

Ghost of Spirit Bear

By Ben Mikaelsen

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Ghost of Spirit Bear By Ben Mikaelsen

Alone in the wilderness, Cole found peace.

But he's not alone anymore.

Cole Matthews used to be a violent kid, but a year in exile on a remote Alaskan island has a way of changing your perspective. After being mauled by a Spirit Bear, Cole started to heal. He even invited his victim, Peter Driscal, to join him on the island and they became friends.

But now their time in exile is over, and Cole and Peter are heading back to the one place they're not sure they can handle: high school. Gangs and violence haunt the hallways, and Peter's limp and speech impediment make him a natural target. In a school where hate and tension are getting close to the boiling point, the monster of rage hibernating inside Cole begins to stir.

Ben Mikaelsen's riveting saga of survival and self-awareness continues in the sequel to his gripping *Touching Spirit Bear*. This time, he weaves a tale of urban survival where every day is a struggle to stay sane. As the problems in his school grow worse, Cole realizes that it's not enough just to change himself. He has to change his world.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 6–10—Mikaelsen's sequel to *Touching Spirit Bear* (HarperCollins, 2001), the much-lauded novel exploring the psychology and community dynamics of bullying, is likely to draw a split decision among potential audiences. While teachers and counselors may find it to be an inspiring, timely, and instructive piece of bibliotherapy, street-smart students might find it improbable, pat, and didactic. The story picks up with newly reformed bully Cole Matthews and the boy he once beat mercilessly, Peter Driscal, returning to the demoralizing realities of their beleaguered urban high school after having spent extended therapeutic time exploring their inner lives on a remote Alaskan Island. While Cole had realized genuine peace and personal insight in exile, he can sense his old rage beginning to resurface when Peter, whom he now considers his best friend, becomes the target of gang attacks. Ultimately, in the wake of the suicide of a bullied classmate, Cole decides that the only real hope for changing the self-destructive attitudes and behaviors in his high school is to appeal to his principal to let him lead an attempt to heal its overall spirit using some of the same techniques his Tlingit mentor, Garvey, had employed with him. She does agree, of course, as obstacles tend to topple just a bit too easily in this overly whitewashed sequel.—*Jeffrey Hastings, Highlander Way Middle School, Howell, MI*
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From Booklist
Readers who clamored for a sequel to Touching Spirit Bear (2001), which left them wondering what would happen when Cole and Peter left Alaska, can finally breathe a sigh of relief—sort of. Cole’s father will have nothing to do with him, and Peter’s father, always critical, now considers his son damaged goods. School is a nightmare. Cole and Peter are prime targets for campus bullies, and if Cole violates parole by fighting back, he’ll go to jail. Both boys are frustrated and long for the serenity they left behind, but their efforts to recapture their experiences are laughably inadequate. It takes two tragic events to force the boys to face their demons and effect real change at home and at school. Mikaelsen provides a seamless transition between the two stories, as well as a highly satisfying resolution, and readers will quickly realize that, despite the new setting, this novel is just as much a survival story as its predecessor. The boys’ urban experiences are as gritty, dangerous, and physically and emotionally daunting as their adventures in the wild. Grades 6-9. -- Chris Sherman

Review
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Loya:

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Mark Bottoms:

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Jennifer Wadsworth:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is Ghost of Spirit Bear this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some study when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

William Sinclair:

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