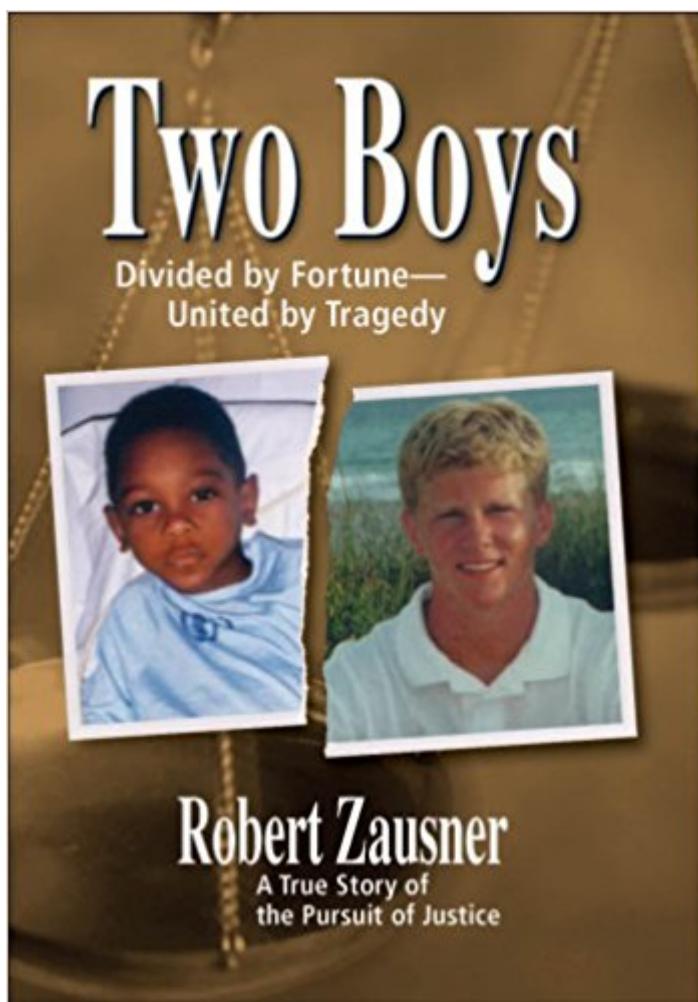


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# Two Boys, Divided By Fortune, United By Tragedy: A True Story Of The Pursuit Of Justice



## Synopsis

They couldn't have been more different one a teenager from affluent suburbia, the other a little kid from the poor part of the city. But John Tucker Mahoney and Shareif Hall would come to share a common experience as random, unsuspecting victims of terrible tragedies. Tucker would be felled by a tiny piece of metal, a BB fired from the powerful, new-generation air rifle he got for his 16th birthday. Shareif, four years old, would be riding a transit system escalator on the day before Thanksgiving, when his brand new Fila shoe would get caught in the contraption's giant metal teeth.. Tucker and Shareif would also share one other thing. The tragedies that befell them were not merely bad luck but the result of wrongful, egregious conduct. Both cases involved bad actors : the manufacturer who sold some 7.5 million defective PowerLine air rifles (and later refused to remove them from circulation), and the transit authority that failed to properly maintain and upgrade its moving stairways. The boys families, powerless to restore health or happiness, could not do much to help Tucker and Shareif. So they did the only other thing they could. They sought justice using the sole remedy available to them the legal system. Partners in the same Philadelphia law firm would represent the families and battle for them against well-known corporate entities: Daisy Manufacturing Company and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), a government-related agency. Both would deny they were at fault, one going so far as to conceal and even fabricate critical evidence. With crisp narration and great fidelity to detail, Robert Zausner tells their harrowing story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Two Boys is a wonderful book and an important one about tragedy, about injustice, and how the legal system, instead of sinking into an endless battle of lawyer egos, sometimes does work the way it should. Robert Zausner's writing is clear and incisive. The book reads like a Grisham legal thriller, but with one major difference. Every word of it is true. --H.G. Bissinger, author, Friday Night Lights  
Two courageous lawyers go up against a major corporation and a powerful city agency to win justice for two horribly injured boys. Both defendants withheld vital evidence until being forced to come clean. For those biased against trial lawyers, Two Boys should be required reading --Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center  
Two Boys is a compelling account of the power of our court system to provide justice to ordinary Americans. Two families, with the help of devoted and talented lawyers, use the legal system to respond to overwhelming tragedies and to protect the public from corporate negligence and malfeasance. This book offers a powerful rejoinder to those who would seek to close the courthouse doors to such families in the name of tort reform. --U.S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr.

ROBERT ZAUSNER is a former journalist with United Press International and The Philadelphia Inquirer, where he covered government and politics and also wrote feature stories for the Sunday magazine. He has won awards for feature writing and investigative reporting. A graduate of Syracuse University, the author lives in Moorestown, New Jersey

This book is a true page turner and sheds a lot of light on the legal process in a detailed fashion that holds the reader's attention throughout. However, what happened to these boys, and their consequent journeys in the aftermath is beyond sad, so just beware. Your heart will hurt.

If you're looking for an uplifting story in a time when the news seems overwhelmingly negative, I highly recommend this book. Day after day, we are bombarded with stories about how Wall Street and corporate America are thriving while the average person on Main Street is struggling. Robert Zausner offers a bit of relief from this narrative as he does an excellent job telling the gripping stories of two very different American families fighting for justice, when the odds are stacked against them. The court room drama makes Two Boys a page-turner. Through clear and compelling writing, this book offers an insightful and illuminating view inside our legal system. The author should be applauded for translating two intricate tales into a cohesive, fast paced, enjoyable read. It's refreshing to see that, even in these volatile times, right sometimes wins over might. Take this book to the pool or beach this summer!

Two Boys is a true story of two boys from divergent ways of life and circumstances who are both permanently injured due to little or no fault of their own. One boy, Shareif, from a poor and minority background, has his foot caught in a malperforming escalator, which causes permanent loss of his foot. Another boy, Tucker, from a well- to- do family from upscale background, is accidentally shot by a BB gun in the head which results in hospitalization and permanent brain damage. Both families sue the causers, in the case of the lost foot, the city which is responsible for the maintenance of the escalator. In the case of the BB gun, the manufacturing company which minimized the danger of the BB gun which caused the irreversible injury to Tucker. The only real connection between the "two boys" is that both suffered irreversible damage to their persons and that each family had to seek help in order to obtain their respective causer. Two legal battles ensued, one against a government entity; the other against a powerful toy manufacturer. After many legal battles both families won their cases. The permanent physical damage done to each boy could never be rectified, but in each case courts found that substantial damage claims would be awarded. The book is a study of excellent research, clear writing, and affirmation of the rule of law. Most likely not possible under any other political system. A first rate and moving story by an excellent author.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I read the hard copy about a year ago. It is a great read about two families whose children suffered tragic injuries because the wrongdoers (a large corporation and SEPTA) failed to make easy fixes to their products/equipment. It tells how two passionate attorneys fought for justice and eventually succeeded in making the wrongdoers pay - and fix the problems to ensure that more children would not suffer the same fate. It demonstrates that our civil justice system really can work to protect the little people.

I blasted through Two Boys in two and a half days. The author brings to life two courtroom dramas that are both heartbreak and uplifting. To bring justice to their clients, two grieving families, a couple of Philadelphia trial lawyers take on a callous manufacturer and a corrupt government agency. Bob Zausner was one of the Philadelphia Inquirer's finest reporters and he has a sure eye for character and detail as he keeps the pages turning on this one.

This is a well-written and approachable book telling the story of two prominent Philadelphia attorneys' tort cases involving tragic accidents with children. I enjoyed the book most as a case study of how to develop and litigate tort lawsuits. Others may be equally engrossed with the pure

drama of the storylines. Highly recommended.

This is a great book! The way the author tells the story makes you feel like you are actually there with these people, feeling their pain. I loved it and so did everyone I recommended it to!

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