

EMPTY HANDS

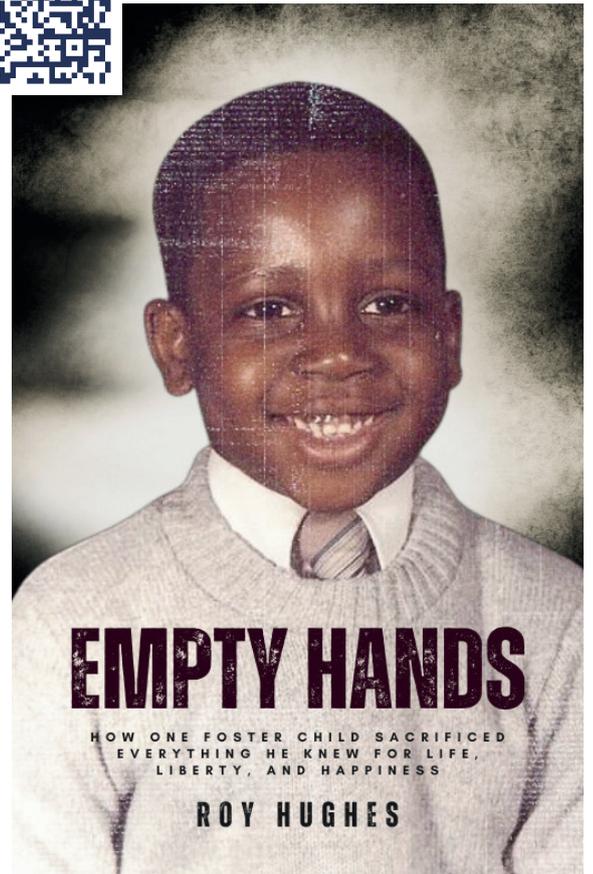


AS A CHILD, Roy Hughes made an excruciating decision to give up all he had to protect the people he loved most: his siblings. Born into a world of poverty, addiction, and violence, Roy learned early to survive with little else but instinct, determination, and faith. So, when the adults around him were too broken or exhausted to intervene on his behalf, he did the unthinkable by acting for them.

What followed was a journey through foster homes, courtrooms, and the quiet heroism of those who cared enough to notice: the teacher who hung his drawings on the wall, the coach who taught him to swim, the social workers who refused to give up. Empty Hands honors them all, and every child who discovers that change begins the moment they believe they can make it.

Today, Roy's hands carry the marks of both pain and purpose. The scars that once told a story of survival now testify to the power of forgiveness, love, and rebirth. Because sometimes, the greatest freedom comes not from what we hold on to—but from what we finally let go.

ROY HUGHES is a Navy veteran, former top-ranked national recruiter, and child-welfare reform advocate whose life spans foster homes, detention halls, hospital wards, and the open water. His memoir, *Empty Hands*, traces a journey from closed fists to empty hands—how strangers, coaches, sponsors, and one steadfast judge helped him transform survival into service. Roy lives to make sure the next kid doesn't have to raise himself.



click on your flag!