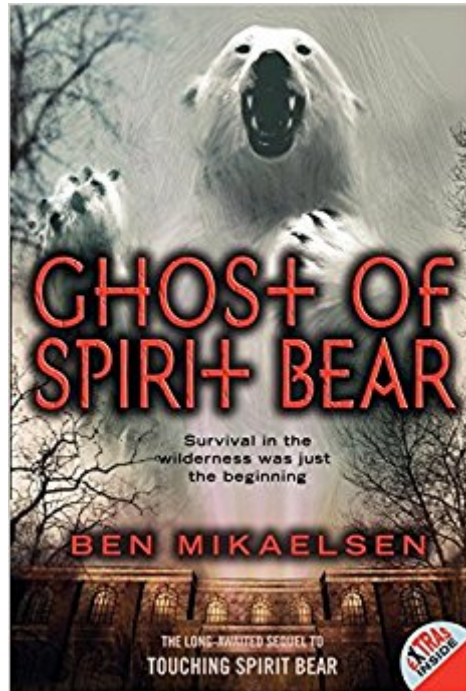




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Ghost Of Spirit Bear



Synopsis

In the wilderness, Cole found peace. But this isn't the great outdoors. It's high school. At fifteen, Cole Matthews faced a prison sentence for slamming another student's head against a sidewalk. To avoid prison, he volunteered for Native American Circle Justice and agreed to a year in exile on a remote Alaskan island. There he was mauled by the legendary Spirit Bear and nearly faced death . . . but finally found redemption. Now, his banishment over, he has to return home and face the one thing he may not be able to handle: high school. Gangs haunt the hallways. Cole finds violence at every turn and as the hate-filled school reaches its boiling point, the hibernating rage inside Cole begins to stir. In this tale of urban survival and self-awareness, Cole realizes it's not enough to change himself. He has to change his world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6-10 • Mikaelson'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 Driscoll, 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 Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. Mikaelson 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 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My school began using Restorative Justice last year. We read the book's prequel *Touching Spirit Bear* and the students loved it. It helped students grasp the concepts of Restorative Justice. They requested more. I just finished *Ghost* and we will read this one to start our new school year. In *Spirit Bear* Cole learns ways to control his emotions when he is by himself. In *Ghost* he must apply these new skills when faced with others. I work with students identified with emotional and behavioral problems in grades 7-12.

I read this book because my middle school son had to read it in school. I wanted to connect with my son. I had no idea how much I would enjoy the first and second book of the *Spirit Bear*. When I

started reading I didn't stop until I was done with entire book. Young or old these books have truly beautiful life lessons for any age. Really, really enjoyed the transformation of Cole and Peter. An amazing, well written book full of valuable lessons for any age.

I am so thankful that the author wrote this book. It is incredible and I love it. It truly is an amazing story. Thank you.

This is the best book I have ever read, and I have read thousands of books. I won't go into everything I liked about it because that would take forever, but I will talk briefly about one. The characters felt so real in the book, I felt their emotions as I read about them. When Cole felt angry, I felt angry. When he felt helpless, I felt helpless. The author is truly talented, and this is a very well written and thought out book.

This is a great read. I have recommended our libbraian get a copy for our school.

It shows off perfectly how Cole and Peter fare in the city and how they found their "Spirit Bear." Very spiritual and symbolic like Touching Spirit Bear. Loved this, but we need a book between Touching Spirit Bear and Ghost of Spirit Bear and a Threequel.

The first one is much better. This was disappointing in my eyes

An excellent read for middle schoolers touching on a topic, sadly, known to school children today--bullying. This book spotlights several sensitive areas such as parental neglect/abuse, substance abuse, school bullying and intimidation. It also focuses on solutions for these problems which can come from students working with administration/ adult leaders. It demonstrates that first we must learn to govern ourselves before we can help others. It touches on anger and forgiveness and reparation. There is a sequel which needs to be read to complete the story.

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