



***It Only Hurts When
I Can't Run:
One Girl's Story***

by
**Gewanda
Johnson
Parker**

**MSI Press
ISBN 9781933455808**

**Non Fiction
Self-Help:
Child Abuse**

\$14.95

On sale at
www.amazon.com,
www.bn.com,
and select book
retailers

June 20, 2015

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MSI Press:
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It Only Hurts When I Can't Run: One Girl's Story

This book tells the story of faith, resilience, and the triumph of love and forgiveness over ignorance, fear, abuse, cruelty, and abandonment.

I'm the daughter of many mothers, but Binta January Black was the vessel of my beginnings. When I was too young to know better, I thought her name was Addict. Yes, Addict. That's what people, both young and old, called her behind her back and to my face. They'd say, "Oma, your mom's an addict, ha, ha, ha."

I didn't understand what they were talking about at first. As I got older and smarter, I made the link. I did not distinguish between what she was and who she was, but I did recognize that she was capable of being two different people: the special Binta and the druggie Binta. The difference was to me both palpable and devastating.

-excerpt from *It Only Hurts When I Can't Run*

Abandoned, neglected and beaten by a mother who really did care about her but suffered from her own demons and addictions, left with friends and relatives, as well as placed in foster homes, molested and raped on more than one occasion, including by men considered upright, the little girl who grew up to become an educator, minister, and entrepreneur learned to survive by running away again and again. This heartbreaking and heartwarming story, told with courageous frankness, reveals a deep trust in God that, in the long run, promoted an unbelievable resilience, allowing a young girl, turned young woman, to forgive those who hurt her and to reach out to all those who hurt with a message of healing and hope.

Every now and then you come across a body of work so well written, with such authenticity of language, and telling such a gripping and compelling story that you don't want to put it down... This "girl's story" is a story for anybody who's ever been wounded and who needs the encouragement that weeping may endure for a night, but joy and victory really does come in the morning.

- *Pauline M. Rivers, Ph.D.*

*Administrative Pastor of Plant City Christian Center, Inc.
Founder: Institute for Building Strong Families*

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Gewanda Johnson Parker is the founder and CEO of Hope and Healing Corporation, serving the needs of the marginalized of society locally and abroad in Haitian and African orphanages. In 2003, she started an organization to help young girls and teens suffering with self-esteem and identity issues. Gewanda is a featured concert soloist and has sung in worship services throughout the US, Canada and Bahamas. Johnson holds a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. Most notable, in 2003, she was asked to speak to the highly militant religious divides between the Protestants and Catholics in Belfast, Northern Ireland.