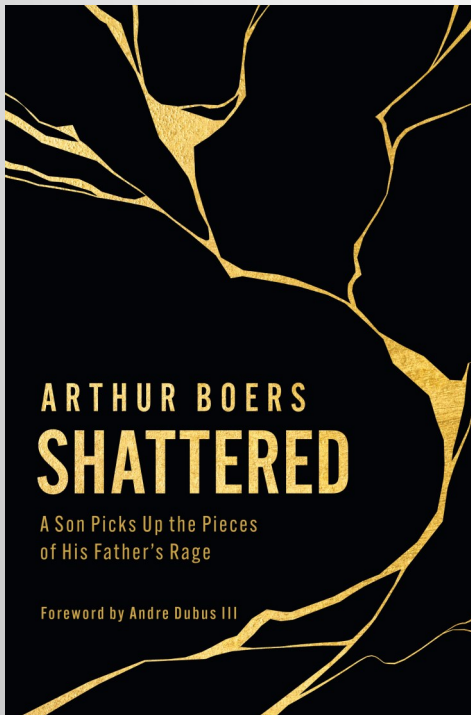




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Shattered: A Son Picks Up the Pieces of His Father's Rage

By Arthur Boers
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Shattered

A Son Picks Up the Pieces of His Father's Rage

A sensitive and penetrating reflection on coming of age in a Dutch immigrant family scarred by violence.

Arthur Boers's earliest memory was of shattered glass. His father threw a potted plant at his mother, and she ducked as the plant crashed through a window of the family home. His mother cleaned up the shards that day; later in life, he would find himself called upon to pick up the pieces as well.

In *Shattered*, Boers reflects on coming of age in a family scarred by violence. The son of Dutch immigrants, Boers illuminates the generational trauma of the Nazi occupation of Holland, refracted in vignettes of his boyhood in postwar Canada. His hard-working, Calvinist family is endearing, but ultimately unable to address the insidious cycle of abuse that passed father to son.

Breaking with this silence and complicity, Boers reflects candidly and empathetically on his tumultuous relationship with his father. Intertwined with this narrative is his emerging vocation to ministry, more mystical and expressive than the Reformed tradition in which he was raised.

Forthright and authentic, Boers extends a hand in solidarity to readers who have been wounded by those who were meant to protect them the most. With *Shattered*, he charts a path toward healing through faith.

“One of those rare memoirs that is both honest and fair, that pulls no punches yet lands at a place of hard-earned light and repose.”

—**Andre Dubus III**, author of *House of Sand and Fog* and *Townie* (from the foreword)

“This brave and wonderful book made me feel gratitude, care, and something like quiet awe. And it made me think—about generational inheritance, about the ways violence lingers, about forgiveness, and, most abidingly, about my own dead mother. I think of her, and of myself unto her, differently now that I've read *Shattered*.”

—**Lauren F. Winner**, author of *Girl Meets God* and *Still*

The cover depicts kintsugi, which is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery.

Suggested Interview Questions

- Andre Dubus III writes in the foreword that “this is one of those rare memoirs that his honest yet fair, that pulls no punches yet lands at a place of hard-earned light and repose.” What led you to pen the memoir?
- Glass is a major motif of the book. How did you decide to use this imagery? How do you transform the motif throughout the memoir?
- How would you describe your experience growing up in Canada in a family of immigrants?
- A significant theme discusses escaping generational cycles of abuse. What message would you give to people traumatized by domestic violence?
- You write that your father wanted you to become a soldier or to work in his business. How were you able to forge your own path instead?
- What role does your religious journey play in the memoir?
- How does your faith help you cope with abuse and trauma?
- What pulled you to become an Anglican priest?



Arthur Boers is an Anglican priest and author of several award-winning books, including *The Way Is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago* and *Servants and Fools: A Biblical Theology of Leadership*. He holds a DMin from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and an MFA from Seattle Pacific University.

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