

# boy

the child they could not break

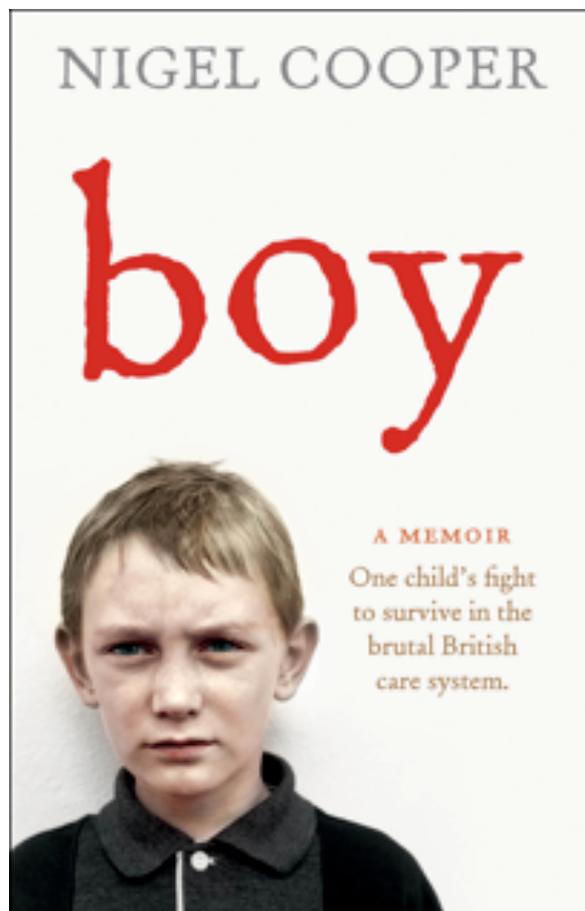
A Memoir

by

**Nigel Cooper**

Published on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015

By Ebury Press



Not since “A Child Called It” and “Gypsy Boy” has there been such an articulate portrayal of an horrific and harrowing boyhood. Brutal and heartbreaking, **BOY** tells the deeply moving story of one child’s courage to survive in a care system that robbed him of his childhood.

**BOY** is Nigel’s Cooper’s first-hand written memoir, charting his life in care from the tender age of seven to a teenager of sixteen. It tells the shocking, brutal, disturbing and emotional story of his childhood spent in and out of various care homes and institutions during the 1970s and 1980s, a time that is increasingly becoming referred to as the “Jimmy Savile” years.

Aged seven years old, following the untimely death of his sister and father, Nigel’s mother asked social services to take him away and his life was to change forever. For the next nine years of his life he was systematically rejected by his mum and grew up amongst bullies, abusers, psychopaths and criminals. Amazingly, through all the horror, his spirit refused to die and upon release from the system at the age of 16, Nigel was extraordinarily driven to educate himself, eventually becoming a classical pianist and in later an author of fiction.

Until now, Nigel has NEVER spoken about his physically and emotionally abusive childhood. He is bravely writing in the first person and under no pseudonym to expose the terrible wrongs of a system that professed to “care”. BOY is a beautifully written, edgy and gripping portrayal of a truly unbelievable childhood – uplifting proof that sometimes a spirit can be too strong to break.

**“Visceral, heart-wrenching and utterly compelling”**

**Mikey Walsh, author of the international best-selling *Gypsy Boy***

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### **About the Author**

After spending nine years in the British care system, Nigel went on to educate himself and become an author of contemporary fiction. He found his voice as the editor of his own magazine, which he ran for eight years. Prior to this he studied screenwriting in London. He also has a wealth of experience as a freelance journalist, writing articles and stories for numerous magazines and newspapers. Nigel also has a degree in classical piano performance and loves nothing more than to sit and play Chopin Nocturnes when he isn't writing. Nigel lives and writes in Cambridgeshire. BOY is his first non-fiction book.

