



Since her first National Keynote at age 14, **Ashley Rhodes-Courter** has shared her story with thousands in the United States and in over 7 countries.

Ashley Rhodes-Courter, MSW, is the quintessential American success story. Born in 1985 to a single teen mother, by the age of 3 she was in Florida's foster care system where she spent almost ten years being shuttled between 14 homes—some quite abusive—before being adopted from a Children's Home at the age of twelve. Despite her ordeal, she excelled in school because she believed that, "my education was the one thing nobody could take from me." Early in her life she felt compelled to advocate for herself and the other children she lived with, particularly in the abusive foster homes.

Her efforts and academic achievements landed her Eckerd College's Trustee Scholarship where she graduated with honors and ahead of schedule earning a double major in Communications and Theater and a double minor in Political Science and Psychology. Ashley then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California.

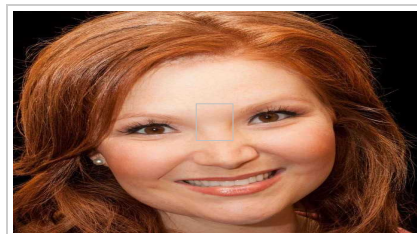
During her undergraduate studies, she was one of 20 college students selected for the *USA Today* All-USA Academic Team and was named one of *GLAMOUR Magazine's* Top Ten College Women. She was also selected as one of the four Golden BR!CK Award winners for outstanding advocacy for community change by DoSomething!. As part of their campaign, she was featured on 25 million bags of Cool Ranch Doritos.

By the age of 22, Ashley had become a *New York Times* Bestselling Author. Her first book, "Three Little Words" is now an International Bestseller and has been published in at least 4 countries. Her second book, "Three More W..."

Ashley Rhodes Courter

Speech Topics

- Youth
- Personal Growth
- Overcoming Adversity
- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Education



Testimonials

Quiet scenes cut deepest: the author's description of her only after-school visit to a friend's home lingers heartbreakingly in one's mind. This gifted young writer's moving and eye-opening story will especially appeal to fans of Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle* and David Pelzer's autobiographical books.

- School Library Journal .

The author's ability to form intelligent, open-minded conclusions about her traumatic childhood demonstrates her remarkable control and insight, and although there are plenty of wrenching moments, she succeeds not in attracting pity but in her stated intention, of drawing attention to the children who currently share the plight that she herself overcame.

- Publishers Weekly.