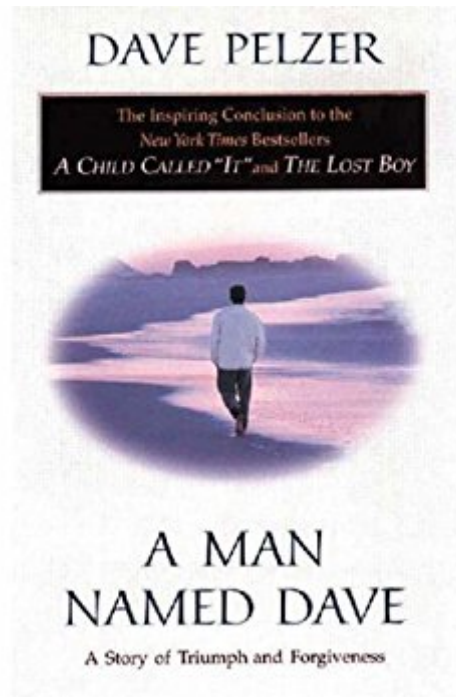


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# A Man Named Dave



## Synopsis

A Man Named Dave, which has sold over 1 million copies, is the gripping conclusion to Dave Pelzer's inspirational and New York Times bestselling trilogy that began with A Child Called "It" and The Lost Boy. "All those years you tried your best to break me, and I'm still here. One day you'll see, I'm going to make something of myself." These words were Dave Pelzer's declaration of independence to his mother, and they represented the ultimate act of self-reliance. Dave's father never intervened as his mother abused him with shocking brutality, denying him food and clothing, torturing him in any way she could imagine. This was the woman who told her son she could kill him any time she wanted to--and nearly did. The more than two million readers of Pelzer's New York Times and international bestselling memoirs know that he lived to tell his courageous story. With stunning generosity of spirit, Dave Pelzer invites readers on his journey to discover how he turned shame into pride and rejection into acceptance.

## Book Information

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#276 in Books > Self-Help > Abuse

## Customer Reviews

The book show the power of forgiveness. This principle works with abuse and is actually the only cure for abuse. I picked this little nuggett up in the book An Encounter With A Prophet and found it a

powerful tool in dealing with my past. The man named David illustrates this point very well for those open to the concept. I loved the book.

This book is about the compassion and forgiveness the author finds in the face of horrible abuse. In the first two books we all felt the author's natural reactions to his abuse. Now in the third book the author gives us the solution. Not the solution to abuse but the solution for all victims of abuse - compassion and forgiveness. I did not get this understanding until after I read the book *An Encounter With A Prophet* which more explicitly shows how to accomplish the solution.

I've read all of Dave's books and each one reminds me of my childhood years. I was an abused child and reading these books brought bad memories of my past. Tears filled my eyes. For the first time ever males such as Dave are writing "their" story about abuse. Not for "MONEY" as some critics have mentioned. But to help people like me. People who have suffered silently through such a terrible childhood. Men need to stop suffering silently. It is not wrong to "tell your story" and I admire Dave for doing just that. I truly recommend any boy/man to read his book. It will move you and hope, heal some wounds!

I discovered the David Pelzer books after seeing him on the Montel Williams show. I was so horrified by his story. . . and my heart went out to *A Child Called It*. And I bought the book. I've read all three. David's survival is truly a triumph. Most people would not have continued to live, let alone rise above the problems, let alone be able to talk about them. David's tales are comparable to the horror stories of the Holocaust - except that the villain in his stories was someone who was supposed to love him. I do wish that I had found out exactly WHAT had triggered David's mother. If the only stimulation for her actions was alcohol, then this series may be the most powerful lesson in the world against liquor. I appreciate David's sharing his story with us. It's one more reason to be grateful every day.

I bought *A Man Named Dave* after skimming the first of his three books, *A Child Called It*, and having a hard time controlling my emotions in the bookstore! I kept wondering how a previously happy, loving mother could turn into the kind of monster who would so demean and damage her own child. These are the same questions that Dave Pelzer as an adult sought to understand, and he tells that part of his story in this third book. You read enough of his flashbacks to understand the kind of hell he lived through with his mother, and the turmoil of foster care (detailed in the second

book, *The Lost Boy*), but you also see the hopeful results of his survival. Dave is honest about the damage his past did to his self-image and relationships, but this is definitely a happy-ending story! Reading it, you find yourself rooting for him to succeed in the Air Force, in his efforts to help other abused children, and in building his own family. The ideas here are old-fashioned ones: hard work, perseverance, courage, and self-sacrifice. This is a story which will deeply affect you. It's a reminder that there are children in our own neighborhoods who may be in desperate need. It's also a call that no matter how you've suffered, you can still take responsibility for your life and turn suffering into compassion. Dave Pelzer is a true hero and his story is well worth reading and taking to heart.

If my fairy god-mother granted me once wish, and I could spend a day with any person in the world, living or deceased, I would choose to spend a day with David Pelzer, for his wisdom, courage, humanity and ability to forgive. In this third book of David's trilogy, the adult years, he shows us the true meaning of forgiveness. He is living proof that until one can honestly look into their heart and forgive the abuser, one cannot truly begin to heal. With that healing process, comes peace of mind, self-worth and the realization that the world can become as beautiful and fulfilling as you choose to make it. "All those years you tried your best to break me, and I'm still here. One day you'll see, I'm going to make something of myself." Those are David's words. How many other survivors have said those same words? It is what keeps the spirit alive. As adults, child abuse survivors are often high achievers not only because of their need to please, be accepted and loved, but because of their determination not to let the abuser "win the battle." David Pelzer won his battle. To forgive his dying father, a man who silently sat on the sidelines while David was being abused at the hands of his mother, is the ultimate attestation of David's healing, and the final destination in his journey. I think adult survivors in every corner of the world would join me in saying, "Thank you, David, for telling your story. You have, indeed, made "something of your life" and most graciously continue to do so through your work in helping others." May you, and those you love, continue to live, love and enjoy life eternally.

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