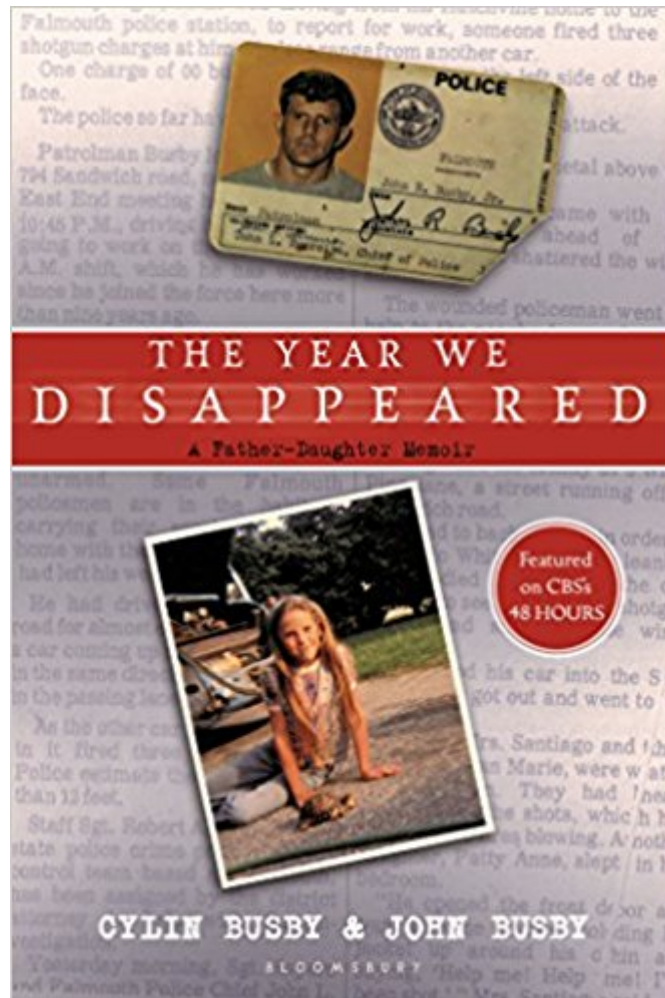


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# The Year We Disappeared: A Father - Daughter Memoir



## Synopsis

When Cylin Busby was nine years old, she was obsessed with Izod clothing, the Muppets, and a box turtle she kept in a shoebox. Then everything changed overnight. Her police officer father, John, was driving to his shift when someone leveled a shotgun at his window. The blasts that followed left John's jaw on the passenger seat of his car-literally. While clinging to life, he managed to write down the name of the only person he thought could have pulled the trigger. The suspect? A local ex-con with rumored mob connections. The motive? Officer Busby was scheduled to testify against the suspect's family in an upcoming trial. Overnight, the Busbys went from being the "family next door" to one under 24-hour armed guard, with police escorts to school, and no contact with friends. Worse, the shooter was still on the loose, and it seemed only a matter of time before he'd come after John-or someone else in the family-again. With few choices left to them, the Busby family went into hiding, severing all ties to the only life they had known.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up  
On August 31, 1979, tough cop John Busby was shot at close range while driving to work on Cape Cod. Bleeding profusely with the lower half of his face blown off, he realized that somebody wanted him dead, and identified a brazen local bully as the culprit, an arsonist with whose family Busby had clashed on the job. John and his daughter, Cylin, who was nine at the time of the shooting, recount the year that followed in alternating chapters, incorporating candid commentary and sometimes-disturbing detail about a crime that never resulted in arrests. With the entire Busby family under 24-hour police protection, John began the reconstructive surgeries that

would stretch for years, while Cylin and her two brothers tried to cope with guards accompanying them to school and the resulting social isolation. John Busby is frank about the corruption in the local police department that let his attacker intimidate anyone he chose, and bluntly describes his frustration and need for revenge in the months following the attack. Cylin speaks with a voice of innocence shattered as she struggles to comprehend what happened to her family and why her friends have abandoned her. When the town balked at the continuing expense of providing personal protection and the constant fear brought the family to the breaking point, the Busbys went into hiding, seeking a return to some semblance of normalcy. The page-turner pace is frequently interrupted by awkwardly placed flashbacks to moments in John's police work, but, ultimately, this is a story of survival and triumph.

—Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS

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Before August 31, 1979, nine-year-old Cylin's biggest worry was avoiding her grumpy neighbor. Then her family's life changed forever when her father, a Cape Cod policeman, was shot on his drive to work. Horribly injured, with most of his lower jaw blown away, John Busby somehow managed to stop his car and run for help. Although John was convinced he knew his attacker's identity, the investigation mysteriously stalled, and the Busby family was given 24-hour protection during the long experimental effort to reconstruct John's face. Eventually the family went into hiding, starting over in another state. In alternating chapters, John and Cylin Busby tell the story of John's ordeal and the devastating impact on his family. John's laconic, just-the-facts-madam style underscores the horror he was enduring, while Cylin's perspective drives home the fear and emotional misery the family suffered. The appalling physical injuries may deter the squeamish, but this riveting story will stay with readers, particularly its message that John's anger and desire for revenge were the hardest wounds to heal. Grades 9-12.

--Lynn Rutan

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This is the story of a father and daughter who endure the trauma of a horrific shooting. John Busby was a Falmouth, MA police officer who stood up to the wrong bad guys and paid for it. He was mercilessly shot in the face and almost killed. This is the story of his recovery and the impact on his family. The story is told from his perspective and also from the perspective of his daughter, Cylin. I liked this format because it helped me understand how the adults in the household felt about their

situation, but also how the children coped. Their story was eye opening to me because it gave me a whole new perspective about the sacrifices that police officers and other public servants sometimes have to make for the benefit of the public. I wished there had been more support for the Busbys, especially within the police department itself. This is a worthwhile read.

How I found this book was the ad for it when I had opened my kindle (in protective case). Each time I grab my kindle, and open the case flap, there is a book offer. It appeared interesting, I followed the link to read the short synopsis regarding this story. I liked what I read, and decided to purchase this ebook. I was hooked right away and stayed extremely interested through out her story. I loved the way Cylin Busby wrote about the true events regarding her father & herself. As she wrote it flipped back and forth between her view point, and that of her father. I enjoyed this read so much that at the end of this book it advertises other books along the same line, also other book(s) this author wrote. I saw that Cylin Busby wrote another novel called "Blink Once". This book was soooooo good too... If you are thinking about this book, and reading reviews - trust me - it is worth your time to do so... Also check out her other book "Blink Once" afterwards.... I look forward to her writing another book, and I sure hope it's soon!!! I read a lot, probably averages a few books a week. I enjoyed this lady's writing so much I took the time to do this review - believe me I don't take this time out of my life easily... Thanks for your time Vikky

I had worked on the Falmouth Police and certainly knew and liked Officer John Busby, it was terrible what happened to Him. Knowing the cast involved wasn't too surprised by some of the lack of support by certain individuals but a least renewed My faith in those that stood by John. I had already moved on to another Massachusetts Police Dept. prior to this event and later retired from that other Department. First book I had ever read where I knew all the Police Officers and almost everybody else that was involved. I'm so glad some of the Officers i thought highly of with the exception of one in that group proved their integrity. Some other should be ashamed of themselves ! My best to John Busby and His family.

A peaceful summer night is shattered by gunfire as an unseen assailant tries to murder police officer John Busby. Though horribly wounded, Busby survives. But the perpetrator remains at large, meaning neither Busby, nor his wife, nor their three children are safe. In separate chapters John and his daughter Cylin, who was nine at the time, recount the story of that year. John writes graphically, and movingly, of his wounds, his pain, his multiple surgeries, and his rage. Cylin tells

their story from a child's point of view, sharing vivid memories of confusion, loss of friends, and the struggle to build a new life. Together, father and daughter craft an unforgettable picture of fear, of police corruption, and of a malignant thug who no one dares to cross. Yet their story is also one of redemption and recovery, and ultimately of hope and healing.

I bought this book mainly because I like true stories and because I hate crooked cops. John Busby was not a crooked cop. It was tragic what this family had to go through and the injustice that they had to endure. They made it though so a sorta happy ending. I googled this and read a few newspaper articles about this case and I can not believe no one was ever charged for this. As you can see, my name is Busby and my father was a sheriff's deputy. I was never aware, when I was a child that there was any danger involved. Thank whomever he was never shot and I didn't have to go through what these poor kids did. He did die when he was forty five years old in a motor cycle wreck, so Erick, Shawn and Cylin be thankful John's still around. Great book.

This was a wonderful memoir. Told from the point of view of a police officer and his nine-year old daughter, it is the compelling story of the year after he was shot by a low-life ex-convict who held a small town in fear with threats and intimidation. Altering back and forth from father to daughter allows you to envision the situation from both an adult and a child's point of view. I couldn't put it down and shared the details with my husband, I found it so interesting. It will stay with you long after the story ends.

Amazing story, yet so sad. As a police wife, I wasn't sure whether I truly wanted to read this or not, but I'm glad because it gave me insight into what life could potentially be like for my family or that of my friends, should this ever happen. It didn't scare me the way I thought it would, making me wonder if my husband was ok every second of the day. But, it did make me realize that not everyone can be trusted, nor should they be trusted. I have since passed it along to other wives and I hope we can all take away some knowledge from this raw, honest, story about what can happen to a police family in the matter of seconds.

Really enjoyed reading this book. Hearing different perspectives from father and daughter was very telling. Interesting to hear about internal 'corruption' in a smaller town police department, which I'm sure happens more often than we might think. I felt left hanging about the Dad's recovery--the story itself in regard to Dad's ability to speak, eat, and lead a normal life disappeared shortly after they

moved. But the Epilogue makes it clear that he does regain some of those skills, but who knows when or how. Needed more detail about that.

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