



The Year We Disappeared: A Father - Daughter Memoir

By *Cylin Busby, John Busby*

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When Cylin Busby was nine years old, she was obsessed with Izod clothing, the Muppets, and a box turtle she kept in a shoebox. Then everything changed overnight. Her police officer father, John, was driving to his shift when someone leveled a shotgun at his window. The blasts that followed left John's jaw on the passenger seat of his car-literally. While clinging to life, he managed to write down the name of the only person he thought could have pulled the trigger. The suspect? A local ex-con with rumored mob connections. The motive? Officer Busby was scheduled to testify against the suspect's family in an upcoming trial. Overnight, the Busbys went from being the "family next door" to one under 24-hour armed guard, with police escorts to school, and no contact with friends. Worse, the shooter was still on the loose, and it seemed only a matter of time before he'd come after John-or someone else in the family-again. With few choices left to them, the Busby family went into hiding, severing all ties to the only life they had known.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—On August 31, 1979, tough cop John Busby was shot at close range while driving to work on Cape Cod. Bleeding profusely with the lower half of his face blown off, he realized that somebody wanted him dead, and identified a brazen local bully as the culprit, an arsonist with whose family Busby had clashed on the job. John and his daughter, Cylin, who was nine at the time of the shooting, recount the year that followed in alternating chapters, incorporating candid commentary and sometimes-disturbing detail about a crime that never resulted in arrests. With the entire Busby family under 24-hour police protection, John began the reconstructive surgeries that would stretch for years, while Cylin and her two brothers tried to cope with guards accompanying them to school and the resulting social isolation. John Busby is frank about the corruption in the local police department that let his attacker intimidate anyone he chose, and bluntly describes his frustration and need for revenge in the months following the attack. Cylin speaks with a voice of innocence shattered as she struggles to comprehend what happened to her family and why her friends have abandoned her. When the town balked at the continuing expense of providing personal protection and the constant fear brought the family to the breaking point, the Busbys went into hiding, seeking a return to some semblance of normalcy. The page-turner pace is frequently interrupted by awkwardly placed flashbacks to moments in John's police work, but, ultimately, this is a story of survival and triumph.—*Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS*

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From [Booklist](#)

Before August 31, 1979, nine-year-old Cylin's biggest worry was avoiding her grumpy neighbor. Then her family's life changed forever when her father, a Cape Cod policeman, was shot on his drive to work. Horribly injured, with most of his lower jaw blown away, John Busby somehow managed to stop his car and run for help. Although John was convinced he knew his attacker's identity, the investigation mysteriously stalled, and the Busby family was given 24-hour protection during the long experimental effort to reconstruct John's face. Eventually the family went into hiding, starting over in another state. In alternating chapters, John and Cylin Busby tell the story of John's ordeal and the devastating impact on his family. John's laconic, just-the-facts-ma'am style underscores the horror he was enduring, while Cylin's perspective drives home the fear and emotional misery the family suffered. The appalling physical injuries may deter the squeamish, but this riveting story will stay with readers, particularly its message that John's anger and desire for revenge were the hardest wounds to heal. Grades 9-12. --Lynn Rutan

Review

"A remarkable book. ... Together, father and daughter weave a startling, heartbreaking tale." -"Barnstable" Patriot"

"Cylin's detailed account of her childhood is real and, though certainly full of danger and fear, is also a testament to the strength of the power of kids' resiliency. Although the shooter and his family remained on the run and after John Busby, the Busby's drive to keep their family safe resonates with awe throughout the book. A fascinating true story for young readers 10 and up, "The Year We Disappeared" makes for a spellbinding reading." -Copley News Service"Where John's chapters provide the grim facts, it is Cylin's authentically childlike perspective that, in revealing the cost to her innocence, renders the tragic experience most searingly." --"Publishers Weekly," starred review

"This true-crime story manages to be suspenseful and reflective at the same time, and it will draw both leisure and reluctant readers." --VOYA

"[A] gripping story." VOYA, teen reviewer

"A page-turner." -SLJ

"No one with even a marginal interest in true crime writing should miss this page-turner, by turns shocking and almost unbearably sad." -"Publisher's Weekly" (starred review)

"A fascinating tale, making the costs of violence unequivocally clear. ...John's hard-won conclusion about vengeance--violence needn't be perpetuated because it would only damage his family more--holds a striking lesson for everyone, not just teens." -"Chicago" Sun Times""

"This riveting story will stay with readers, particularly its message that John's anger and desire for revenge were the hardest wounds to heal." - "Booklist"

"The book flows seamlessly back and forth from father's to daughter's perspective, each jump between narrators providing further explanation and insight and pulling readers deeper into the story." -- "VOYA" (Teen Reviewer)

"This true-crime story manages to be suspenseful and reflective at the same time, and it will draw both leisure and reluctant readers." - "VOYA"

"A page-turner... Ultimately, a story of survival and triumph." -"SLJ"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you that The Year We Disappeared: A Father - Daughter Memoir book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

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