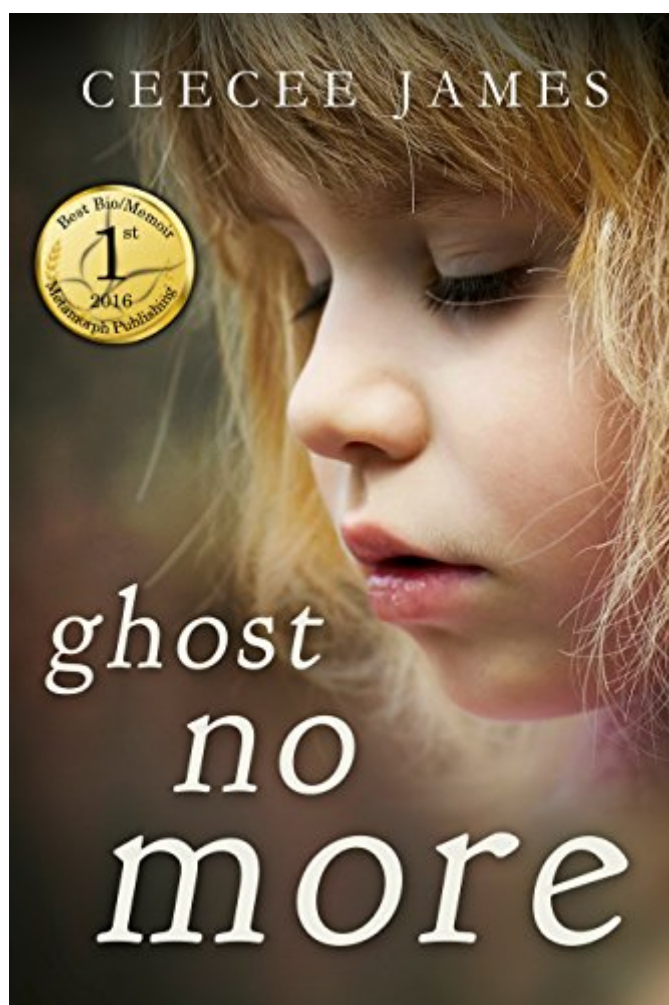


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Ghost No More: A True Story Of Escape (Ghost No More Series Book 1)



Synopsis

2016 SIBA First Place Memoir Winner! Behind the glitz and the glamour of the beauty queen mother lies a web of secrets. CeeCee is a child desperate for a touch of approval, the love of her mother. Her reality is her mom's retreating back, abandoning CeeCee in front of a burning car. But somewhere amid the chaos and despair, CeeCee holds onto something precious, the only thing that drives her on - hope. Ghost No More is a child abuse true story that proves joy can be found beyond abuse. "Loved the book. I started reading this book two days ago and couldn't put it down. I read it at every chance I had." "A story of strength and survival." "Totally captivating! The story does have a happy ending, which I love!" "Powerful. Intriguing. Compelling. I could not put this book down. A raw purity flows through every single word." -- reviewers "Hauntingly beautiful. Honestly and unflinchingly written, Ghost No More held me in its grasp as I turned from shock at the cruelty of some people to awe at the strength of one little girl to overcome. It is more than the story of an abused child; it's a story about the capacity of the human spirit to survive and thrive. It will leave you feeling empowered in your own life journey." -- Leslie G Nelson, author of Everything I Needed to Know About Parenting I Learned in Prison: A Correctional Officer's Tale topics- child abuse, womens memoir, hope, health, eating disorders, teen, depression, true crime, recovery, kindle unlimited

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Customer Reviews

I started reading this at night in bed and finally put it down at 4:30 am. Not because I was done reading, but because I needed to sleep! And finished the book later in the day. It's not often I stay up all night reading a book, but when I do, it's because it's really good and well written! This is a book about a girl who survives a horribly abusive childhood. But she doesn't just survive, she ends up finding healing, love, and redemption. Thank you for being vulnerable and sharing your story, CeeCee. I am in awe that such beauty can come out of incredible pain.

CeeCee's earliest memories centered upon her mother's abuse. No matter what she did, even as a toddler, her mother would accuse her of being a "bad girl," slapping and hitting her mercilessly. She would restrict her food and take away her meager meals for such transgressions as a perceived eyeroll or tone of voice. During "good" days, CeeCee was banished to a tiny room in the basement, and only to sleep or do homework. She was expected to spend long hours, even in below zero weather, outdoors and away from her mother's and stepfather's sight. As if that weren't horrific enough, CeeCee endured abuse of a different kind at the hands of her maternal grandfather. Yet unbelievably, CeeCee continued hoping she might win her mother's love - an impossible task. James details her young self's childhood in a way that is both heartbreaking yet leaves readers unable to stop hoping this vulnerable child who has endured so much will finally find the happiness and security she deserves.

"Ghost No More" is an amazing story of strength and survival. The memoir is a brutal, gut-wrenching, heartbreaking read (as it should be), the sort of thing I would never read if it was fiction. The author shows remarkable courage in sharing her story, and the inspiration promised in the title did not disappoint. It's comforting to know it's possible to stay open and let love in after the kind of horrors she endured. The fact that she not only survived, but also thrived, shows what a remarkable person she truly is.

This is for the audio book, but also applies to the written book. I had read the book, so I knew what to

expect in the story. The details were challenging to hear and, although many details are different from my experiences, it still struck a lot of nerves. It is important to remember that the memories are through the eyes of a child. There are some things that an adult will recognize as, perhaps, seeming implausible...like mowing "acres" of grass with a push mower. However, in the eyes and memory of a child, it would definitely seem like literal acres. So, while some may try to challenge her memories because of things like that, I think they just add validity and authenticity. I would be more surprised if they were described in adultlike precision. The more I learn about how the brain and memory work together, the more I see the truth in her account. CeeCee tells her story in snippets, but those snippets are enough to give us a clear picture of the battles she faced. As an abuse survivor who has travelled a long road herself, I know there will be more battles to come. But they will be more like skirmishes, for CeeCee has already won the major battles. This book is actually part of a series. I have read book 2 and look forward to reading book 3 at some point. I recommend CeeCee James as an author. The reader does an outstanding job of portraying each character. Her voice is easy to listen to. I do not often listen to audio books, but if I do listen again, I hope the reader is Julia Farmer...or at least someone who is as talented as she is.

This is the second book I've read by CeeCee James and, like the first, from the start, it drew me in to the pain and loneliness of her life growing up. My heart ached for her. She offered up the memories without adding or surmising why each happened as it did. As a child, she didn't know and her adult self didn't try to fill in the blanks. One of the most terrifying scenes for me as a reader was her memory of picking blackberries with her mother. James' book showed how even a very young child can intuitively pick up on unscripted rules to live by that hold one to a situation. There can be no derivation and danger lurks in sharing the rules. I also found it shocking that so many people surrounding the situation allowed it to continue in silence by giving illogical credence to the abuser's views and behavior. The author's use of the light and darkness had me on a see-saw of emotions throughout. I was so relieved and grateful that she didn't leave her readers in the darkness but carried them into the light along with her.

GHOST NO MORE by CeeCee James Since this book was written and narrated by CeeCee, beginning with her horrendous childhood, of necessity the early parts of the book use simplistic, age appropriate language. However, because of this simplicity, the reader may decide not to go forward with it. This would be a big mistake because as CeeCee gradually matures, so does her language. No easy feat for an author!! Ms. James slowly builds tension, so that it reaches a point in which

putting the book down is no longer an option. You feel that you must discover what happens to the characters, particularly CeeCee. Throughout her life, this poor child had been unloved, criticized, and emotionally and physically abused by her sadistic mother. Also, she was sexually abused by a close family member. You will experience every conceivable emotion, running the gamut of gut-wrenching pity for the child to intense hatred for her sadistic mother, her lecherous relative, and others who emotionally diminished CeeCee's self-confidence and damaged her psyche. This book is the first of a series of three, but it also serves well as a stand alone book. Accolades to you, Ms. James for being the strong woman you are and for sharing your life with strangers. This magnificent memoir may well bring hope to other abused children. Phyllis Eisenstadt

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