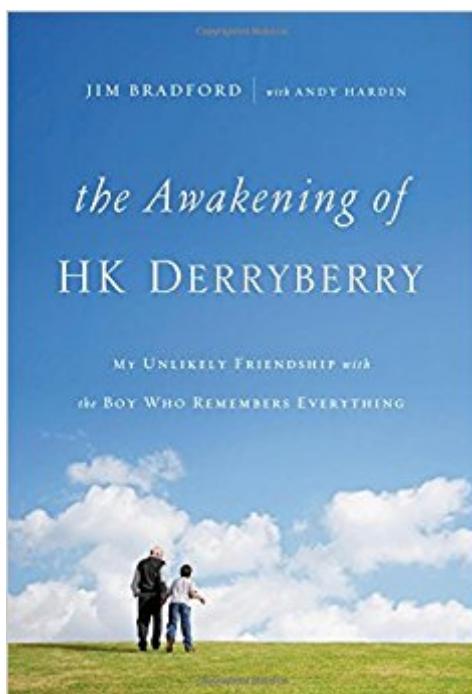


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# The Awakening Of HK Derryberry: My Unlikely Friendship With The Boy Who Remembers Everything



## Synopsis

2017 Audie Winner: Inspirational/Faith-Based Non-Fiction Audiobook and Earphones Award from Audiofile Magazine

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andy Hardin has known Jim Bradford over twenty-five years through church and was part of his Saturday morning tennis group when Jim first met HK. Jim introduced Andy to HK early in their friendship, and he closely followed their adventures throughout the years. After reading Jim's treasured tales of HK's many anecdotes, Andy offered his help to further develop the story. Andy is a retired attorney living in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife, Connie.

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!

Quick read and a wonderful story. It made me reflect on the many times I allowed my chance to make a difference in someone's life slipped by. After reading this book I am on the lookout for more opportunity's to encourage others not just with funds. Giving personal time on a regular basis is the one resource I am least willing to part with. I now have to reevaluate my giving and how I spend my time.

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.

A true story of two lives coming together. I choose to believe that their meeting was planned by the One who gives life. This book is a quick read and very funny at times. H.K. Derryberry is a special young man and I enjoyed reading about him and his mentor.

As I read the book, I found that I kept turning the pages instead of closing the book. I found many

takeaway moments in the story, but none greater than what I read on page 192 when HK describes the memories he chooses to focus on. It reminds me of 1 Samuel 16: 7 where Samuel is sent to anoint the next king (David) and the Lord tells him "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Maybe HK sees and understands what God sees when looking at the heart of his memories.

This true story will open your eyes and your heart to the beauty God creates in the lives He chooses to weave together. What an encouraging message!

This is amazing book for all ages. The pages vividly tell the amazing and inspirational story of a young man's challenges while growing up with multiple hardships in life. The most amazing thing about this book is the easy to read incredible manner in which the authors relate the physical, emotional and financial hardships endured by the real HK Derryberry and how he remained unbelievably positive. You will have happy tears in your eyes while reading the pages always looking forward to the next page. This is such a great, positive story in such a challenging time which will make you want to be a better person. Buy it today.

HK you stole my heart a couple years ago when I finally got to meet you! Cousins living states between us and I am honored that we finally got to meet. I am one of your biggest fans! After all, you are quite a celebrity! This book is lovely, lovely, lovely and an excellent read for young and old. Mr. Bradford, thank you for being his friend and always believing in him! HK, I expect both of you to sign my book when we meet again!

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