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

I was already familiar with the basic outline of Jeff Dahmers life before reading this. Even so, A Fathers 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 Jeffs 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 fathers 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 Jeffs life.

Its also obvious that Lionel believed Jeffs explanations time and time again despite that Jeff was clearly a compulsive liar. Moreover, every bombshell that Lionel found out about, whether it was Jeffs alcoholism, arrests for sexual indecency, or homosexuality, he only found out about through others. Clearly then, Lionels avoidance of Jeffs 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.

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A Fathers Story by Lionel Dahmer - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!