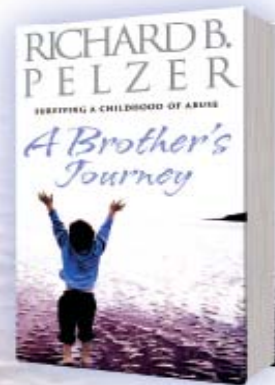




The hunter became the hunted.

This is Richard's story.



A BROTHER'S JOURNEY

Surviving a Childhood of Abuse – A memoir

By Author: RICHARD B. PELZER

**The No. 1 International Best Seller and
A New York Times Best Seller**

***The real brother described as "Russell" in a world acclaimed
best-seller provides the real story.***

"Undoubtedly one of the most disturbing, harrowing books that you will ever read"

- Scottish Daily Record -

"Although not meant to be a horror story, the chilling descriptions of the author's childhood abuse by his mother could be mistaken for those of a Stephen King novel."

- AudioFile- Amazon.com Canada J.A.H. -

"Richard Pelzer makes us aware of that can happen behind closed doors"

- Woman and Home -

"Gut-wrenching recollections of the horrendous years-long abuse inflicted on the author by his alcoholic, emotionally disturbed mother"

- Kirkus Reviews -

"Told in surprisingly matter-of-fact language..." "...Richard shares courageously and selflessly his hope of raising awareness and preventing child abuse..."

- Publishers Weekly -

"...he writes with an amazing lack of bitterness toward his other brothers and toward the social services agency that left him alone..", "...a story worth reading..."

- Booklist Review -

“Somewhere in the middle of this family, something was different. Something was, well, wrong. Around the age of five years old, I understood that there was a difference between the boys and the boy. Between Ross and Scott there was another boy, as a child I knew him by many names: “The Boy,” “IT”, “David.” I was taught to hate him as early as I can remember. He was supposed to be a horrible child, an embarrassment to the family, deserving of every form of abuse he received. Mom called him “The freak,” “A miserable excuse for a human being”, “The thing that’s lucky to be alive.”

He was like some animal you see on scary late night television shows kept under the steps and yet the rest of the family seems; normal. We all were superior to “IT” and I used that to my advantage. It was almost as if IT was a dog that I was allowed to kick at will. He was an animal that I could abuse. I could force him to feel that same lowliness that I was more than used to. It was addictive.”

“However, my place was dubious and fragile. In reality, I lived with the constant fear of sliding into the place that he, being IT, occupied. In order to stay where I was, I had to keep him down. I had to contract with Mom to be her “Little Nazi”; her ally against IT. I was not only allowed, but also encouraged to mistreat him. I was often rewarded for ratting him out to Mom. He scared me because I knew that I could easily be him. I knew his eyes hid all the fear and all the pain he had endured over the years. I was afraid that if I looked at him and not through him, I would feel some of his pain - or even worse, the pain that I had caused him. I just glanced at him, because as much as he scared me, I also felt sorry for him.”

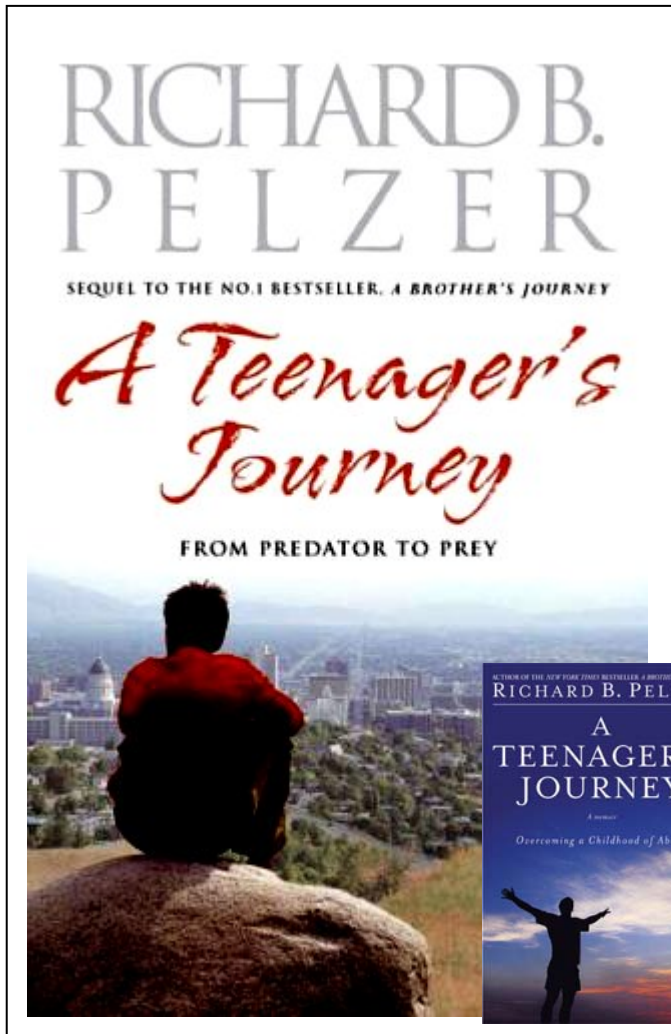
“I couldn’t move. I couldn’t breathe; I thought I was going to be sick again. I was still wearing the shirt covered in puke and dirt. I got sick again. This time it was on her carpet and on the side of my face. I could feel the mess in my ears and in my hair. The entire side of my face was covered and the smell was worse than before. Heaving dry spells again, and again, each twist of my body caused more pain and convulsions.

As she walked down the hallway, she called my name at the top of her voice and told me to get back on the couch. I couldn’t respond. I could hear her, I just couldn’t respond. I could barely see clearly, as my eyes were filled with tears and sweat. I turned my head to the side, because I knew I was about to be sick again. I didn’t want the mess in my eyes. They hurt too badly now. After I vomited, again she came over, kneeled down close to my face, and looked me in the eyes and said: “Oh My God! I’m calling an ambulance.”

She knelt down and asked me not to tell “them” what happened. Wiping my face and the top of my shirt with a wet cloth, she tried to remove the smell and the vomit that had been there for hours.

“Who?” “Tell who?” I hesitantly asked.”

No nation has any resource greater than -
the potential of just one child”
- Richard Pelzer -
2001



A TEENAGER'S JOURNEY

A memoir By International Best Selling Author
RICHARD B. PELZER

The bestselling author of "A Brother's Journey" continues the series with "A Teenager Journey." This incredible story tells of the life and struggles of one teenager who desperately tried to break free from the aftermath of unspeakable family violence. "A Teenager's Journey" is a highly emotional story of one unimaginably self-destructive adolescent, once the predator who became the prey. Richard's struggle begins with him facing the apparitions that haunted him for twenty years and ends with letting go of those same ghosts, finally.

**New York Times
Best Selling Author
And
#1 International
Best Selling Author**
Richard Pelzer



“A Teenager’s Journey”

This highly emotional memoir takes the reader through the awkward and uncertain life of a severely abused eight year old child trapped in a teenager’s body. *A Teenager’s Journey* will appeal to the same audience that made “*A Brother’s Journey*” a # 1 International Bestseller and a New York Times Bestseller.

Richard has been called dynamic and “absolutely riveting.” Richard has been asked to address many different audiences ranging from: Federal Law Enforcement agencies, State Social Services Agencies, State Judges, Family Support Centers, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, the United States Military, and non profit organizations across the country as well as internationally.

In February 2005, “**A Brother’s Journey**” became the # 1 “bestseller” in the United Kingdom and throughout greater Europe *and* became a New York Times Best Seller. The first memoir sold more than 500,000 copies worldwide.

“A Teenager’s Journey” provides the reader with a hard look at an all too real life; an incredibly honest look at the communal struggles to survive and find answers to the returning question “Why and I here?” It is also a personal look at the self-destruction of children who live with family violence. This is a story of Richard's struggle to find himself, of searching as a lost teenager and of finding “yourself.” It’s a story of the fears and pains many teens today face and how one boy made it though what we all call this simple life.

A Teenager’s Journey chronicles the harrowing route to adulthood taken by bestselling author Richard Pelzer. Richard’s childhood, warped by devastating dysfunction and the alcoholic abuse of a parent, left him with the legacy of violence, violence that, as he struggles through adolescence and beyond, he begin to visit upon on himself. The hideous cycle of destruction within the family turns as Richard discovers, as too many normal teenagers often do, self-destruction. Except there is nothing normal about Richard's approach; with a vengeance Richard throws himself into a toxic world from which he sees only one way out; suicide.

This is the story of crazed binges, of heady cocktails, of blissful highs, and hideous lows that led, repeatedly, to attempts on his life. It's a story of a tormented soul; of a boy in the impossible position of hating his family with all his soul, whilst at the same time, clinging to the desperation of their protection.

Yet it is also a story of faith. Initially, the faith of one person who knew Richard was merely papering over the cracks of appalling pain. Ultimately, it is not a family or a State Youth Program that saves him. Richard becomes the architect of his own salvation. The story he tells in this book, the lessons he learned and the lessons he now shares, echo far beyond his own orbit. This teenager's story is also a universal story. It is a compelling and ultimately redemptive tale of escaping from guilt, fear, and shame and embarking on the road to freedom. Richard shows how each of us can rise above our own potential and achieve far more than mere accomplishment. Richard shows through his own experience, that the need to overcome, accomplish and conquer coupled with a foundation of hope and faith in “self,” can lead to an incredibly strong desire to accomplish anything.

A Teenager’s Journey allows the reader to become part of a teenager’s life as he tries and fails, tries again, and fails, and ultimately tries one last time, and yet, fails again. The reader becomes a part of that horrific struggle of one teenager trying to commit suicide, and the desperation in destruction. The reader experiences the private pain one boy feels after several-failed attempt and the shame in not being able to find the guts to try again. A Teenager’s Journey helps teens and parents understand that moving into adulthood and the struggle of the journey itself can be not only rewarding but also exciting - if you let it. It is a fantastic opportunity for teenagers, educators, parents, social workers, and family advocacy organizations to learn from the mistakes Richard made along the way, and of someone else’s pain, without the reader having to actually experience it. As required reading in many state educational systems, state funded advocacy programs, and family preparedness organizations throughout the world, both titles printed in over eight languages and more on the way.

Richard's experience and how he dealt with his own mistakes echo's the need for a strong, prepared, informed, and close knit family who can reach out to organizations for help and accomplish and overcome as a family unit united.

"There is nothing of greater value on this earth
than a child and his future "

- Richard Pelzer -

2004

"For me, at the age of fifteen, I found other ways to endure; alcohol and the overwhelming need to end my own life. It was not as if "I" was the only teen who drank in school, most of the kids I knew drank. Most of the kids I hung out with used an assortment of drugs: nothing outrageous; just marijuana, speed, crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, hallucinogenic, and occasionally, heroin.

Alcohol was different. At first, it was a matter of desire: a desire to get drunk. Later it was more of a need to get completely bombed. As I look back, I can understand now, why most of the kids asked me why I liked hard liquor when the rest preferred beer.

It was just part of my personality. "

"As I turned sixteen the realization that I was nearly six feet tall and weighed almost 180 pounds spared me from any further physical abuse. It simply meant my introduction into mental and emotional abuse. It was actually more damaging to me than being beaten unconscious or deprived sleep for days. As a teenager, I often wished my parents would make me sit on my hands on the hardwood floor again with my hands folded together knuckles down. The pain of my own weight crushing my knuckles as I sat on my hands for hours was not as bad as feeling the eyes of the neighbors on me as I walked past their houses knowing that Mom has called each one of them many times exploiting any fault I had as a teenager."

"Those horrible and frightening memories haunted me. I recalled seeing myself as a little boy hiding in the basement like an animal; hiding from mom. The memory of mom laughing at me as she left me under the metal shelves she shoved me into, the crushing debris, and her laughter as she simply walked away from me hurt me deeply. But when I recalled that same little boy sitting on the bottom step in the basement looking into a pool of his own blood after she had thrown me to the cement and smashed my head against the floor, I recall the reflection of my face: meek and humiliated. I was so ashamed of what I was. The ghosts of my past, the ones that reminded me of that little boy who had been abused and degraded frightened me."

"I had finally seen something that I knew I would remember before I died; before I took my own life. It wasn't odd that I found comfort amongst the headstones and the graves. I felt a quite and calmness in my heart."

“Richard’s presentations allow one to experience life like few people ever have. Discussing the dynamics, impacts, and importance of “the family” Richard helps us all understand the value of impressions we all make on children.”

- State of Massachusetts Dept of Social Services -

Richard has had the opportunity to address Federal Law Enforcement, State Social Service Organizations, Judges, Schools, Human Service Professionals, Police Departments, Military Family Advocacy Programs and the general public in the United States as well as abroad.

Richard’s discussions and presentations not only talk to the audience but also bring the crowd into the conversation. His discussions are based on his first two books.

“First and foremost we all have to understand what “Family Violence” is. Most of the time we cringe at the mention of the words, “Spousal Abuse” or “Child Abuse.” With a clear understanding comes what most of us “miss”... awareness. It is one thing to understand and even appreciate what too many of our families have, and are, going through. It is something else to be “aware” of what they have gone through, and continue to go through.

Many of the decisions our youths make are based on their experiences and views of themselves. If we take a unique look into the emotions, thoughts, and feelings of each family member, and the supposed rolls we assume to be true, we begin to understand that each person in the family unit is learning and evolving with the rest.”

Richard’s experience as a youth living with one of California’s most abusive parents didn’t end when the state removed one of only one sibling from the home, it continued and his life changed overnight. By understanding, and tuning learned skills and abilities from experiences, Richard adapted to what eventually became a viscous circle of destruction. Those experiences and self taught “lessons” are carefully and clearly presented as “tools” that can be used by any family member with the desire to help. Once Richard became “aware” he was forced to face, as many youth do; himself. Armed with the memories of previous experiences and the ammunition of “the energy of youth” he was able to find what he was looking for as a child; a way out.

“The lessons learned and the impact realized after hearing Richard’s presentation leaves one with a birth of respect and appreciation for what we have as parents, guardians, educators, and responsible adults.”

- Harvard University, Boston, MA -

This discussion entitled “From Predator to Prey” is highly emotional, encompassing, and leaves a long lasting impact on families, youth, teens, and young adults. The discussion lasts between 45 Minutes to 1 and ½ hours; depending on the audience.

Contact Richard Pelzer for scheduling a presentation by calling 508-888-6151 or via email at staff@richardpelzer.com

Entitled “Trapped in Adolescence” this discussion allows the audience to experience the private emotions and desires of a young teenager looking to destroy himself and everyone around him.

“We have to acknowledge that teenagers today live a different life than we once did as youth. This is true of most generations. From everything that is thrown at our youth today; education, employment, peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, the internet, and entertainment, the youth of today are making more choices and often incorrect choices because they feel they “have to” choose.

Without the understanding and patience of maturity, those decisions are often harmful to themselves and those around them. Once we can appreciate what our youth of today are experiencing then we, as a united family, can guide and allow our young adults to make better decisions. It is a serious and confusing structure that the young adults of today are building. It is also a very necessary part of growing up and “letting go of childhood.”

Based on his life experience, Richard discusses the desperation of wanting to “belong” and the need to be “different.” Faced with the stigma and labels placed on him by his family, community, and friends, Richard faced the incredibly real decision to take his own life. While providing a horrific picture of the lack of stability of confusion in one young man, Richard shows that not all such desperate acts are a “cry for help”; some are also a real desire to destroy.

From the very beginning to the last word, this discussion gives the audience a chance to reflect, look back and even re-experience some of those “awkward” and “embarrassing” events that are often burned into the memories we carry as adults.

This discussion makes a difference to all families, youth, educators, the parents of teens, and social workers working with our families, and young adults. It provides a unique and powerful look at the effects of bullying, harassment, abuse, and basic human nature. The resounding message: Today, there are so many organizations, dedicated people, and opportunities to seek and obtain help for families struggling with violence. However, statistically speaking, one in six hundred families utilize such organizations.

“Somewhere a young adult who grew up in an unstable and violent home will become more than his potential. We as parents and responsible organizations, must ensure that each family member in the nation and throughout the world receives the same opportunity”

This discussion entitled “Trapped in Adolescence” is highly emotional and the suggested audience age minimum is 13. This discussion requires a level of maturity and understanding found in people from pre teen to young adult. The “Trapped in Adolescence” discussion lasts between 1 hour and 1 and ½ hours – depending on the audience.

Contact Richard Pelzer for scheduling a presentation by calling 508-888-6151 or via email at staff@richardpelzer.com

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Richard B. Pelzer

Richard was born forth of five boys in 1965 in Daly City, California. During his childhood, Richard lived the nightmare and horrors we only hear of known as child abuse. From his earliest memories, Richard recalls watching his brother being abused and was the only witnesses to his mother's attempt to kill her son. Once the California authorities learned of the unspeakable acts occurring in a suburban California home, the state removed Richard's brother leaving him and three other boys behind. Throughout his adolescence and teen years, Richard suffered physical, mental, and emotional abuse at the hands of his mother.

Richard spent most of his teenage years moving about the country from Maui, Hawaii, to Richmond, Virginia seeking the support and love of a family. Richard barely survived his incredible abusive childhood and his own self-destructive teenage years. After thirty years and with the support of his wife, Richard collected his memoirs and created his first book "A BROTHER'S JOURNEY." This collection of memoirs tells of the emotions and heartache that a child abuse victim carries throughout those tender and short years from ages 5 to 15.

His second book, "A TEENAGER'S JOURNEY" takes a hard look at a young man struggling to find himself. A very honest and straightforward look at the challenges facing teen's that grow up as abused children, "A TEENAGER'S JOURNEY" provides a unique insight for anyone who has ever been or will ever be a teenager. The experience and honesty in this work is carefully woven into a life story of challenges, failures, and accomplishments of a teenager desperate to find closure and leave his childhood behind him.

Until recently he managed in the banking and financial fields. Richard lives on the South Shore of Massachusetts where he now spends his time as a writer and family advocate, speaking to organizations throughout the world.

Richard's presentations have made significant and positive changes for state and federal child protective organizations, family advocacy organizations as well as international family advocacy organizations.

Richard has been, and remains active, in supporting and assisting in the development of family advocacy organizations throughout the nation. Richard's discussions have been presented at high schools, colleges, universities, state law enforcement, federal law enforcement organizations, and private advocacy groups.

Richard's fee's for speaking and presenting available upon request. Special consideration and discounts are available for certain organizations; please contact Richard's office for further details.