain a child welfare system for its white population that treats placement in foster care as an extremely rare event." (P. 205).

The bottom line for Guggenheim is that in many instances, children's rights are used as a "stalking horse" for adult desires. Third-party visitation, for instance, which was successfully promoted by grandparents and organizations like the AARP, he sees as an unwarranted intrusion on parents' rights to raise their children as they see fit, and to determine who they associate with. As he argues, any grandparent who winds up filing a lawsuit for the right to see a grandchild probably has a difficult relationship with the parents' children to begin with, that might be better addressed through conversation, mediation and "being nice."

His discussion of the rapidly evolving concept of who qualifies as a parent, driven by reproductive technology and the increase in non-traditional families, is fascinating. He points out, for instance, that grandparents – culturally sympathetic figures – have had much greater success winning access to their grandchildren than, for example, gay or lesbian individuals who have actively parented a child for years, then find themselves with no rights to continued contact after a relationship ends.

Unfortunately, while Guggenheim offers a cogent and coherent account of the evolution of children's rights in the legal sphere in the U.S., and a useful critique of how it has played out in the lives of children, he does not do nearly as thorough a job looking at the juvenile justice arena. While he deplores the near-universal trend to shift more and more juvenile criminal cases to adult court, and juvenile offenders to adult facilities, his effort to demonstrate a connection between the expansion of children's rights in the area of family law and the constriction of juveniles' rights in criminal proceedings isn't very robust.