IF

ONLY

KNOWN

IFP

WILLIAM

DODSON, PH.D

of the school massacre that started a global trend, and the strategy that thousands of education, law enforcement, and mental health professionals have quietly used to stop countless attacks and threats.

WHY?...THERE ARE ANSWERS.

After numerous attacks, the FBI and Secret Ser-

vice concluded that you can't identify these stu-

dents before they strike or the communities where they will commit an attack. If they were right, Dodson says, "I wouldn't have written this book." The fact is there *are* answers to the *why* questions

Over 20,000 education and law enforcement

professionals have successfully stopped countless threats and attacks since 1997, using the Random

Actor violence prevention strategies uncovered by

If Only I Had Known weaves the tale of the at-

tack on Pearl and the application of the solution

that is saving lives. This book is for all parents and

professionals who care about the safety and secu-

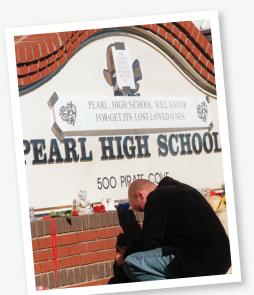
rity of students in our schools.

investigative journalist and author Dan Korem.

we've all had.

**BILL DODSON** was the superintendent of the Pearl Public Schools for over twenty years, and an educator for over forty years. He has received numerous awards, including superintendent of the year in the state of Mississippi, where he was born. He currently serves as a trustee of a community college and is an adjunct professor. He and his wife Nancey are now retired in Pearl.

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"AFTER YEARS OF ASKING,

'COULD I HAVE DONE
ANYTHING DIFFERENT,'
I AM CERTAIN OF ONE THING.
WE MUST SPEND MORE TIME
PREPARING TO PREVENT
RATHER THAN PREPARING
TO REACT."

—William H. Dodson, Ph.D. Superintendent, Pearl Public Schools





## IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN

A True Story

## EARL HIGH SCHOOL



THE LIFE-SAVING SOLUTION THAT THOUSANDS HAVE USED TO STOP SCHOOL MASSACRES

WILLIAM H. DODSON, PH.D.



## THE ATTACK THAT STARTED A GLOBAL TREND

"On October 1, 1997," writes author William Dodson, "when I was superintendent of Pearl Public Schools in Jackson, Mississippi, Luke Woodham, a sixteen-year-old sophomore, stabbed and bludgeoned his mother to death, then took a rifle to Pearl High School and shot nine students. Two died; seven were wounded.

The act seemed to come out of the blue, with Luke Woodham randomly shooting anyone who moved. He did it in a safe and serene community.

And he did it on my watch."

After the Pearl attack, many others followed in North America and Europe, like the Columbine and Virginia Tech massacres in 1999 and 2007, and the Winnenden, Germany, attack in 2009.

What happened at Pearl High School is the riveting story of a rampage by a student who was a member of a local suburban gang.

This is the only book ever written by a school executive who has experienced an attack. For over ten years, he searched for the answer to one question: What could we have done to prevent the attack? Dr. William Dodson, the former superintendent of Pearl Public Schools, tells the unvarnished truth of what happened and the strategy he found that has stopped countless attacks.

## UNPRECEDENTED THREATS

75-100 times a day, students are found with bombs, guns, and plots to commit school attacks. Unique in world history, these massacres typically only occur in the safest communities: suburbs and small towns and not the inner-city.

(Continued on back flap)