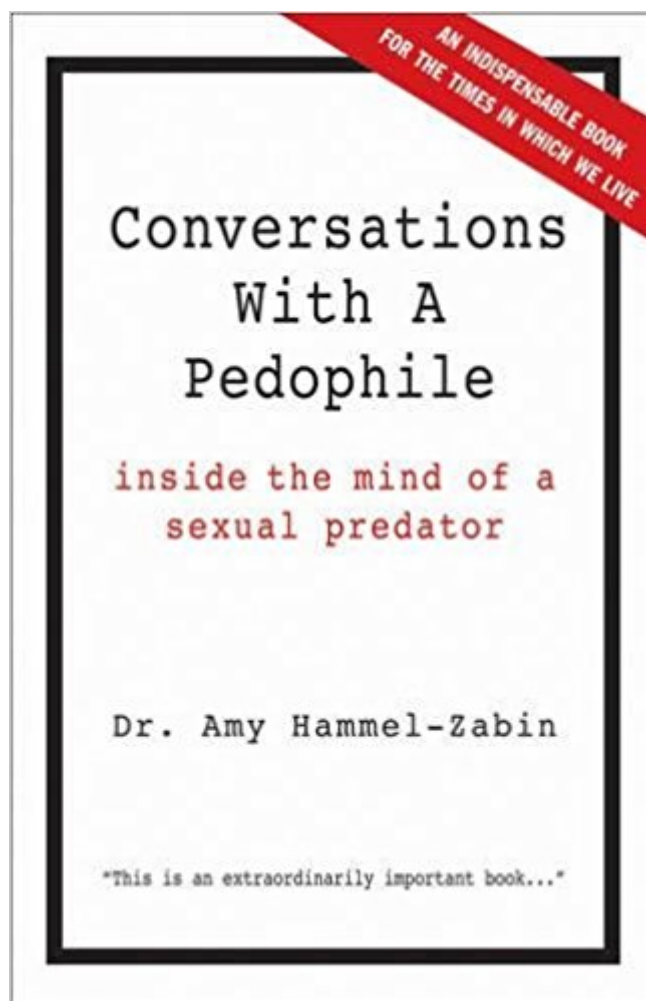


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Conversations With A Pedophile: In The Interest Of Our Children



Synopsis

Conversations With a Pedophile is a landmark book: it is the first time the uncensored voice of a pedophile can be heard. Presented are a series of letters spanning a decade written by sex offender Alan to author Dr. Amy Hammel-Zabin, a therapist in the prison where he was incarcerated. Confessing that he had sexually abused more than one thousand boys, his first-hand stories are a compelling argument that the danger of the pedophile does not lurk mysteriously in the dark; rather, it is a very real threat in your neighborhood. Throughout the book, Dr. Hammel-Zabin offers her own expert analysis of Alan's letters. As both a trained therapist and a victim of childhood sexual abuse herself, she is uniquely qualified to articulate the development, maintenance and sorrowful impacts of pedophilia. It is in the interest of our children that we listen so that we can better understand and prevent this horrendous crime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...only by understanding pedophilia can we protect children. The veracity of these revelations have the ring of truth. -- Kirkus Reviews: March 15, 2003 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is an extraordinarily important book. It is also a terrifying one. An intimate look at the psychology of abuse from the perspectives of both the perpetrator and the victim..."
Stewart Gabel, MD, Former Chairman of Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Children's Hospital, Denver, CO
"This text provides

valuable insights into the thought processes of a man with pedophilia...can help parents to better protect their children...
•Fred S. Berlin, Director of National Institute for the Study, Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Trauma
“The story reveals a compelling journey with many profound messages for parents and children protection advocate...
•Gail Ryan, Director of Kempe Perpetration Prevention Program

As a survivor of sexual abuse, I felt like I needed to read this book in hopes to find a way to protect my future children and my nieces and nephews... I agree with some of what is in this book. I agree that we need to find better therapy options for those who are likely to become sex offenders and for those who suffer from The abuse.i also agreed with the fact that We need to have an open communication with our children so they are not afraid to let us in on their secrets and lives. So, they do not put their trust into a master manipulator. We as concerned adults need to put our trust in them so they feel that they can do the same. I do wish there were better options for those who feel like they may commit a crime like this, to seek and receive help before they commit the crime. If we can prevent sexual molestation we should figure out an appropriate way to do so.The pedophile 'Allen' in this book does his best to make a case for 'repeat' offenders and using 'Megan's law' and the 'triple strike' as an example. He states that because these offenders are stigmatized in society, along with suffering from rape and brutalized in prison, They are more likely to come out and reoffend, then murder on top of it to cover up their crime, therefore he thinks 'Megan's law, along with the tripe strike.' Are a little too much punishment. Because if these men did not fear these laws they probably would reoffend but less likely to murder the child on top of it for fear of punishment and imprisonment. Because, these men are also victims to one extant or another; by their parents , society, failed therapy, other prisoners, pretty much the rest of the world failed them....This REALLY bothered me. It was like a slap in the face. To me, he is pretty much stating that we might as well let these men reoffend without harsh threat of ' forever' punishment because at least they are less likely to murder their victim. In the end the world didn't offer these men the option of 'not' offending anyway. It's like damn Allen! Quit making excuses! You always had the option to seek help! I watched a documentary on youtube recently about a man who did just that! He knew he had the potential to commit this crime. He also knew it was hard and knew the stigma that came with it but he has enough EMPATHY for the children within himself to seek therapy before he committed such a crime. (he e I wish more pedophiles would be selfless enough to do so.In the end this book and the ending is disheartening.

A shocking first hand account from a convicted felon. I have doubts as to the veracity of some of the stories, and I'm surprised the author doesn't offer up the possibility that Alan contrived the key story for his own pleasure, as he is a demonstrated storyteller. Nevertheless, one key idea, that this crime is about controlling children, is a helpful suggestion that parents and care takers can use to keep their kids safer. Also there is a key theme that the most horrific damage, in addition to premature sexualization of the victims, is in the loss of will and trust, seems valuable in looking at how to treat victims and emphasizes why this crime type is so important to address. Since the stories are pretty over the top, I found it hard to relate to the lack of connection the victims parents must have had to enable some of this. I wish the author did a better job of putting this particular offender I'm perspective compared to more typical cases.

Chilling, refreshing and most insightful. This book offers perspectives that no other books can offer; Alan X -the pedophile criminal-patient- and Dr Zabin, a therapist and a survivor converse about first hand experience regarding sexual abuse of a child. Most people cannot conceive how a person can harm a child in most horrific way. Alan offers his state of mind and justifications that were entrenched while he was committing the crimes. Dr. Zabin tells how a trauma that one cannot even recall affects a survivor and how one learns to thrive despite their past. Highly recommended

This is one of the best books I have ever read on the subject. I reference it frequently in my work with many people who have been victims. Don't buy it if you are a victim and struggling with the topic emotionally. It is very triggering.

The book provides an excellent guide for mental health professionals and parents alike. It is written simple, to the point and with no frills. It provides the rare opportunity to get a real understanding of how the offender thinks, and also of the dynamics involved between him and his victim.

Interesting read especially from the perspective of the pedophile. How fantasy, control and obsession rule his twisted world. He is just as human as the rest of us and sex is not even the part which excites him the most. Useful tips from his (the pedophile) part on how parents should be with their children to prevent the latter being easy targets.

Very informative how they pick and choose their victims. They study them for quite a while. Makes me wonder on some of the friends or contacts if my own children.

This book is very disturbing but every parent should read it.

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