



Coming to Terms with Confusion & Doubt November 19, 2009

Many of us have experienced difficulties in our relationships; Dan L Hays brings to light a poignant story of dealing with a parent who didn't know how to deal with the frustration, pain and anguish of never feeling things were quite good enough. In this case, the struggles were with his father; a man the author loved but never understood what drove him to act the way he did; with belligerence and a hostile sense of angst.

Many of us experience similar parental relationship issues; it took a very long time for Hays to come to terms with his father's anguish, especially since it manifested itself through a confusing and demoralizing dose of physical and mental abuse. The low self-esteem that resulted for Hays nearly ended in total despair; yet he had the courage to seek counseling, and wasn't afraid to admit he was a lost soul.

It would've been very easy for Hays to have simply written his father off, as so many in similar situations have done. However, he sensed his father's tortured existence wasn't a choice he really wanted to make; he simply didn't know how to deal with the emotions that overcame him during his life. Hays not only uncovers what made his father feel so despondent for the entire time he interacted with him; he also gets to the root of his own problems as well.

The way Hays is able to resolve all the conflict that tortured him in his life, makes for a most uplifting and spiritually enlightening conclusion to this wonderful story. We all could learn something from Hays' life's experiences. It's truly a moving and emotionally charged narrative; it'll make you a better person for having read it.

Larry Underwood, Author "Life Under the Corporate Microscope"  
Scottsdale, Arizona

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Survival of the Human Spirit!

November 19, 2009

Once you start to read "Freedom's Just Another Word" you won't be able to stop. It is a love story between a father and a son who have been torn apart and spiritually tortured by the disease of alcoholism. Dan L Hays gives his readers a realistic intimate accounting of his struggles and triumphs throughout his journey to overcome the obstacles placed in his life as a result of having an abusive alcoholic father. He brilliantly tells his story in a way that the average person can relate. It comes from his heart. His gut wrenching descriptions of what he experienced during his desperate low points bring you into his nightmare in a way that you will feel his pain whether you have a frame of reference of your own or not.

You will cry and laugh with him.

When he shares his triumphs you will feel his relief and joy that he survived another hurdle...you will feel like he is next to you telling you his story face to face...and you will want to reach out and pat him on the back and congratulate him.

You will celebrate with him.

If you have ever wondered what all the talk was about concerning alcoholism and adult children of alcoholics, this book will give you the most vivid up close and personal true to life description you could ever want.

Ultimately, Dan's courage to tell his amazing story sends a message to those fighting their own battle, regardless of its nature, that the human spirit can and will survive the worst of the worst...that love can heal anything. His is a story that needed to be written for his healing and needs to be read for the benefit for all.

D Hagel, Sebring, Florida

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A trip out of darkness ...

August 27, 2009

This book is more than a trip out of darkness: It's a man's journey through emotions and life experiences. FREEDOM'S JUST ANOTHER WORD will touch most each of us, but in different ways. I identified with the author's journey, but more with his feelings of loneliness and not belonging. I've been there, and it wasn't a pleasant journey to arrive where I am. When you read the pages of the book, you'll take that journey along with the author. And in the end, it WAS a good journey.

Douglas W. Bello

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Awesome read!

August 26, 2009

The Author shares his life with such transparency that it challenges you to take a good look at your own! A life story of a boy growing up in an alcoholic home.. but still longing to find that safe place- in his fathers heart. Dan draws you into his process of growing from a child into a man...but through all his pain- he learns to become a son! How the author uncovers his pain, walks through his pain and on into freedom is a must for all to read.

Dan may your life in writing continue to give others hope!

Kelly Parr

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A courageous story!

August 24, 2009

A courageous story of recovery from the effects of the alcoholism of his father, and a courageous telling of the story. Dan's story should inspire others who came from similar backgrounds to undertake the arduous journey of recovery. He not only tells you that it can be done, but how to do it.

I read the book almost at one sitting, having stopped only for a bite to eat. Dan's story unfolds like a mystery as he reveals step-by-step his process of recovery and his discoveries. In this it turned out to be a page tuner; I could hardly wait to get to the next page to find out what he learned and how he resolved the next issue.

Not only was it compelling reading and well written, but written well enough that it stands as the only Print on Demand book that I have read cover-to-cover.

Carl H. Slater M.D.  
Castle Rock, Colorado

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Overcoming a writer's block!

August 23, 2009

As a child, I loved reading and writing so much, that my mother predicted that when I grew up, I would first become a judge, then a mom and then start writing children books, in that sequence. I did read Law, became a lawyer, then married and got five kids, but still have to become a writer! Although more than once encouraged by family and friends that I should start writing and publishing, because they liked (or cursed!) my long emails, that were so detailed and descriptive, I never did. Whether due to lack of time or concentration or ..., I had a writer's block.

Dan L. Hays' book 'Freedom's Just Another Word' intrigued me, because here was someone with a writer's block who had overcome it! He found me on Twitter while I was journeying six weeks with my husband and kids through the States, after having lived in Chapel Hill (NC) for half a year. I was curious about Dan Hays' book and downloaded it from Amazon.com on our Kindle to read it on the plane. It was a gripping read. Three words say it all: it is honest, inspiring and hope-giving! I did not go through all that Dan has gone through, but this book tells the story of someone deeply in despair, unraveling his past, to rise and shine, offering others hope for the future. The hope that he has given me is that one day I too will overcome my writer's block!

Victoria Kizito Timmers-Niemer  
Belgium, Europe

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A powerful book written straight from the gut!" August 15, 2009

"Freedom's Just Another Word" is a powerful book for anyone who has had to deal with the aftermath of an abusive childhood. I was mesmerized from the first chapter! Dan's gifted writing immediately pulls you into his inner soul and you soon realize that this is not a "fluff" book but one written "straight from the gut." I was absolutely enthralled with his honesty and willingness to share with the reader his journey through the various stages of his journey to wholeness. Dan does what few authors do: he writes with brutal honesty and in so doing, his readers can immediately identify with him. This intense connection between the author and reader continues throughout the entire book.

For anyone who has "stuffed their pain" this book is a must read. It gives the blueprint on how to deal with those gnawing inner feelings of turmoil and how to not only bring them to the surface but to squarely face them. I appreciate Dan's candor and his courage to take us through his journey so that we can know how to obtain our own freedom from the past. I learned so much from his book about my own journey - although our stories are so different. This book talks about such deep inner pain, but it is not a book that will bum you out - it is a book full of hope and encouragement. Get ready for a powerful book that you cannot read without being deeply touched, educated and inspired. Never stop writing Dan - your gift is so desperately needed!

Linda Fossen, author "Out of the Miry Clay: Freedom from Childhood Sexual Abuse"  
Florida

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"From a body with a spirit - to a spirit with a body" June 18, 2009

In his remarkable work, "Freedom's Just Another Word" Dan takes the reader back in time to meet a sweet 17 year old boy on the brink on manhood. His rite of passage is negated by a drunk father caught up in his own battle with daemons.

Dan's strong spirit and deep love brings him through to adulthood where he solves the puzzles that have plagued him. Even though friends and family love and support him, Dan craves the nurturing love of his emotionally absent father. His self worth diminished, Dan sinks down to the bottom of a complex pit.

Recognizing his own pain, he is able to identify it in others. He forgives those who cheated him, and in doing, releases years of suppressed and unresolved anguish.

Dan starts out in this memoir as a loving boy called Danny who endures much emotional and bodily pain. He takes us with him on his journey as he eventually becomes whole

again residing within the strong spirit of a man. I couldn't put it down.  
This is a journey of great courage; a must read for everyone.

Kathleen Sullivan  
Tampa Bay, Florida

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★★★★★

"A Story of Courage and Hope"

April 19, 2009

FREEDOM'S JUST ANOTHER WORD is a riveting memoir, chronicling the Author's journey toward discovery, self-discovery, an honest faith and ultimately freedom - through confronting the fear and pain in the truth of an abusive past. His courage and determination led him to find healing and the ability to forgive and move forward to reclaim his life.

A must read for anyone who suspects he/she may need to embark on such a journey, anyone who has done so, or anyone who knows someone already on that journey. You will find hope and encouragement to stay the course to the end, which is Freedom.

Survivor  
Pennsylvania

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★★★★★

"Universal Connection"

April 5, 2009

My heart ached as I read about the painful punishments endured by the author at the hands of his own father. His writing has the power to touch everyone in a universal place they may not be aware they even have. Once I was allowed into his world, I found it impossible to put the book down.

Cheryl D. Ptacek

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"A riveting read, sure to give readers something to ponder" January 10, 2009

The words of Janis Joplin never rang more true. "Freedom's Just Another Word" is a story about hitting rock bottom. Dan L. Hays lost his father, his job, couldn't find another and things looked like they couldn't get any worse. He had nothing left to lose, and he tells his journey, one which is both emotional and spiritual about his rise back up to something that most people would call a life. "Freedom's Just Another Word" is a riveting read, sure to give readers something to ponder.

Midwest Book Review,  
Oregon, Wisconsin

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"Absolutely inspiring" October 25, 2008

An extraordinary journey of a man confronting what most of us (children of alcoholics and/or violent parents) are afraid to confront. I would recommend this book to everyone, no matter what their upbringing was/is. An insight into what really goes on behind closed doors. Hats off to Dan for brilliantly bringing this to publication. I can't wait for the next one in the series!!!

G. Nysonger  
Flower Mound, Texas

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"A Boy's Relationship With His Alcoholic Father" September 15, 2008

Dan Hays has a fascinating story to tell, and in his memoir, "Freedom's Just Another Word", he tells it with considerable skill and power.

The setting is the oil-field life in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico but the book is essentially about a boy's very difficult relationship with his alcoholic father and the struggle to come to terms with his memories, many of them long suppressed.

This book calls to mind Pulitzer Prize winner Marilynne Robinson's recent novel "Gilead", which deals with difficult father and son relationships and the spiritual battles that result.

The reader senses that the battle may not yet be quite over for Dan Hays and one wishes him well on his journey.

Elaine Floyd  
San Luis Obispo, CA

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"Inspirational"

August 22, 2008

This is a beautifully written story of a man's spiritual journey toward emotional healing. It tells the story of the author's relationship with the father he has grown, through the course of a difficult childhood, to love and respect. In the course of the story he begins to reconcile that man with the father he ultimately remembers. Although there is some recounting of instances of abuse, the author does not dwell on them, merely recounts them as part of the journey. He struggles to uncover the hidden pain and the hidden past that have limited his life and move beyond them to reconciliation with his memories, himself, and God. I felt that this was an intense memoir, but not the type of "victim" literature that has saturated the market in the last few years. This is the story of healing and a trek toward light, love and forgiveness. I would recommend this book to anyone struggling with issues of abuse, alcoholism, self-doubt, or anyone looking for an inspirational story of one person's triumph of over the forces of inner darkness.

Merry KRFM  
Houston, Texas

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"A chance to reflect on my own life through the Author's experience" August 16, 2008

This book gave me a chance to reflect on my own life through the Authors experience with his Father. I then find that the book is not just about a Father and Son, but about self-discovery and transcending the scripting which gets laid upon you through the childhood years.

He walks you through the his experience through childhood into adulthood and uncovers, like a mystery, the ties which are binding him. He moves through the pain, finds the joy which has been buried, and discovers love for his father and himself.

I find that this is not just a story about the Author, but the story of myself reflected through the eyes of Dan Hays. I sense that I have lived a similar story, and somehow, I too can move past my own barriers to living a joyful life.

Portlander  
Portland, Oregon

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