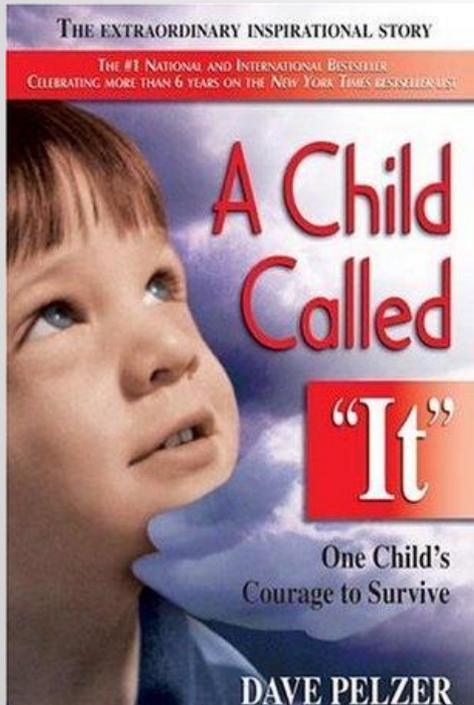


The Child Called 'It'



Author: David Pelzer
By: Olivia Rivera

Main Characters

- Dave Pelzer (abused boy)



- Stephen Joseph (father)



- Catherine Roerva (abusive mother)



Minor characters

- Pamela Gold (social worker)



- Rudy & Lilian Catanze (favorite foster parents)



- Russell, Richard, Ronald Stan (brothers)

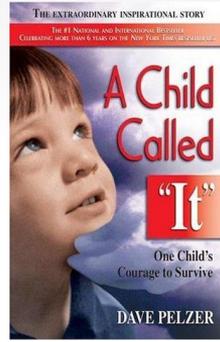
Catherine Roerva (his mother)

- She was a raging alcoholic
- Only 6 people attended her funeral
 - Not one tear was shed at her funeral
- Was responsible for the worst case of child abuse in California.
- Abused David from the age 4-12

Stephen Joseph (father)

- Died when David was 10 years old.
- Became an alcoholic after finding out about Catherine abusing David.
 - He did nothing about it.
- San Francisco Fireman

Protagonist



The Child Called “It”:

David Pelzer and Stephen Joseph (his father)

The Lost Boy:

David Pelzer, Lilian Catanze (foster mother),
Pamela Gold (social worker), and Gordon
Hutchenson (found homes for him).

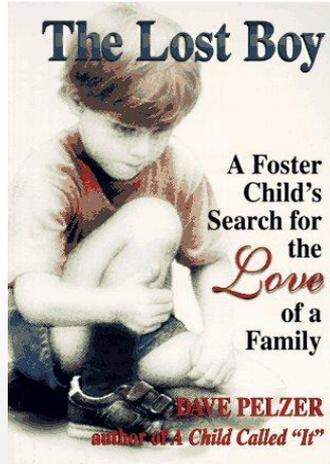
Antagonists

The Child Called “It”:

Catherine Roerva (mother), Kevin, Russell,
Stan, Ronald (brothers)

The Lost Boy:

Catherine Roerva



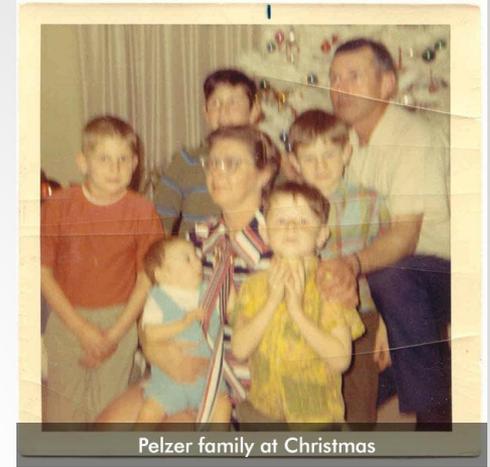
Setting

- ❖ Daly City, California where he lived with his brothers, mother, and father.
- ❖ Abuse was from early 1960's to early 1970's.



Dave Pelzer

- ❖ Born on December 29, 1960.
- ❖ Born in San Francisco, California.
- ❖ 1 older brother, Stan, 3 younger brothers (Russell, Ronald, Kevin)



The Main Conflict

The main conflict was basically the whole story. It was all about the abuse from Dave Pelzers mother and Dave trying to save his own life. She made him drink ammonia, beat the crap out of him, made him lay on a burning stove, and even stabbed him. All those things she did to him and she felt no remorse.



Major event 1

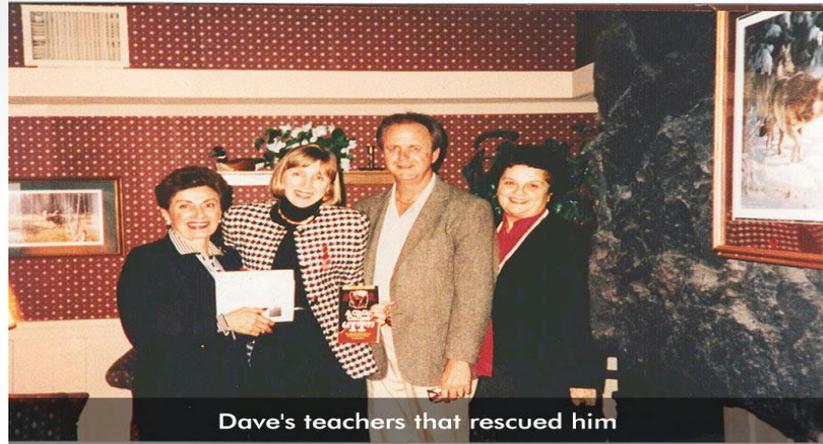
- ❖ His mother stabbing him “accidentally.”
 - He was 10 years old
 - The summer of 1971
 - “If you don’t finish on time, I’m going to kill you!” - Catherine Roerva pg. 85
 - - She didn’t take him to a hospital.
 - -Took care of him on her own but still didn’t feel any remorse. Still made him do all the chores.



Major Event 2

❖ March 5, 1973

- He was finally rescued from his mother.
- School finally called the police to report the bruises and cuts
- The state took custody of him.



Major Event 3

❖ The trial

- Determining whether he would go back to his mother or stay in Foster Care.
- He was going to lie because he didn't want to betray his mother, but he told the truth and stayed in Foster Care with "Aunt Mary".



Life in Foster Care

-Stayed in 5 different homes while in foster care.

-He favorited Lilian and Rudy Catanze, his 2nd foster parents. He stayed there for over a year.

-He started to rebel though. Stealing things, lying, and getting caught in the wrong crowds.

Resolution

- He was taken away, finally.
- Went from one foster home to another until he was 18.
- Saw his brothers once in a while, not really though.
- Wasn't abused anymore.

Dave Pelzer After Foster Care

- When he was 18, he joined the Armed Forces.
 - Served in the Gulf War
- Married his first wife, Patsy, in 1996.
 - Had one kid with her
- Remarried to his second/last wife years later.
- Travels the country giving inspirational lectures and speeches and volunteers.

