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# Hope In Patience



*A YALSA Quick Pick For Reluctant Readers*

# HOPE — IN — PATIENCE

**Beth Fehlbaum**



## Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Ashley Asher has spent half of her life living in fear. Her stepfather has been sexually abusing her for years, but her mother doesn't believe her. After his latest assault lands her in the emergency room, Child Protective Services finally removes Ashley from her home, and sends her to live with the father she barely remembers and his new family. Her new life in Patience, Texas, is much better. She's in therapy to deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is trying to make her way in a new high school. She's getting used to living with her father, stepmother, and stepbrother, and she's made new friends in the summer course taught by her stepmother, Bev. She even joins the track team at the urging of her new African American friend, Z. Z. But Ashley is so traumatized by her past that she sometimes scratches herself until she bleeds and sleeps in her armoire, even though she knows she's safe now. Worse, when her stepfather is finally put on trial for hurting her, she learns that truth and justice don't always go together. Will Ashley adjust to a better life? Will she trust enough to date Josh, the cute guy on her track team who likes her? YA readers will be caught up in the heart-pounding story of a damaged girl trying to heal herself and get on with the rest of her life.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: WestSide Books; First Edition edition (October 27, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1934813419

ISBN-13: 978-1934813416

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 5.8 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,531,092 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Mutilation #379 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #687 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse

## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up Ashley Asher lives with her father and stepmother in a tiny town in East Texas. She wants what any 15-year-old might want: friends, a supportive family, a special relationship with a boy. But Ashley struggles to stop harming herself, to stop dissociating, to accept the support of the

people around her. Before she came to Patience, Ashley spent most of her childhood with an indifferent mother and an abusive stepfather. Now she faces the huge challenge of healing from emotional neglect, as well as sexual and physical abuse. She tries, but trust is so hard to come by. And the challenges keep coming. There's a court date when she must face her abuser and the mother who rejects her for reporting the assaults. And a first date on Halloween turns into a disaster when an actor playing a ghoul triggers a posttraumatic reaction in Ashley. All this is tough stuff, but very real to anyone who has lived with abuse or suffered from PTSD. The author is to be applauded for her courageous and accurate portrayal of the many small steps that lead toward psychological healing. It is Ashley's friendships with other "misfits," as much as the support of her new family and her unconventional therapist, that help Ashley understand that she is not alone and that she, too, deserves love. Teens who are attracted by her honesty and her compelling story will come away with a deeper understanding of trauma and healing. This book will open hearts and might well save lives. Carolyn Lehman, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA (c) Copyright 2011.

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This follow-up to *Courage in Patience* (published in 2008 as a book for adults) finds 15-year-old Ashley trying to make a fresh start with her father while still haunted by the sexual abuse of her stepfather. With all sorts of help, Ashley begins the difficult, sometimes painful journey toward finding the courage and confidence to begin real healing. The book's strength lies in its intimate portrayal of the impact of abuse and PTSD, and Ashley's emotions almost always ring true. Some intense, graphic scenarios appear here, including Ashley's descriptions of her physical abuse and her occasional self-mutilations. Grades 10-12. --Shelle Rosenfeld

The patience trilogy has been an amazing journey for me, it's as if there is a psychological tone to it that places the reader into the shoes of Ashly and forces you to heal right along with her. The flashbacks you described are soo realistic and exactly like how they are.. Toungle twisting to explain really! I like how you take even the most irritating character like Marcus or the Coach, T.W's dad and show how they are humanized by removing their veil of ignorance. Everybody can see themselves in at least one of the characters in the Patience trilogy. By the end of book 3 I think the reader gains their own sense of patience with themselves or current situations and learn how to courageously stand up for themselves and others, basically for what's right. The reader learns that its ok to hope and to keep hope, but to have realistic views of themselves and others. The reader

learns about the importance of courage in the face of their personal fears and even in the face of their own selves. And how truth really does set us free, free from victimization, free from prejudice, ignorance, hate and even our own hurts about unfulfilled expectations. Beth should have a PHD in Writing Therapy, if there ever was such a thing!

Hope in Patience is a riveting novel of Ashley Asher who rises from the ashes of her tormented existence; sexual abuse at the hand of her stepfather. I immediately became immersed in Ashley's fragile state of mind. I sympathized with her heart wrenching journey as she learned to trust again (not an easy task when her own mother accuses her of having an affair with the stepfather). And I cried when she truly experiences love for the first time in her life. With the help of her brilliant therapist, loving family and friends, Ashley stands face to the sun. Her courage will inspire.

Ashley rips my heart out and the need to keep a box of tissues handy while reading this is a must! As a woman and a mother my emotions are all over the place with this series! On to book three!!

This book was used in the trauma treatment of an abused adolescent girl. It helped her process her personal experiences.

Read the whole trilogy - real, character will stay with you for long time and a book that will help teens in need.

Very good book!

This is a wonderful continuation to book one, Courage in Patience. Book one did not need to have a sequel--it was a round story in itself--but this does dig deeper into Ashley's continuing life, proving that things aren't solved easily and scars do run deep. This can be read as a stand alone. However, I wouldn't recommend it since book one gives a solid impression of Ashley and her journey up to this point. Ashley is now learning to live. She's attending classes at high school, while still seeing her therapist. The issues she must deal with still haunt her and make her daily life difficult. But now, she's also faced with new problems which not only stab still healing wounds, but open up new struggles. Although the sexual abuse from before is still a main theme, other ones such as acceptance, racism, and judging others roll into play. Like book one, this one bites deep. The emotions it calls forth are raw and difficult even for readers to work through at times. The author

does an amazing job at bringing the naked reality to life, demonstrating the battles emotional wounds still cause even when 'troubles' have been supposedly solved. But again, there's also an amazing amount of hope and warmth involved. Ashley has it rough, but there's still a light at the end of the tunnel and helping hands along the way. This is a great read for those fans of harsh reality contemporary, which leaves an impression long after the book has been read. I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

This is the continuation of "Courage in Patience" and if you haven't read that novel I highly recommend it, so you can fully understand Ashley's emotional situation and her now journey of healing. However, if you are just starting the series at this novel you will not be too lost as the author died a great re-cap at the beginning. Now fifteen and trying to recover from her near abduction and loss of safety, Ashley Asher just wants to start school like a normal teenager. Ashley finds that school is so much more difficult when topics like family set her off emotionally. Working with her therapist, Dr. Matt, Ashley is learning not to inflict self-harm when bad things or memories occur. One such thing is a court hearing against her mom and stepdad aka Satan for the attack last summer. Now along with her family issues Ashley also has school to deal with which brings up a variety of issues like racism, censorship, new relationships, teachers and subject matter. Only thing clear is Ashley is on a long journey of recovery and it is up to her whether or not it's successful. Overall, great follow-up novel. Having Ashley still on her journey makes it all very real since in fiction most authors would be like "she met a boy and felt complete the end." But for Ashley the process and emotions are real and still being worked through, especially concerning her mom. The fact Ashley still struggles over trying to accept her mom's actions in the situation is saddening, because everyone wants her to just write the witch off but Ashley still loves her mom even if she was horrible and still refuses her truth in the situation. Now again Bev is my fav teacher/stepmom/character, she may have had her own past but nows how to own her class even with the Pams in there. Plus she knows how to handle Ashley even when she goes all crazy or mean girl moody on everyone. Again for this story loved the integration of a classic "Farewell to Manzanar" to help illustrate subplot, which are all key contemporary issues. Also I'm also happy to see some history class mentioned, but biased love history. So if you are continue Ashley's story or just starting join Ashley on the long road to find healing and understanding. \*\*I received a free copy in return for an honest review\*\*-----Read more of my reviews at: [...]-----

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