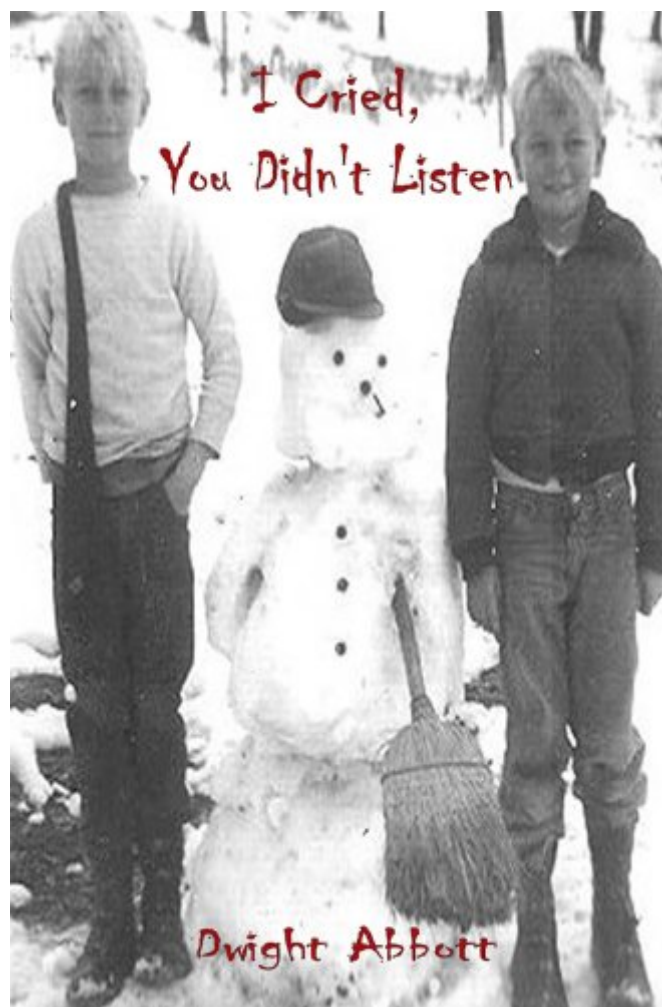


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# **I Cried, You Didn't Listen: A First Person Look At A Childhood Spent Inside CYA Youth Detention Systems: Surviving A Life In Prison From Adolescent To Death; Book 1**





## 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 - 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 - sexual assault, cliques, crews, gangs, emotional abuse - is essentially about power and control both over and above one's own sense of self. -Books not Bars

## Book Information

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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. It was because his parents' car accident. Probably no one could babysit him while his parents were in hospital. Someone thought a good idea to send him to that place where he

was brutalized and raped during the first hours after his arrival. And the wardens looked somewhere else during this time! Poor little boy! As Books not Bars reviewed: "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.

It's 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 – sexual assault, cliques, crews, gangs, emotional abuse – is essentially about power and control both over and above one's own sense of self." I've also seen many videos in You Tube about juvenile jails lately like these: [XuE5cYoLHc8hgHYAEyuTmg..B8c1LahPSIAPAS4uSDJe9k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuE5cYoLHc8) And look for : Selling Kids into For-Profit Prison, you will see how blind we could be. Jails are counterproductive. They're supposed to transform criminals in good citizens, but they transform everybody in worse criminals. Is it really what you want? Even for your children? Prisons are tools of vengeful societies. That's all! It's so uncivilized, uncaring and unimaginative. I can't understand that countries that considered themselves as the best civilizations are still throwing people in jails and forgetting them there. What could happen to them there, nobody cares. Read this book and imagine yourself in Dwight's shoes. If you still don't understand after that, you're basket cases.

I was looking forward to this book, as it had really positive reviews. It was a very quick read and not all that well written, but it had its enlightening moments. I undoubtedly agree that the youth correctional program is detrimental to a child's mental health, and this story did enhance my knowledge of the degradation and abuse children face. It was disturbing at times, and was very clear that there was no protection for children. There were graphic details of rape and physical attacks that were difficult to read about. However, this book quickly became a narrative about a man who never took responsibility for his actions and seemed to be proud of the havoc he created. He

quickly breezed over why he repeatedly escaped prison, manipulated guards and how much pain he caused others during physical fights. He did some really terrible things as a young adult, and never faced much consequence other than being returned to solitary confinement over and over again. This is a tragic story for a young boy, but as he continually states, as an adult he was convicted of murder and is currently imprisoned. At the end, he provides no detail of his adult crimes and instead asks for correspondence in jail. After finishing the book, I felt pretty crummy for paying as I'm sure the proceeds benefited some kind of appeal legal fund to get him out of prison. Additionally, I read a news article that he was a member of the Aryan Brotherhood and a convicted child molester. Sad childhood story, just not sure I wanted to contribute to a criminal's appeal.

this is a really horrific story about a young and innocent boy who did absolutely nothing and was put in a California Youth Authority home. He had been a good boy up until then, never getting into trouble. It wasn't his fault his parents were in an automobile accident and would spend the next few months in the hospital. Dwight was put in CYA where he was raped and beaten by the other boys there, as well as the guards that were there to protect him. As with most rape victims, Dwight was scared to tell others about what happened to him. Dwight was forced to protect himself at all costs, even if it meant seriously injuring other boys there. Slowly Dwight was changed from a young innocent boy into a monster as he was placed in tougher institutions in the CYA system. If you care about protecting children, and seeing that they get the help they need instead of being put into these terrible places then we need to change the juvenile justice system. Boys like Dwight should never have to go through this.

Words cannot accurately describe how disgusted, disillusioned and disappointed I am in the American justice system. Children? Left on their own to be raped, beaten, traumatized .. and in the case of Sonny, he wasn't an incorrigible child that no-one knew what to do with. His parents were in a terrible accident and instead of finding a loving home or facility if that was possible was thrown into "hell"! How cold the adults who ran and worked in these facilities stand themselves - sadistic! No compassion no understanding of taking a child away from decent parents to experience the most horrific abuse from people he was supposed to trust and children traumatized and angry who turned on each other like wolves. I almost didn't continue reading because of the consistent sexual molestation and rapes but I needed to know his outcome, how he survived it all ... I doubt if he ever survived it all, he's just existing.

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