

*This story of a family of 12 children with an abusive psychotic father and passive mother who had no business having children. Called the worst abuse story in Massachusetts history, it shows how they survived to tell it.*

**Wayne:**  
**An Abused Child's Story of Courage, Survival, and Hope**  
By Wayne Theodore

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# Wayne



AN ABUSED CHILD'S STORY OF COURAGE, SURVIVAL, AND HOPE



**Wayne Theodore**

FOREWORD BY SALLY JESSY RAPHAEL

## **More Praise for Wayne**

“Each day three children in the United States die from child abuse in the home. It’s one of the most urgent problems facing our nation. For more than twenty years, I’ve worked to raise public awareness of the child abuse crisis and to encourage people to become part of the solution. Wayne Theodore’s painful, courageous, and moving account of his life story vividly shows how vital it is for all of us to do what we can to help prevent child abuse.”

—Cheryl Ladd  
Celebrity Ambassador, Childhelp USA®

“Wayne gives you a unique opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a victim of child abuse. You’ll feel his wounds and you’ll share his inner courage as he somehow finds the strength to triumph over pain and degradation. It’s impossible to read this book and come away unchanged.”

—Marilyn Van Derbur  
Former Miss America and child abuse survivor

“Wayne Theodore gives a powerful voice to millions of tragically abused children who are scared silent by their abusers. His family’s horrendous story is a mixture of denial, enabling, fear, the struggle to heal and the inspiring power of the will to survive. It also demonstrates the almost unconscious manner in which an abused child can easily and unwittingly become an abuser to the next generation. That’s why the

work of Childhelp USA®—helping to break the cycle of abuse—is so important.”

—Sara O’Meara  
Co—Founder and Chairman, Childhelp USA®

“This brutally honest telling of Wayne Theodore’s life story shows how the tragic scars of child abuse can last a lifetime. Unfortunately, experiences like Wayne’s are not anomalies. His story underscores the fact that all of us **MUST** do what we can to help prevent child abuse in our communities.”

—A. Sidney Johnson III  
President and CEO  
Prevent Child Abuse America

“A courageous and powerful story of one man’s determination to break the cycle of repeat abuse, Wayne dramatizes the importance of American Humane’s mission to prevent cruelty, abuse and neglect of all children and animals.”

—Timothy M. O’Brien  
President, American Humane

“Wayne’s eye-opening story tells it like it is—the suffering; the betrayal of those who could have helped, but chose instead to look the other way; and the ongoing challenges of healing abuse. This personal story of courage and perseverance pleads with each of us to work for justice and the healing of all children whose cries have not been heard. Perhaps, this is the greatest inspiration of Wayne’s story—that we who read it are prompted to act for the protection and safety of all children.”

—Dawn Beye, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director  
Child Abuse Prevention Association

"WAYNE" has been nominated and has won many awards, Like, 1st place "young Adults readers choice Award", 1st place "The Benjamin Franklin Award"

Selected and Highlighted top selection in Library Journal featured in several additions. Recognized for literary excellence in nonfictional Genres.

"WAYNE" has been endorsed by top famous Celebrity figures Like; Sally Jessy Raphael, Famous American Television Talk show host and radio commentator, A Television Legend.

CHERYL LADD, Famous Actress and Ambassador, Childhelp USA.

David Pelzer, New York times bestselling Author, for "A Child called it"

Marilyn Van Debur, "Former Miss America" and Child Abuse survivor.

The Actress, Sela Ward famous Emmy and golden globe award winning Actress also endorsed "WAYNE".

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Print ISBN: 978-1-959624-09-7

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88532-084-9

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2025

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Theodore, Wayne

Wayne: An Abused Child's Story of Courage, Survival, and Hope  
by Wayne Theodore

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025913467

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stared at my face—soaking wet, battered and swollen, with my broken nose bent out of shape. Tears were streaming down my face.

*Thats you*, I whispered. I wanted to be sure to remember what I looked like. I wanted to brand my brain with the image like I'd seen cows and horses get branded. My father beat me all the time, but this had been far worse than anything before, and I wasn't going to let myself forget it.

I also wanted to remember the feeling I had of being in another person's body. That could come in handy. It was like I'd come back from faraway, from another planet, to see this little boy—damaged and trembling in terror. I wanted to tell the boy in the mirror that he shouldn't be so afraid. He'd survived this time, and he'd survive again.

I told myself I was made out of metal. My father beat me up today and every other day, but I wasn't beaten. And one more thing: Someday I'd fight back.

My first idea was to beat him up or do something else to hurt him physically. But how could I hurt him when I was so little? No, I'd have to get a lot bigger and stronger before I could take him.

Then I had another idea. *I'm going to tell on him*. That was a big, big thing. That was much bigger than beating him up. *Someday I'm going to tell on him*. I'd let the world know what he did. That was my mission. That was what I had to grow up and do. I couldn't count on my brothers and sisters to do it; they'd cave in to him too easily. This was my responsibility. I had to grow up and tell on him.

But if I was going to grow up, I had to stay alive. And to do that I had to remember how to get back to that safe place where my father could never find me. So I made a pact with myself: if I was true to my mission, then nothing could ever happen to me. My father could beat



*Wayne*

me from morning 'til night, but if I could get to that hiding place where I had the power, where I was invisible, then he couldn't really touch me.

The past began to open up in the most ordinary way— with a phone call from my “little” brother Brian. He’s eight years younger than I am. At the time of this call I was in my early thirties, so Brian was a grown man.

Brian and I talked all the time, but when he called me that winter morning his voice sounded strained. He was depressed, more depressed than I’d remembered him ever being before. Brian was having some personal problems, and he’d hit rock bottom trying to figure them all out.

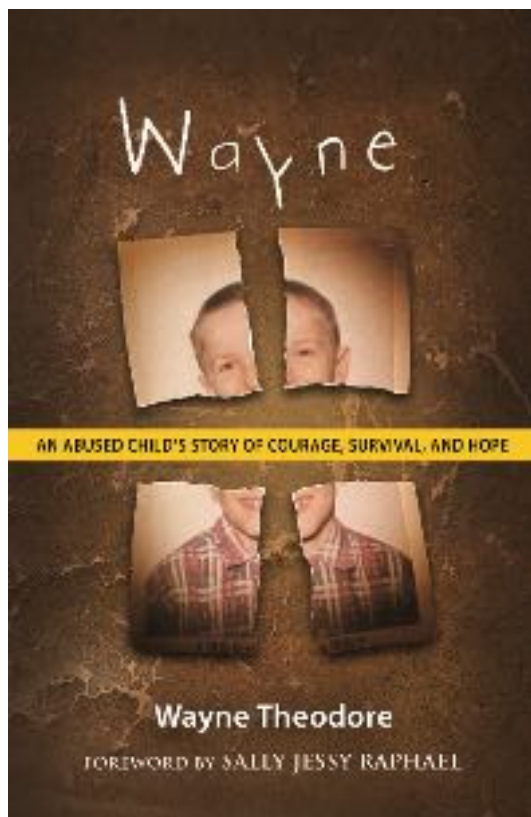
We talked for a while, and I tried to give him some advice the usual stuff, like what I would do if I were in his shoes, and to cheer up, that everything would work itself out eventually. But we’d had this conversation before, and this time Brian wasn’t satisfied with it he needed something else, something that took me completely by surprise.

“You’re smart, Wayne,” he blurted, “probably smarter than the rest of us.” He meant the family— all our brothers and sisters. I waited for more; there was silence while Brian fished around for the right words. Finally, he said, “I’ve got to ask you something, Wayne. I have a feeling you’d know.”

“Know what, Brian?”

“I don’t know why I act the way I do, why I do the things I do.” Then he said, almost in a whisper, “I don’t want to be violent, like Dad.”

Brian went on. “This stuff keeps happening to me—you know what I mean—and it happens to all of us, all the time, over and over again. It’s



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