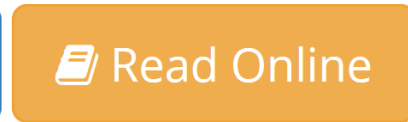


## Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story

By Jodee Blanco



### Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story By Jodee Blanco

While other children were daydreaming about dances, first kisses, and college, Jodee Blanco was trying to figure out how to go from homeroom to study hall without being taunted or spit upon as she walked through the halls.

This powerful, unforgettable memoir chronicles how one child was shunned—and even physically abused—by her classmates from elementary school through high school. It is an unflinching look at what it means to be the outcast, how even the most loving parents can get it all wrong, why schools are often unable to prevent disaster, and how bullying has been misunderstood and mishandled by the mental health community.

You will be shocked, moved, and ultimately inspired by this harrowing tale of survival against insurmountable odds. This vivid story will open your eyes to the harsh realities and long-term consequences of bullying—and how all of us can make a difference in the lives of teens today.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A publicist (and author of *The Complete Guide to Book Publicity*) who has promoted several bestsellers, Blanco was once a troubled child, tormented by her school mates. In this moving account, Blanco describes how she was first victimized in a Roman Catholic grammar school because she defended some deaf children when they were picked on by hearing students. She gave the names of the ringleaders of this cruel activity to one of the nuns, and was subsequently ostracized by former friends for being a tattletale. After Blanco transferred to another school, she continued a pattern of reporting bad behavior to authority figures and became a true outsider. According to the author, her parents were sympathetic, but they made things worse by forcing her to see a therapist. He prescribed medication that made her sleepy and told her that "kids will be kids." In high school, she was physically abused by students who also objected to her "goody two shoes" attitude. During her teen years, Blanco's emotional problems were compounded by a physical problem that caused her breasts to grow at different rates (later corrected by surgery). Blanco does feel, however, that those painful early years gave her the strength to become a successful adult. Although the text is overwritten in parts, the author's courageous and honest memoir of the years she spent as the victim of her contemporaries points smartly to the inability of adults to deal with issues of serious bullying. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-From fifth grade through high school, Blanco was teased, shunned, and, at times, physically assaulted by her classmates because she was different. She befriended handicapped students, "ratted" on the activities of fellow 12-year-olds at her first boy/girl party, and could not bring herself to dissect a fetal pig. Her experiences with school bullies occurred in a variety of settings, including religious and private schools. At various points in this visceral memoir, Blanco fumes at the injustice of being subjected to psychiatric diagnosis and medication while her tormentors remained unbothered and oblivious, and states that "sticking up for people" and/or being different is a "social death warrant." While her loving parents were sympathetic and supportive, their well-meant admonitions to ignore her harassers and "rise above it all" sprang from adult logic; adolescents simply interpreted her indifference as weakness. The author's emotional torment was partly due to a breast deformity; corrective surgery performed prior to her senior year allowed her, finally, to begin viewing her future optimistically. Adults may consider some of Blanco's scenes as hyperbole, but teens will find them authentic and apt. Many will take comfort both in the universality of the experiences and in Blanco's transformation from an unhappy, embittered ugly duckling to a poised, accomplished swan. Others, if they are honest, just might recognize bullying tendencies in themselves and become sufficiently chagrined to reexamine their views and actions toward nonconformists of all stripes.

*Dori DeSpain, Fairfax County Public Library, VA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Blanco relates her hellish experience, which began back in grade school. Unable to maintain her friendships with the "cool" group because she befriended a younger deaf student, Blanco was ostracized and, worse, tormented. Her parents sent her to a different school, but after an initial promising start, Blanco was again ostracized after she called her mom to pick her up from a party that got out of control. Another school switch and a psychiatrist did nothing to better Blanco's situation. She hoped high school would improve upon junior high, but the kids continued to torment her, even going so far as to beat her up. Blanco chronicles in detail

her feelings of depression and how difficult it was for her to face her cruel classmates on a daily basis. Blanco's story is often painful to read, but her eventual success and triumph over the past are inspiring.

*Kristine Huntley*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ruth Cook:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

#### **Allan Nguyen:**

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The book Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship using the book Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story. You never truly feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

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#### **Elda Ornelas:**

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