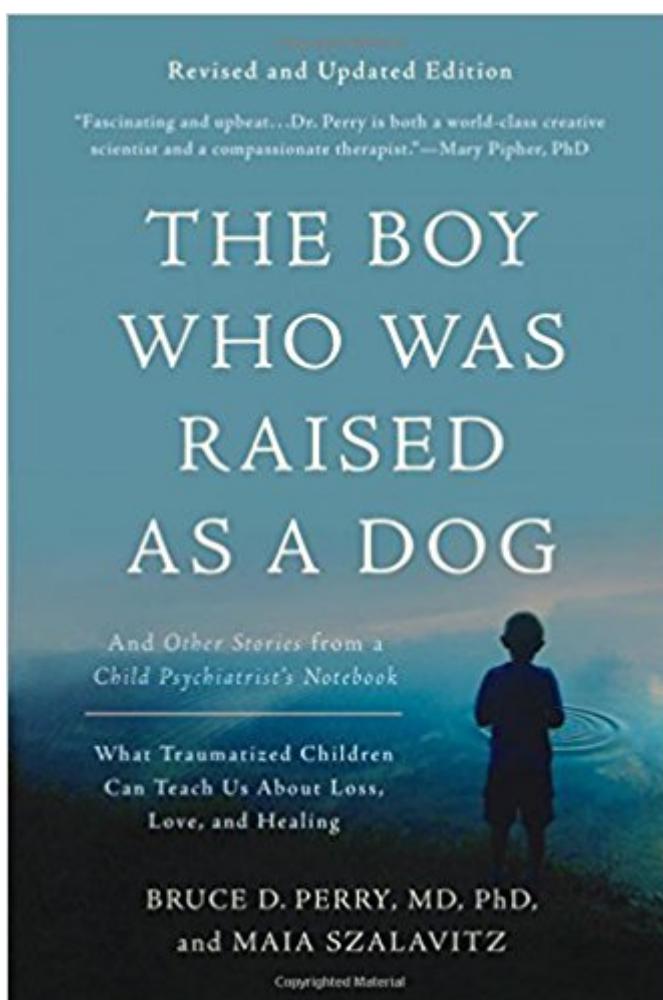


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# The Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog: And Other Stories From A Child Psychiatrist's Notebook--What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, And Healing





## Synopsis

How does trauma affect a child's mind; and how can that mind recover? In the classic *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*, Dr. Perry explains what happens to the brains of children exposed to extreme stress and shares their lessons of courage, humanity, and hope. Only when we understand the science of the mind and the power of love and nurturing, can we hope to heal the spirit of even the most wounded child.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In beautifully written, fascinating accounts of experiences working with emotionally stunted and traumatized children, child psychiatrist Perry educates readers about how early-life stress and violence affects the developing brain. He offers simple yet vivid illustrations of the stress response and the brain's mechanisms with facts and images that crystallize in the mind without being too detailed or confusing. The stories exhibit compassion, understanding and hope as Perry paints detailed, humane pictures of patients who have experienced violence, sexual abuse or neglect, and Perry invites the reader on his own journey to understanding how the developing child's brain works. He learns that to facilitate recovery, the loss of control and powerlessness felt by a child during a traumatic experience must be counteracted. Recovery requires that the patient be "in charge of key aspects of the therapeutic interaction." He emphasizes that the brain of a traumatized child can be remolded with patterned, repetitive experiences in a safe environment. Most importantly, as such trauma involves the shattering of human connections, "lasting, caring connections to others" are

irreplaceable in healing; medications and therapy alone cannot do the job. "Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love," Perry concludes. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although many parents fret over how to raise a more academically and financially successful child, Perry has learned a thing or two about how not to raise a prospective sociopath. Here he shares the stories of several children he has encountered in his decades as a child psychiatrist and expert on childhood trauma. Each child, from the seven-year-old who offered him sexual favors to the eponymous boy who spent his early years living in a dog cage, taught Perry something about the effects of early childhood trauma on brain development. His discoveries contradict the formerly held precept that children are emotionally resilient and will outgrow insults to their psyches. On the contrary, he says, severe and occasionally even not-so-severe emotional or physical abuse can chemically alter early brain development, resulting later in the inability to make appropriate, socially sanctioned behavioral decisions. Perry doesn't promote what he calls the "abuse excuse" for antisocial or criminal behavior; rather, he makes a powerful case for early intervention for disruptive children to prevent adult sociopathy. Donna ChavezCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you have many kind of empathy in your body, many of these case stories will be hard to swallow. However, there is relief in the notion that individuals are beginning to understand what changes need to happen to create a more balanced and happy society. My hope is that in my elder years the information in this book is common knowledge and applied to education systems everywhere.

Loved this book by Dr. Perry. This book entails real life stories from Child Psychology and how they impacted how psychologists learn to understand how a child's brain works or is defined by the tragedies of their young lives. This is a great read for those in a field that works with children and great for foster/adoptive parents to understand why these children do what they do and how to help guide them in life.

Unlike many books written on the subject of child trauma, psychology and psychiatry, Perry approaches his clients and their cases with a good balance between a biological/neurological view and psychological view of the effects of trauma on children. It discusses in simple language the

biological changes which occur as a result of abuse or trauma in early brain development, and then revealing how those changes show themselves in subsequent behaviour and cognitions. Whilst other books written on similar topics tend to dwell on the almost "airy-fairy" psychological approaches to up a child's self-esteem, such as talking about love and cuddles; The Boy who was raised as a Dog discussed the importance of these things, without ignoring the biological, and evolutionary, reasons as to why humans need this type of affection. The only frustration I had with this book was the amount of concluding statements put in. Whilst the rest of the book was written well, it was as though the concluding paragraphs of each chapter were written following the instructions of a high schooler's essay writing guide; referring back to each paragraph and re-stating each point. This was frustrating mainly because they were long-winded and unnecessary. Overall, I found this book quite thought-provoking and gave me a good basic understanding of the neurosequential approach used by Perry and his colleagues.

This was a superb book in my opinion. It was very informative, yet very easy to read. I found it to be wonderfully descriptive via the incredible stories of those children, while explaining sufficiently to the lay reader the theories and ideas behind their diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Perry's empathy and skill emanated through it all; what a monumental relief he must have been to those children, who had felt so lost and alone. I don't think any practitioner would say they have all the answers and Dr. Perry doesn't pretend to either, but the "treatment" of understanding and connection he was able to create with those damaged kids is so very precious and still seems relatively rare. Despite some necessary energy spent on "science" and research in his career and thus in his book, his emphasis on love, support and connection to "cure" reminds us that we are all emotional beings, with human needs and human solutions. Most importantly, in my opinion, I found his book not just "interesting", but very helpful. While few of us are so unfortunate to have had a childhood experience even close to the examples in his book, we all have our wounds and I gained a greater understanding and better perspective in regard to my own lingering childhood "issues". Bravo.

This is an eye-opening book! I highly recommend this to anyone who works with children. It really raised my level of awareness and understanding of what long-term results adverse childhood experiences can have. It is a well-written book and you definitely do not need to be a therapist or psychiatrist to read and understand it. As a parent it has really helped me to understand some of the behaviors my adopted daughter displays.

This book introduced me to the world of childhood trauma, a subject of which I knew very little. It is heart wrenching to witness the mistreatment these children experienced, but it is encouraging to know that some of them were helped. Learning about the development of the brain and neural substrates affected by trauma was fascinating for me, as was the use of that information to develop a treatment for childhood trauma. I had a hard time putting the book down. I highly recommend it; it is very readable and will enlighten readers about the needs of traumatized children as well as what untraumatized children need to develop into healthy adults.

This book was a wonderful balance of case history, treatment and the science behind it. Dr. Perry comes across as an innovative and compassionate advocate for children with very difficult life experiences. He maintains the upmost respect for the humanity of his patients and shows a true understanding of how the mind processes trauma. His methods are adaptive for each situation/client while maintaining proven scientific/psychiatric protocol. His approach is a welcome relief from the overwhelming flood of literature proporting that the only treatment for children who have been victims of trauma/neglect is the use of highly coercive/abusive "attachment" therapy and parenting. This book is a must read for anyone involved in the lives of children, without regard to whether or not they come from difficult past. It is an easy read, (I could not put it down) and the scientific information provided is explained in such a way that a lay-person can understand it while still being interesting to the professional reader. This book is a wonderful resource for providing hope to parents who are faced with the difficult task of helping children who have experienced profound loss or abuse.

A book about some of the beginning stages of exploring childhood trauma on and The validity of its effects. It's a little bit of a downer but it's unbelievably fascinating and a really great read.

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