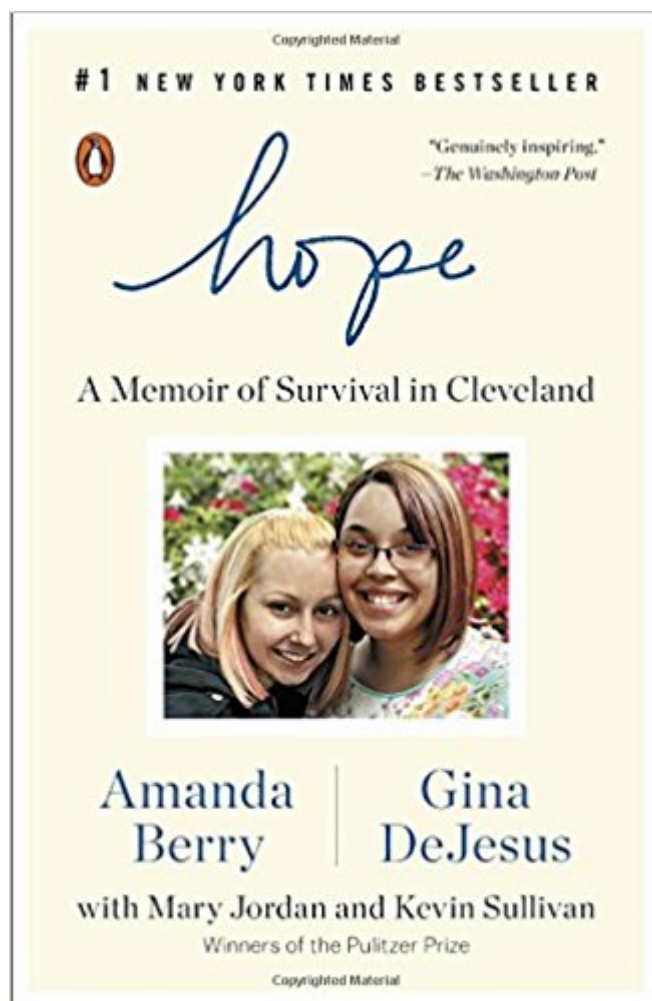


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# Hope: A Memoir Of Survival In Cleveland



## Synopsis

The #1 *New York Times* Bestseller A bestselling book that is inspiring the nation: “We have written here about terrible things that we never wanted to think about again . . . Now we want the world to know: we survived, we are free, we love life.” Two women kidnapped by infamous Cleveland school-bus driver Ariel Castro share the stories of their abductions, captivity, and dramatic escape. On May 6, 2013, Amanda Berry made headlines around the world when she fled a Cleveland home and called 911, saying: “Help me, I’ve been kidnapped, and I’ve been missing for ten years.” A horrifying story rapidly unfolded. Ariel Castro, a local school bus driver, had separately lured Berry, Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight to his home, where he kept them chained. In the decade that followed, the three were raped, psychologically abused, and threatened with death. Berry had a daughter, Jocelyn, by their captor. Drawing upon their recollections and the diary kept by Amanda Berry, Berry and Gina DeJesus describe a tale of unimaginable torment, and Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post reporters Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan interweave the events within Castro’s house with original reporting on efforts to find the missing girls. The full story behind the headlines including details never previously released on Castro’s life and motivations. Hope is a harrowing yet inspiring chronicle of two women whose courage, ingenuity, and resourcefulness ultimately delivered them back to their lives and families. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Teens who were fascinated by Michelle Knight's *Finding Me: A Decade of Darkness, a Life Reclaimed* (Weinstein, 2014) will eagerly read Berry and DeJesus's story of their kidnapping and 10-year ordeal with sociopath Ariel Castro. What is unique about the duos' memoir is the different experiences of the two young women held captive (along with Knight) in the same house, sometimes even chained to the same bed. There were years when they were unaware of each other's existence and years when they had limited to no contact. Berry, in particular, kept extensive diaries that are published here, giving readers keen insight into the daily routine in the house. While the girls were pitted against one another, the birth of Berry's baby (fathered by her captor) changed the dynamic in significant ways. Her feelings for Castro the rapist and Castro the loving father of her child brought confusion and anguish. DeJesus writes, "Jocelyn is the only happy person in this house, and I love her." Also unique is the fact that Berry escaped. The dramatic telling of her fear as she walked out of a room she had been conditioned to stay in, as well as her courageous rebellion against her captor is extraordinary. VERDICT An inside look at a horrific ordeal ripped from the headlines that will be devoured by teens. —Amy Cheney, Alameda County Library, CA --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Praise for *Hope: A Memoir of Survival in Cleveland* — "[C]ompulsively readable. . . . Berry and DeJesus's memoir sections are startlingly illuminating and genuinely inspiring. It's astounding to read how the young women kept up their spirits and their hopes even while being held captive by a monstrously cold, self-pitying brute. —The Washington Post "[A] breathtaking accomplishment. What could have been a record of two victims who endure the unendurable at the hands of a monster, is, instead, the story of two young and frightened girls as they come of age and, against all odds, come to an understanding of themselves and their tormenter. They emerge from the house on Seymour Avenue with an insight and compassion that many adults never grasp. —The Cleveland Plain Dealer — "Hope is riveting, chilling, powerful and unforgettable. From raw emotion to quiet determination, Berry and DeJesus show the world the strength of hope. —Deseret News "The bravery and resolve that Berry and DeJesus convey in this well-crafted memoir is both astonishing and inspiring. —Publishers Weekly "[A] compelling chronicle of Berry and DeJesus' harrowing experiences in captivity, told in their own words and in a journal that Berry kept on scraps of paper . . . . A nuanced testament to the complexity of the human spirit. —Kirkus Reviews From the Hardcover edition.

While I read this book with an open and compassionate mind, and can honestly say that I find Amanda and Gina's courage and fortitude to be astonishing during the endless depravity they were forced to endure, I also wondered at the continual omissions of Michelle Knight in the telling of their story. Indeed, Michelle was trapped the longest of the three, and conceived 5 individual pregnancies as a result of violent rape, only to have each fetus viciously beaten out of her body. Yet none of that was included in this book, but rather a brief reference of Michelle "being made to lose her baby". Just one miscarriage was referred to, and only in an oblique and vague manner. I felt all through the book that somehow Michelle was not welcomed to be part of a threesome that offered support and comfort to one another. Once the girls were freed it wasn't mentioned that Michelle was gravely ill from long-standing abuse and poor nutrition, to the point that she had to remain in the hospital for several days until she could begin to stabilize. And where was Michelle when Amanda and Gina were invited to meet the president and speak at the White House? Wasn't that personal triumph every bit Michelle's too, just as much as it was Gina's and Amanda's? I also felt sad for Michelle once they had been found and rescued. Gina and Amanda had large, loving families to go home to. Michelle had no one. For that reason alone, an effort should have been made to reach out to her, include her in all celebrating and certainly being presented at the White House. I'm personally offended to see Michelle receive such disinterest and almost a dismissive flicking away. All three girls endured unspeakable horrors together, under the same small roof. It seems only natural that they would bond together and forge a friendship built from the ashes of that horrific decade of hell. I find it so sad to see Michelle, with no family support system, strike out alone and try to rebuild her life and I feel that omission dragged the book down. I read Michelle's account of her experiences in her book "Finding Me" and feel there was much more honesty and compassion for the other two girls and their suffering, too, in her relating of those awful 10 years.

I read this after reading Michelle Knight's book called Finding Me. I found it very compelling and interesting to hear the side of Amanda Berry and Gina Dejesus as I did while reading Michelle Knight's version. One thing I liked about this book was the journal entries that were included, and I found the different point of views to be very intriguing. What these girls went through is something that most of us cannot even begin to relate to, and I commend them for having the strength and courage to re-live that nightmare in order to put it all down into a book. I found myself unable to put the book down at times, and other times I cried right along with them. Usually when you get lost in a book you know that it is just a story, but in this case it is simply heart-wrenching to think that this was real life. I will say the only thing I did not like in this book was the long section describing Ariel's

background. I think most can agree with me that he is not worth the ink on the pages within this book. I couldn't even read that section as I didn't care to know anything about that terribly disgusting individual. Some may disagree, but that is your prerogative. I will also mention, if you haven't read Michelle's book yet, you should. I actually liked it better, although I think all of the girls and their books deserve equal recognition.

I am so sorry these girls had to even to go through this. I just can't imagine. We take so many things for granted. Amanda and Gina held on to hope knowing there were people that loved them. That is so much more than Michelle had. Being told everyday no-one was looking for her and no-one loved her. I read Michelle's book to my pre teen granddaughters. They were shocked someone can be so cruel. Michelle had a story to tell even BEFORE she was kidnapped. My heart breaks for everyone of them. I hope they ALL stick together and not shut Michelle out. She needs them now more than ever. I think of their story often.

Ugh! I just wrote a detailed review, and they wouldn't post it. Nothing violated the guidelines! Cliff notes version of my previous review: An important book that I will want my daughter to read when she's old enough. I cried at the end when they described the rescue - Nancy Ruiz and Felix De Jesus, and Beth Serrano - you captured my heart. Excellent story telling - it was really great to read what was going on behind the scenes in regards to the search. It was frustrating that nobody connected the dots between the victims and the abductor's children. But I put some blame for that on Michelle's family because they are the reason no one knew she was missing. Shame on them for not looking for her. How could you move away? The alleged rift: Perhaps it's too hard for Michelle to be around Gina and Amanda when they have a family that looked for them and continues to support them. Michelle ends up in the hospital next to them and their families, and she has nobody there. I would probably have to go off on my own too. The abductor's children: I would be really curious to read a book by them some day. I really wonder how they are holding up. Amanda, Joce, and Gina, I hope to hear updates from time-to-time on all your successes. Especially as you graduate high school and go on to college. Please know that the world is cheering you on! Hugs to you and your entire families.

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