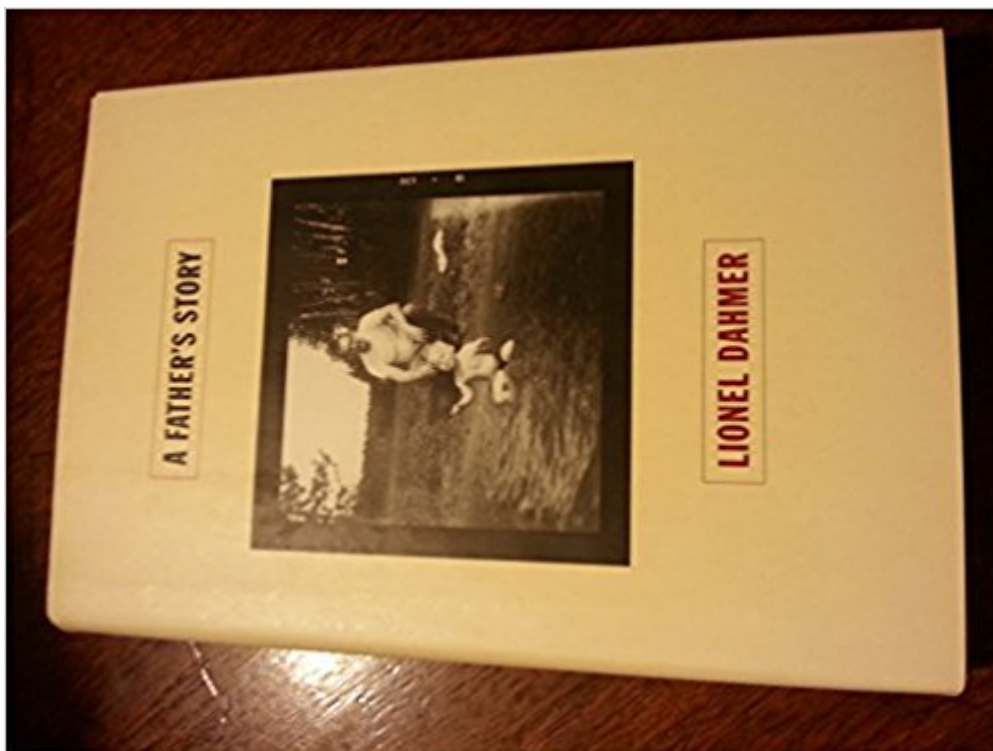


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# A Father's Story



## Synopsis

The father of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer describes his shock at hearing the news of his son's crimes, his entry into a world of complete denial, and how, during Jeffrey's trial, he placed himself in his son's shoes. 150,000 first printing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If readers are expecting sensational revelations from this earnest memoir by the father of mass-murderer Jeffrey Dahmer, they will be disappointed. We are instead given a glimpse into the macabre life of one of the most demented killers in the nation's history, a man who kept a full human skeleton in his closet. Jeffrey was born in Milwaukee in 1960 after his mother had endured a very difficult pregnancy (after giving birth to another son, she would spend time in a mental institution). Jeffrey seemed like any other child; it was only as he grew older that he began to withdraw. His father sees many similarities between himself and his son: both are emotionally distant, fear abandonment, like to control people and feel inadequate. The author, a chemist, writes that he was so involved with his work that he never noticed that Jeffrey, even in high school, was an alcoholic. Dahmer goes on to recite his son's litany of failure: dropping out of college after only one semester; being kicked out of the army for his alcoholism; his interest in devil worship and seances. The strongest statement in the book is Dahmer's denial of an allegation made by a former male lover of Jeffrey's that he sexually abused his son as a teenager. A book for criminologists, psychiatrists and the ghoulish. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Although he knew his son Jeffrey was disturbed, the author, like most parents, hoped he was "just a blink away from redemption." Thus, he was as horrified as others when Jeffrey's gruesome serial murders of young men came to light. (See Anne E. Schwartz's *The Man Who Could Not Kill Enough*, LJ 4/15/92). In this brief, honest book, *Dahmer*, a research chemist, searches for answers to the question of how his son became a monster. In retrospect, there are some clues--Dahmer even speculates that he is "a man whose son was perhaps only the deeper, darker shadow of himself." While no one, not even his father, can ever really know what produces a Jeffrey Dahmer, this is brave, heart-wrenching testimony. The author's unique point of view reminds us that the lives a murderer ruins include those who loved him most. Recommended. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/15/93.- Gregor A. Preston, Univ. of California Lib., Davis Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is an extremely depressing story from the viewpoint of the father.

It was a really great book with a sad story. I loved it.

Very well written story by Lionel Dahmer; it was a book a felt a couldn't out down.

I was already familiar with the basic outline of Jeff Dahmer's life before reading this. Even so, *A Father's Story* does a good job providing insight into why Jeff turned out the way he did. It provides a unique perspective of someone who was close to Jeff throughout his entire life, unlike any other book written about him. One of the most striking revelations is how Lionel Dahmer never apparently quite understood just how inappropriate his reactions to Jeff's foul ups were. Although he candidly admits on numerous occasions that he would evade conflict by focusing on his PhD work or his job, he never quite admits how profoundly his tendency to avoid conflict could have affected Jeff. Every time Jeff screwed up in life (which was a lot), the father's reaction always seemed to have been to bail Jeff out of trouble (more or less), apply a one step "solution" to divert Jeff away from his foul up, then hope the problem would just go away. Not once does the father seem to reflect on how he had applied this failed tactic throughout all of Jeff's life. It's also obvious that Lionel believed Jeff's explanations time and time again despite that Jeff was clearly a compulsive liar. Moreover, every bombshell that Lionel found out about, whether it was Jeff's alcoholism, arrests for sexual indecency, or homosexuality, he only found out about through others. Clearly then, Lionel's avoidance of Jeff's problems was itself a grave concern. Having said that, Lionel was also a very

caring father who unabashedly loved Jeff even after his death, and it's obvious that he raised Jeff the best way he knew how to. Despite Lionel's faults as a parent, Jeff was the one mainly responsible for becoming the barbaric killer that he ultimately became. And I have to give the father credit for writing, on more than one occasion, self-deprecating, embarrassing thoughts and stories about his own life. He was very brave to write this book. So anyway, back to the point, if you're looking for a book that will give you fresh perspective into the life of Jeff Dahmer, you should read this.

A profound and sad look into the mind of the Dahmers, mainly Lionel Dahmer. Really gave me a look into what it would be like to wake up one day with your child's face and life plastered all over the news, reporters outside of your door and coming to the realization that your child is becoming a huge part of crime history right as the day unfolds. This is a journey through a father's mind as he searches his catalogue of memories in the struggle to find some sort of answer as to why his son turned out to become someone who became a mess. I really respect Lionel Dahmer for writing this book. It took an immense amount of courage... this is one of the most raw pieces of literature I've ever read. Lionel holds very little back here. After reading this book, it became very clear that Jeffrey Dahmer put a massive amount of effort into hiding his secrets. And Lionel Dahmer absolutely breaks that mold by revealing all of his....5 stars. EquisiteCranium

Came in pretty good shape since it's been used and had a good price. Excited to start reading it!

Even if I hadn't been doing a project on Dahmer, I still would have read this book. Lionel puts forth some awesome insight into Jeff's early life that one would be hard pressed to find elsewhere. After reading this I feel that he did portray Joyce in a negative light and make himself out to be a perfect husband whose only fault was in working too much. That aside it still provides a lot of information into what is most certainly one of the worst ordeals a parent could ever possibly face. (often said to say bury your own child) But Jeff put years of hate mail, harassing calls and, ruined his family name (his brother even changed his name). If you are also doing a report the video - Dahmer: the monster within. Is a great starting point. (try and find the 1989 letter his father sent to the judge w/o it). The only question I am still left: When Jeff killed Steven Hicks was he home alone or might have that been the moment when Joyce left with David?

I've read many books about Jeffrey Dahmer but none of them can be compared to this one. It was

very eye opening to see Jeff portrayed as a human being and not just the monster the media made him out to be. It's an incredible story of forgiveness and compassion unlike any other I have ever read. I actually cried towards the end, it was a very touching story. I do wish it could have been longer though, and focused a little more on the happy times spent with Jeff but otherwise amazing read!!

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