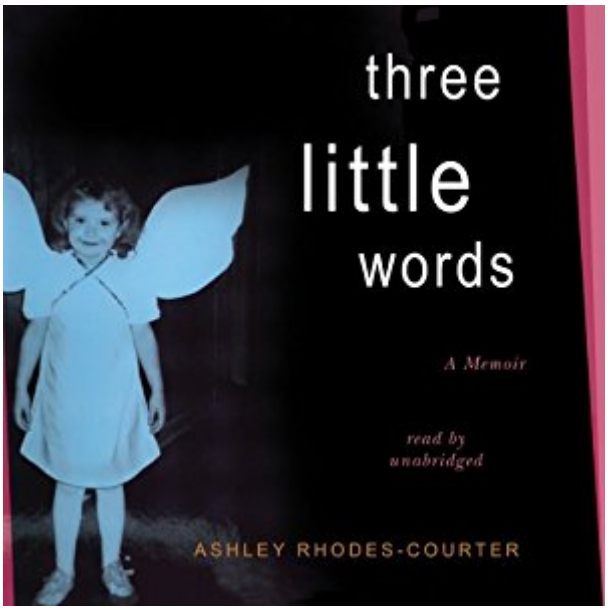
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Three Little Words: A Memoir



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Synopsis

Sunshine, you’re my baby and I’m your only mother. You must mind the one taking care of you, but she’s not your mama."" Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes, living by those words. As her mother spirals out of control, Ashley is left clinging to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship, all the while getting pulled deeper and deeper into the foster care system. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
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Best Sellers Rank: #1 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Social Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #2 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children’s Books > Biographies & History #2 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Biographies > Social Activists

Customer Reviews

Ashley was a toddler when seized from her mother and stepfather during a police raid,entering the system in the state of Florida along with her infant half-brother. What followed was a decade long odessey that would see her passed around from place to place,from foster homes to relatives in her native South Carolina, ignored,neglected,and beaten. In her own words, "There are two days that compete for the worst of my life. The first is the day I was taken away from my mother and the second was when I arrived at the Moss home years later." At the Moss’ home she was deprived of food,forced to run laps in the burning Florida sun if she misbehaved in the slightest, made to drink hot sauce, treated like a lackey in general ,and spanked with a cooking spoon. No one believed her when she tried to tell and eventually she and her brother would be deemed as the problem, and removed from the home to be dumped in an orphanage. Yet it was at the orphanage, Children’s Home of Tampa,that Ashley found the care and stability, which would ultimately be her redemption,leading directly to her adoption by devoted and warm parents on the cusp of

adolescence. I was hooked from page one and found myself alternatively in disbelief and cheering Ashley on as she maintained her bubbly positive spirit in the wake of circumstances that would have utterly defeated most others. Highly recommend this book for anyone who wants a firsthand look at our broken American Foster Care System.

This was an excellent book. We're considering fostering kids, so I've read a handful of books on the topic and, so far, this one I think has given the most accurate portrayal of the challenges of both the foster system and the kids who have to endure it plus a nice ending about advocacy and hope. The author gives a very real portrayal of her experiences in different families, including multiple foster families and her birth family, which helps you get a feel for challenges other children in care likely face. She's a very eloquent and succinct author who has a particular knack for explaining complex emotions. I'm now a fan of hers and am grateful for the education she's offered though through her unfortunate experiences.

Yesterday, my laundry hamper was full to overflowing demanding attention as I opened this book. I had seen the author on Good Morning America, and this seemed like an interesting story.As I started to read thoughts of laundry disappeared, as I was riveted by this compelling story, of a little girl who just wanted to be loved by her mother, or a family.I could not put this book down until I finished.It was like I was there looking on as she went through these various ordeals/ adventures.If you are considering adopting or fostering a child, this book is a must. As you read, you will understand what these children have to go through. That understanding brings compassion. You will also understand what would be parents go through because both sides of the story are told effectively.If you work in childcare services, this ought to be required reading.If you are like me, this is an inspiring story about surviving and succeeding against the odds. You may notice this story has a mythical quality, reminiscent of other stories like Oliver Twist, a Roald Dahl story, or even Anne of Green Gables or Harry Potter which the author refers to, except this is for real.It is shocking to me how a system which is designed to protect children, can fail so miserably at times. How is it possible for a home that is only licensed to have two children end up with 10. How come foster children end up living in a trailer? The children do not have a voice that is heard.I particularly commend Gay Courter her adoptive mother who also persisted against the odds, where some adoptive parents would have given up. She ended up with a remarkable child who has written a remarkable book, who I feel sure will continue to be a voice for foster children, and orphans.Hope this was useful.

I loved this book and hated when it ended. But it did end happily at least. This young woman tells the true story of her life and being taken from her mother at the age of two. You read about most of the foster homes she lives in which some were right out abusive to her! Finally she finds her happiness at the end. There is another book after this one called, "Three More Words."

What a fantastic book! I read it in two settings, eager to get to the end. Then found I had a billion and one questions. I have since read her second book which answered most of them. This story is gripping, and hard (mentally) to read. Must have been a million times harder to live. I knew our Foster Care System was broken, but this sheds a spotlight on some very serious issues. I must admit that several (dozen) times when reading the book the word BRAT entered my mind. But then when I read the author was only 17 when she finished the first draft it explained it all. Don’t get me wrong, I can totally feel compassion for her situation and how she handled it, but her need for everything to be ’’perfect’’ was a little annoying. But that is soooo a teenager! Makes perfect sense.I loved this book. It was well written, easy to read, and thoroughly captured my attention. I quickly ordered the second book and it does not disappoint either. I see others saying this first one is better, or the second one is better, but I think they are both fantastic. They are written a bit differently but Ashley has grown up, both mentally and physically, and it really shows.Kudos to her for continuing to be an advocate for children who really have no one to speak for them. The courage Ashley and her husband have shown is amazing. And a big HATS OFF to Gay & Phil Courter who had the guts, the courage, and the endless supply of love needed to take on Ashley.

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