

Name

Professor's name

Course no.

Date

Report on *A Child Called "It"*

Written in 1995 by Dave Pelzer, *A Child Called "It"* views the subject of domestic abuse from the perception of a child who becomes a victim of his own mother. The book was published during the period of time when child abuse had increasingly become a serious issue. As it is an autobiography, Pelzer is the main character, the child who narrates this story. According to the narrator, the mother-child relationship is harmonious up until the boy reaches the age of four. The story begins with a loving parent, as is expected in any family. But family relationships begin deteriorating when Pelzer's parents start abusing alcohol. The situation becomes critical when Pelzer's parents become alcoholics.

It is at this point that the abuse from Pelzer's mother begins. The abuse has a deeply emotional and physical influence on Pelzer's life. Aside from being physically beaten, it is difficult for a little boy to understand the changes in a loving mother's behavior. Pelzer is forced to swallow soap and eat frozen food. As expected, he does not like the way he is treated, but he also does not give up on the thought that his life will, one day, change for the better. The most difficult challenge he faces is when his mother forces him to take ammonia and eat his vomit. This changes his perspective completely, making him realize the need for foster care. However, he finds it challenging to leave his biological mother, despite the abuse. For anybody, but

especially for Pelzer, it is hard to comprehend how his own mother could subject him to such horrible trials. It is an unforgettable life-time experience. At the age of twelve, Pelzer is accepted into foster care, but thoughts of his mother continue to plague him. While in foster care, he learns to survive the challenges life hands him. Despite the challenges he faces, Pelzer does not give up on his ambitions, choosing to build his life all over again. In the book, Pelzer tells about his life in foster care and how he secures his future as an adult after leaving the foster care program.

The book is very inspiring and fires the imagination. It triggers the mind to think about other children who could be going through the same kinds of situations as Pelzer. Pelzer calls considerable attention to the topic of emotional and physical abuse, especially for children at a young age. Through his own experiences, Pelzer depicts the demons of the children who live with abusive parents. This book truly inspires courage and determination to live against all odds and to overcome serious abuse. Pelzer's story will remain valuable always since the subject of child abuse remains a serious issue. As in all books, Pelzer uncovers an important facet of life. His book is recommended for adults, especially expectant parents and students pursuing various career paths connected to psychology and social services.

Works Cited

Pelzer, D. J. *A Child Called "It": An Abused Child's Journey from Victim to Victor*. Deerfield Beach, Fla.: Health Communications, 1995. Print.