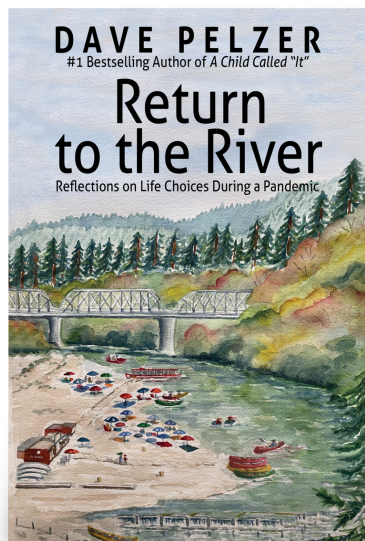


On the 50th anniversary of his rescue, #1 best-selling author of *A Child Called "It"* Dave Pelzer must decide if he can now rescue himself.



Title: *Return to the River*

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Return to the River

by Dave Pelzer

#1 international best-selling author of *A Child Called It*, speaker, and humanitarian Dave Pelzer welcomes readers into the next chapter of his life—and examines why, after spending decades saving others in the military, as a fire captain, and an internationally acclaimed advocate, he is confronted with the need to save himself.

On the surface, Dave Pelzer's life seems like an action movie—he's walked the red carpet with celebrities and stood shoulder to shoulder with soldiers in Iraq; he's flown top-secret missions for the U.S. Air Force, and battled wildfires in California as a volunteer fire captain. And now—on the eve of the 50-year anniversary of this rescue from a horrific childhood of abuse and into the safety of the foster care system—he reflects on the battles he's fighting in his own heart. From a lifetime spent serving and saving others, can he learn how to serve and save himself?

Amidst the towering redwood trees and the serenity of his childhood utopia of the Russian River, Pelzer reflects on the courage it takes to move forward in your life, the peace to accept yourself, the vulnerability to strip yourself of facades, and the tenacity to carry on when life doesn't turn out the way you planned.

For anyone who has been hurt, victimized, abandoned or feels alone, there is hope and there is always a way to rewrite your own story. Pelzer's soulful and inspiring story will remind you to keep your faith, live with gratitude, and find that well of resilience deep within you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Pelzer is the author of nine inspirational books. Dave's first book, *A Child Called "It"* was on the New York Times Best Sellers List for a record-setting six years. His other books were also on the New York Times Best Sellers List for over twelve years. Dave was the first author to have four #1 international bestsellers and to have four books simultaneously on the New York Times Best Sellers List.

In 1993, Dave was honored as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans, joining a distinguished group including John F. Kennedy and Walt Disney. In 2005, Dave was the recipient of the National Jefferson Award, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of public service. As a member of the armed forces, Dave was hand-picked to midair refuel the then highly secretive SR-71 Blackbird and the F-117 Stealth Fighter. Dave has served as a Volunteer Fire Captain at the Northern Sonoma Coast and the Russian River, California.



Praise for Dave Pelzer

"Dave Pelzer is a living testament of resilience, personal responsibility, and the triumph of the human spirit." — John Bradshaw, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Homecoming and Family Secrets*

"A living example that all of us have the capability to better ourselves no matter what the odds... Dave Pelzer inspires us all." — Jack Canfield, #1 New York Times bestselling coauthor of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

"As a therapist who works with men who have been abused as children I feel this book is a must read. Dave's honesty, intimate sharing of his innermost world and insights will help survivors, partners, and those in the helping professions. This new book speaks to the older generation, many who are men still keeping their secret. How helpful to have these men have a story they can relate to, and see they too have been continuing their pain and now harming themselves. Well written, riveting story. Dave has done it again."
— Carol Teitelbaum, LMFT and Co-Founder of It Happens to Boys yearly conference

Talking Points

- Throughout *Return to the River*, Dave reflects on kind gestures and random acts of kindness made toward him. He can discuss how those have affected his life going forward
- How to proceed when you are faced with an overwhelming, unexpected situation or chain of events
- Dave can discuss how his faith has played a part in his ability to recover from difficult times
- Why Dave includes his own haunting love story and unexpected losses in the book
- Reasons why it's important to "talk it out" rather than swallowing or burying your feelings
- Ways to give yourself courage to take inventory of your life
- Dave can share tips on how, even though we all make mistakes, we can still feel worthy and why we deserve happiness