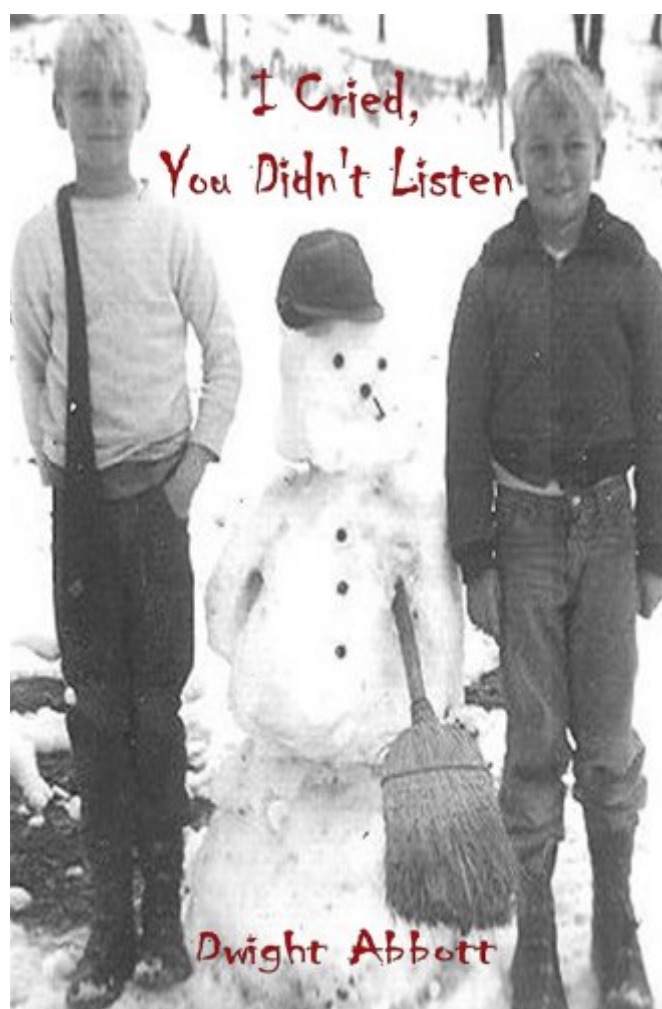


The book was found

I Cried, You Didn't Listen: A First Person Look At A Childhood Spent Inside CYA Youth Detention Systems: Surviving A Life In Prison From Adolescent To Death; Book 1



Synopsis

"I CRIED, YOU DIDN'T LISTEN IS THE MOST POWERFUL TALE OF HORROR WITHIN THE WALLS OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS SINCE 'PAPILLON.' THE TERRIFYING ASPECT IS THAT IT DESCRIBES AMERICA'S JUVENILE SYSTEM" - Alden Mills, ARETE MAGAZINE "THE AUTHOR'S WELL-WRITTEN STORY COMES AT THE READER FAST AND FURIOUSLY; SHOCKING READERS INTO AN AWARENESS OF THE INHUMANITY OF AMERICA'S JUVENILE PENAL INSTITUTIONS."- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY "I CRIED, YOU DIDN'T LISTEN IS A POWERFUL INDICTMENT OF A SYSTEM THAT MAY HAVE LOST TRACK OF ITS PURPOSE."- Don Davis, THE SAN DIEGO UNION An early Winner of the "Project Censored" Award of Excellence; I Cried, You Didn't Listen is a powerful story. It is shocking, haunting and brutal. Although it is a rare and valuable document, what is exceptional is not Dwight Abbott's experience, but his clarity and courage in sharing that experience. Dwight tells the disturbing tale of a very young child, first committed to the care of the state because of family tragedy and bad luck. Once institutionalized, he must learn to live within the cruel dynamics of a system that grants power through violence and leaves children at the mercy of predatory adults. He is continually faced with the need to choose between dehumanizing options: Be predator or be prey. Even in Dwight's description of racist violence we see the effect that the social system has had on him â " cementing stereo-types and prejudices that become self-fulfilling prophesy. Dwight's account is terrifying. Upon reading it, one must recognize that, faced with the stark choice between victimizing another and being a victim oneself, the morals and values that make sense in freedom fall away. Perpetrating violence appears as the best option for self-preservation. This is the fundamental dynamic at work in Dwight's institutional life. I Cried, You Didn't Listen shows that, within incarcerating institutions, violence in all its forms â " sexual assault, cliques, crews, gangs, emotional abuse â " is essentially about power and control both over and above one's own sense of self. -Books not Bars

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Customer Reviews

"Physically exhausted, psychologically numb and emotionally fragile, your incarcerated children are crying out in their anguish, and you don't hear them, you are too busy! • They are left to feel they are standing inside a cosmic toilet that you are about to flush! Even more so today than the years I've written about, everywhere inside juvenile prisons, children are forced to experience a never-ending gauntlet of abuse... Boys as young as 8-9 are forced to fight, viciously like wild animals, during their journey to survive a system in which the odds are stacked high against them. It is they, the children, the most gentle and tender of spirits among us, who become the most terrible when fighting to keep their souls." D.E. Abbott It is inconceivable that children are treated this way, even today, and we close our eyes. Yes, of course, it's much easier to look away, because when we look within juvenile prisons, what we see is a reflection of our incompetence to protect our children, to raise them well with care and love. We don't like to see the very image of our indifference or our cruelty. There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. -Nelson Mandela Read this book. It costs only \$0.79. Please, read it! It's so easy to condemn the little thugs and tell: "He deserved it all. It was his fault. He just had to stop fighting against the other convicts and to become a good boy. But he is incorrigible." No one, NO ONE, would be able to do much better than Dwight did considering how things went for him (how things go for most of the children institutionalized in those juvenile jails). Dwight was only nine when he was sent to CYA for the first time. And he did nothing wrong to be sent there.

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