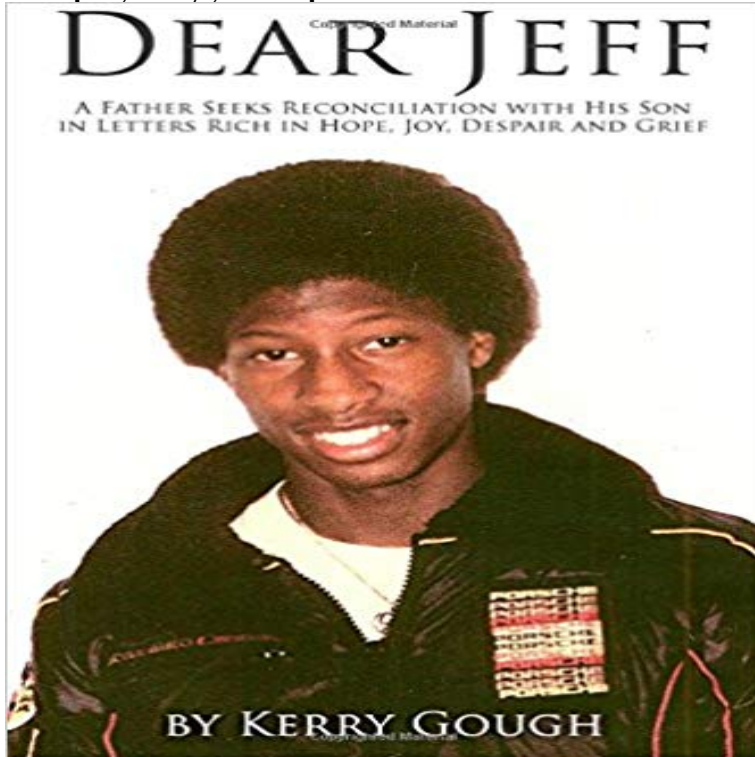


Dear Jeff: A Father Seeks Reconciliation with His Son In Letters Rich in Hope, Joy, Despair and Grief



Dear Jeff offers a collection of letters written by Gough endeavoring to reach a posthumous emotional reconciliation with his adopted African American son, Jeff. Seeking to fill voids in his relationship with Jeff, Gough shares experiences which greatly impacted his decision to adopt six year old Jeff and his twin sister Sheila. He describes emotionally moving events of his childhood, empathizing with the traumas of Jeff's early years; his awakening as a young soldier to the evils of race discrimination when he ran Fort Ord's off post housing service and blew the whistle on the Army's unlawful connivance in racial discrimination; his summer as a civil rights volunteer in rural Mississippi in 1965; and his work as a Justice Department attorney in Mississippi in 1966 and 1967. When Gough and his wife adopted six year old Jeff and Sheila, their goal was a happy, racially integrated home. Jeff, however, proved difficult to love. Either as the result of foster home abuse or some hidden mental issue, the young man was prone to angry and destructive outbursts. Truancy, illegal acts, and incarcerations were common events. At times, in desperation Gough wondered if the family had made the right choice. He would never know. Jeff's life was cut short by a motorcycle accident. Writing with candid and often brutal honesty, Gough discusses the abuse Jeff suffered as a foster child and victim in a failed early adoption, his troubled relationship with Jeff, the mistakes he made as a father, and those precious moments when Jeff was the charming, loving, mischievous son and brother the family longed for. An insightful, personal look at both Gough and his son, exposing the intricacies of interracial adoption and raising troubled children, Gough's letters ultimately seek peace for himself, for his family, and especially, for Jeff.

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