

Book Review

A Child Called "It"

A Child Called "It" is one of the most harrowing and unforgettable memoirs I have ever read. Dave Pelzer's account of his childhood is deeply disturbing, but also incredibly powerful. From the very first page, I felt a strong emotional connection to his story, and it was impossible not to feel overwhelming sadness for a child who went through such unimaginable suffering.

What struck me most was the sheer level of abuse and torment Dave endured at the hands of his mother. The cruelty he faced was relentless and, at times, almost difficult to comprehend. As I read, I felt heartbroken and distressed, constantly thinking about how no child should ever have to live through that kind of pain. It made me reflect on how vulnerable children are and how important it is that they are protected and cared for.

Despite how upsetting the story is, it is also incredibly gripping. I found myself unable to put the book down. Each chapter left me wanting to keep going, hoping that things would somehow get better for Dave. There was a constant sense of tension and anticipation as I read, and all I wanted was for him to escape the abuse and finally find some safety and happiness. That hope kept me turning the pages, even when the content was difficult to read.

Another powerful aspect of the book is Dave's resilience. Even in the darkest moments, his determination to survive shines through. That strength gave the story a sense of purpose and reminded me that even in the worst circumstances, the human spirit can endure.

Overall, A Child Called "It" is an emotional and deeply moving read. It left me feeling incredibly sad, but also inspired by Dave's courage. It is not an easy book to read, but it is one that stays with you long after you finish it.

Emma Loughran September 2026

Warden House

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr Seuss