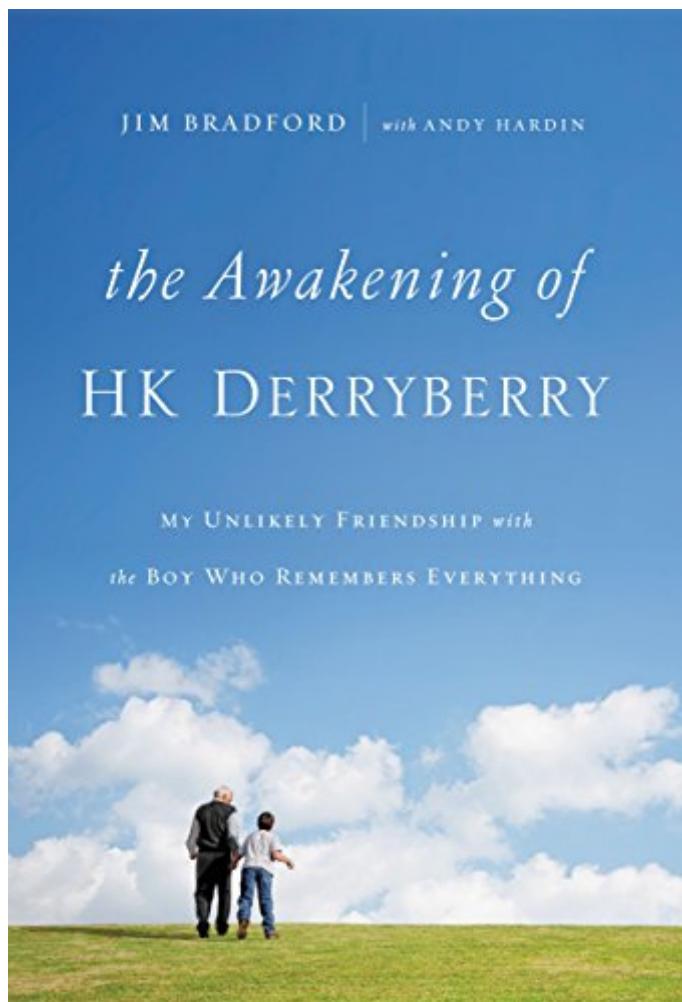


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The Awakening Of HK Derryberry: My Unlikely Friendship With The Boy Who Remembers Everything



Synopsis

The Awakening of HK Derryberry is the inspiring story of how one man was willing to step out of his upper middle-class world into the life of a young, disabled boy with a dismal future. Little did Jim Bradford know the transformational potential of that friendship for HK and himself. HK Derryberry came into the world with the odds stacked heavily against him. He was taken from his unmarried mother's womb three months prematurely when she was killed in a car wreck. After ninety-six days of seesawing between life and death, HK's grandmother took him home. One Saturday morning Jim Bradford, a successful businessman in his mid-fifties, happens into Mrs. Winner's Chicken and Biscuits and sees a nine-year-old's head pressed down against a black plastic boom box with a crooked antenna and three strips of silver duct tape stretched across the battery cover. He can't help but notice the long, white plastic braces on each of the child's legs. Mr. Bradford learns that HK's grandmother is forced to bring him to the fast-food restaurant where she works, leaving him to sit alone all day at a small table, with only his boom box for company. On subsequent Saturdays Jim feels drawn back to the restaurant to meet with HK and begins spending every weekend with him. Eventually it becomes apparent that buried beneath HK's severe disabilities is one spectacular ability. He is diagnosed with Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory (HSAM), which involves superlative powers of recollection that enable him to remember everything that has happened to him since the age of three. Less than one hundred people have been diagnosed with HSAM, but none of them have the physical disabilities of HK Derryberry.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most heartwarming stories I've ever encountered. When you read about HK's journey, and see what a difference one person can make as you learn how Jim Bradford poured himself into this young man, your soul will be lifted.

HK, you little pick-pocket! You stole my heart again! Many years ago, I saw HK and Jim on Talk of the Town and earlier this year I got to meet them at a conference. Their book, released today is the true story of a boy who was noticed and that simple act of being noticed led to a deeper than deep friendship as well as opportunities that changed both of them and impacted so many others. As Jim said, "God is still in the miracle business." I just finished it on Audible and bought a hard copy too. The book is great and if you ever get the chance to meet/see/hear HK and Jim in person, even better!

A truly inspirational story of the power of love and devotion despite hardships. HK is a wonderful example of the power of positivity and Jim Bradford demonstrates how one person can make a difference tapping into God's strength and guidance. A must read for everyone! •••

I had the pleasure of first meeting HK and Jim several years by chance while covering a local Rotary meeting. I happened to sit at their table, which was close to the speaker -- whose name or topic I cannot even remember even though I wrote a story on him for the online news site covering Brentwood, TN I founded in 2009. I will never forget meeting HK and Jim, however, and soon had the pleasure of getting to know them and profiling their journey together. It remains one of the stories throughout a 30+ year journalism career I will always treasure having the opportunity to chronicle. Knowing their story, and having kept up my friendship with them, I expected to enjoy reading "The Awakening of HK Derryberry" but had no idea it would impact me the way it did. I

laughed, cried and chuckled my way straight through it in one sitting, learning so much more than I already did about this pair. I have no doubt God put together. In fact, he's probably chuckling right now at some people's surprise that a chance meeting in Mrs. Winners could reap such a miracle. Buy this book, then share it with all you know. You won't be able to put it down either.

This is an incredible story of survival, heartbreak, friendship, and inspiration. Women are especially being drawn to this book, and rightfully so. But Jim's story also resonates with all men, especially those with families. His chance meeting of HK, and giving his time, energy, resources, and yes, his eyes to this young boy, truly inspired me to go the extra mile and do the same. Jim truly made a difference in HK's life, and in turn, his heart was forever changed. Sacrificially giving of yourself with absolutely no expectations of any personal gain or benefit is the essence of Jesus' message to the world. This is the perfect book at the perfect time. Men, don't let your wives hoard all the life lessons in this book---get your own copy if you must!!

I met HK and his grandmother/mother over 10 years ago. There is no doubt in my mind God smiled on me that day and sent me one of His greatest gifts. I am very familiar with this young man's amazing story. But after reading this book I realized there was so much more I did not know. So much more to inspire awe, so much more to give one hope, so many reason to believe in miracles, and so very much to thank God for every day. He and his Grandmother are clearly two of God's favorites and I will feel eternally blessed for having met them. Please, please read this wonderful book. It will most definitely change your life. Thank you Jim and thank you Andy for loving this miracle as much as I do!

This is one of the few books I have ever finished in one sitting! The story of this unlikely friendship will make you laugh, cry, wish you were on the lake but most importantly inspire you! These two men are an example of true friendship and how deep an impact you can have in someone's life just by being their friend. May we all strive to for that. Definitely a must read!

This is the sweetest story. This exemplifies truly unselfish giving on the part of Mr. Bradford. What a difference he has made in the life of this remarkable young man. This story will certainly touch your heart. An exceptional story, beautifully told.

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