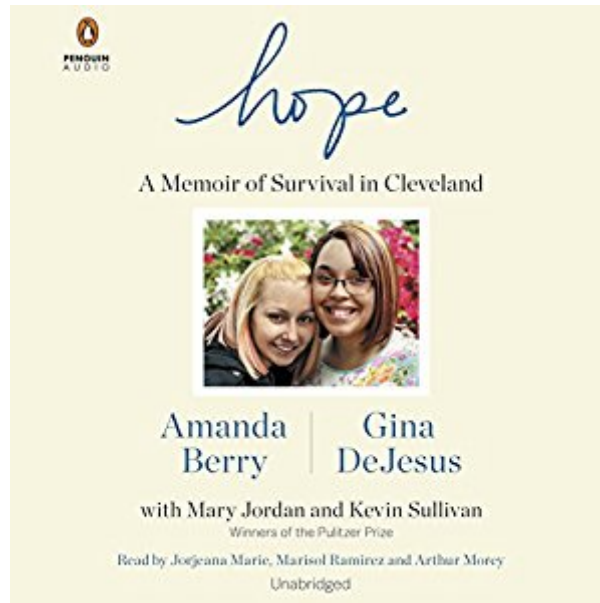


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# Hope: A Memoir Of Survival In Cleveland



## Synopsis

Two victims of the infamous Cleveland kidnapper share the story of their abductions, their decade in captivity, and their final, dramatic rescue. On May 6, 2013, Amanda Berry made headlines around the world when she fled a Cleveland area home and called 911, saying: "Help me, I'm Amanda Berry.... I've been kidnapped, and I've been missing for 10 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 basement. In the decade that followed, the three were raped, psychologically abused, and threatened with death. Berry bore a child - Jocelyn - by their captor. Drawing upon their recollections and the diaries they kept, Amanda 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 the ongoing efforts to find the missing girls. The full story behind the headlines - including shocking information never previously released - Hope is a harrowing yet inspiring chronicle of three women whose courage, ingenuity, and resourcefulness ultimately delivered them back to their lives and families. Read by Jorjeana Marie, Marisol Ramirez, and Arthur Morey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

Positive first: I really appreciated the research that went in to giving a narrative of the search and investigation for these girls, as well as narrative about other related events. I found these parts well written and helpful in piecing together a despicable world Castro created for himself. I also appreciated the honesty that Amanda Berry shows in talking about her conflicted feelings for Castro. This is understandable since he is her source of everything for 10 years: food, clothes, entertainment, even life. As for the rest of the book: I felt that parts of the girls' narratives were poorly written. Or perhaps it just seemed "shallow" (for lack of a better term). Reading Michelle Knight's "Finding Me", I was struck by the brutal honesty. The verbiage was elementary in places, but was reading as you imagine she was just talking to the reader... telling them her story. In "Hope", I always felt as if pieces were held back, left out, or simply not addressed. As unpopular as this statement may be, I feel it's merited: Michelle Knight was not treated fairly in this book. While it's clear that Castro set these girls up to compete for attention and meager resources from the beginning, playing them off each other, the book felt childish in its limited narrative about Michelle. They don't even have the courtesy to thank or mention her in the acknowledgement? Amanda's view mentions once, in passing, that she was worried she wouldn't be allowed to carry her baby because Michelle had been forced into a miscarriage. No, he savagely attacked her and killed her unborn children that she wanted 4-5 times. I understand there were head games. I understand they are different people and may not want to 'hang out' after.

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