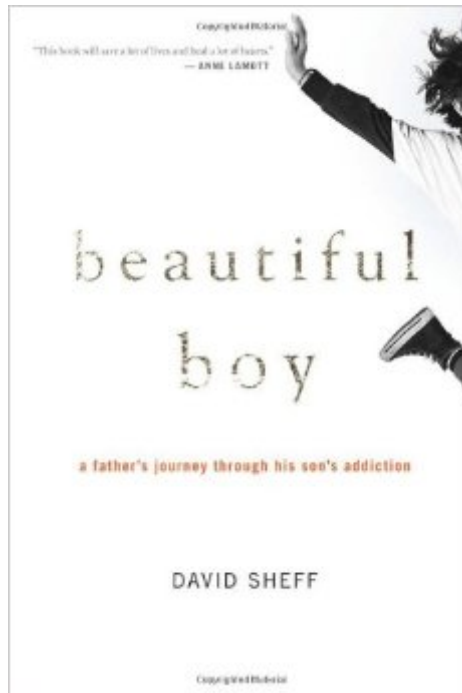


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# Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction



## Synopsis

Sheff's story is a first: a teenager's addiction from the parent's point of view a real-time chronicle of the shocking descent into substance abuse and the gradual emergence into hope. Before meth, Sheff's son Nic was a varsity athlete, honor student, and award-winning journalist. After meth, he was a trembling wraith who stole money from his eight-year-old brother and lived on the streets. With haunting candor, Sheff traces the first subtle warning signs, the denial (by both child and parents), the three A.M. phone calls (is it Nic? the police? the hospital?), the attempts at rehab, and, at last, the way past addiction. He shows us that, whatever an addict's fate, the rest of the family must care for each other too, lest they become addicted to addiction. Meth is the fastest-growing drug in the United States, as well as the most addictive and the most dangerous wreaking permanent brain damage faster than any other readily available drug. It has invaded every region and demographic in America. This book is the first that treats meth and its impact in depth. But it is not just about meth. Nic's addiction has wrought the same damage that any addiction will wreak. His story, and his father's, are those of any family that contains an addict and one in three American families does.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (832 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I share the same intense feelings about this book that other reviewers shared. Fortunately I had heard Mr Sheff on NPR before I read it so at least I knew that Nic was still alive. I felt every up and down of his journey and anguished with him and his family through Nic's relapses. I pray for Nic

even though I'm not even traditionally religious. I just want him to know that we are out there pulling for him to have the kind of life he was meant to have. I like other readers have gone through a somewhat similar journey with my teenaged son. His nightmare was drug induced mania and psychosis, I believe caused by daily marijuana use. Only I will ever know the details of what I went through with him for over three years until medication and sobriety brought him back to reality. But I shared David's guilt and constant worry. I also had to endure the criticism of my ex-husband who believed that my approach to parenting brought this on. I also want to lend my reassurance to Mr Sheff that nothing he or his family did caused the drug addiction. Nothing. Nic is so very fortunate to have his family. He might not have made it. But I also admire David for the fine line he found between loving and enabling. He did the right thing. I read this book after reconnecting with a brilliant friend from college who told me that he had spent the better part of the last 20 years addicted to meth and I sincerely lamented the tragedy of his life. Although his addiction was not as fiendish or debilitating as Nic's seemed to be, it was still quite devastating and ended as so many of these stories do with a drug bust. I'm also helping a dear friend cope with the trauma of his son's bust for selling pills while undergoing his own rehab for alcohol. So the book hit home in so many ways.

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