



GHOST SCOUT'S HONOR

By Carey Blankenship-Kramer

The Story

The Ghost Scouts were created to keep the ghosts of Savannah in line. It's an honor to serve.

Evey's never wanted anything to do with ghosts, but after her best friend, Laura, dumps her for no reason, Evey wants revenge. To take the student of the year award from her ex-bestie, she'll have to join the Ghost Scouts. She'll be the best Ghost Scout Savannah has ever seen.

Only this year, the ghosts seem different. They are angrier than usual, and they seem to be growing in power. No problem, Evey can get to the bottom of why and send all the ghosts back to their cages.

But what she uncovers makes her angry too. What if the ghosts don't deserve to be caged? What if they have every right to be furious?

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Reading Group Questions

1. Evey struggles with asking for help. Can you find one example in the story where this created obstacles for her? What advice would you give Evey?
2. What is the thing that Evey wants at the start of the novel? How does that change as the story moves forward?
3. Sometimes we need to make the wrong choices in order to find out what the right choices are. Can you think of a moment in the book when Evey made the wrong choice? How did she realize it was the wrong choice, and what right choice did it lead her to?
4. Over the course of the story, what does Evey learn about herself? What does she learn about other people?
5. If you could be any character in the book, who would it be and why?

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About the Author

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Carey Blankenship-Kramer grew up surrounded by books and people who love to read them. Now she spends her days plotting the best ways to scare people and waiting for autumn to come back. And yes, she does have experience with how ghosts have zero respect for personal space. Outside of writing and agenting, you can find Carey hanging out with her husband and their small zoo, getting way too competitive on the tennis court, playing video games, or eating candy. *Ghost Scout's Honor* is her first novel.

Author Q&A

In what ways is Evey similar to you? How is she different?

Like Evey, when I was younger I went through some tough friendship breakups that hurt a lot. I was scared to go through that pain again, but there were some lovely people that came along and helped me realize just how wonderful and helpful true friends can be. I've learned the lessons Evey goes through too. On top of that, we both have ADHD and anxiety, and we'd both get first place at a stubbornness competition.

But I'm not nearly as brave as Evey. If there's a ghost headed my way, especially one that can freeze me, I'm sorry but I'm going the other direction. I also don't have the best detective skills and wouldn't have the forethought like Evey does to dig deeper into the mystery of Ghost X. Also, the fact that Evey runs for fun on the track team . . . could not be me.

How do you define friendship? How do you think Evey would describe it? Does her definition change over the course of the book?

I define friendship as a trusting and loving relationship with people who enjoy my company, who encourage me to be better, and who really care about who I am as a person and the goals I want to accomplish. I'm friends with people who make my days better, who give me lasting memories, and who inspire me even in my darkest moments.

Evey, however, would originally describe friendship as something meaningless and annoying. To her, people and their emotions only get in the way of what she wants to accomplish. But by the end of *Ghost Scout's Honor*, Evey's definition vastly changes. Matilda, Pip, and Fin show her what loving, caring people can do—and that's help you accomplish all of your wildest dreams.

What do you think is the key to understanding Evey?

Remember that Evey lives with ADHD and anxiety, two things that make her day-to-day different from neurotypical people. It can be difficult if you've never struggled with mental health to understand the experiences of those who do. What might not seem like that big of a deal to you might be something that makes Evey have a really bad mental health day. Evey's been hurt and is just doing her best to be happy.

What role does the city of Savannah play in this story?

This book would be totally different if it was set anywhere else. I chose Savannah for many different reasons; the two biggest being I want to write southern stories that pay homage to my home and I wanted the Ghost Scouts to be located in a haunted city. Savannah was absolutely perfect, especially when you consider it's the actual birthplace of the Girl Scouts, which the Ghost Scouts are modeled after. Most of the spirits in *Ghost Scout's Honor* are based on real-life paranormal encounters. See if you can spot which spirit is which (if you're brave enough)!

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