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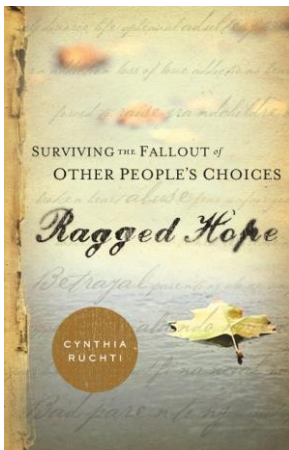


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PRESS RELEASE

Surviving the Fallout of Other People's Choices

Cynthia Ruchti Encourages Readers to Cling to Hope, No Matter How Ragged it May Be



Seattle: It's one thing to live with the consequences of your own actions. It's quite another to live with the outcome of someone else's choices. Regardless of what has happened in your life, there is hope. In ***Ragged Hope: Surviving the Fallout of Other People's Choices*** (Abingdon Press/July 1, 2013/ISBN: 978-1426751172/\$15.99), **Cynthia Ruchti** offers an inspirational look into the lives of those who were dramatically affected by wrong or misguided choices, sins, offenses and crimes others committed.

Where is God when you are doing everything right yet, because of someone else's actions, everything is wrong? Where do we find hope when it's clouded by the ashes of other people's choices? *Ragged Hope* is an insightful and hope-giving guide offering readers comfort and support, as well as encouraging them through whatever situation they may face, including the aftereffects of divorce, disease, drugs, drunk drivers, death, downsizing, disasters and bad decisions.

Ruchti, who has walked this road herself, assures readers that God is ever-present and offers unwavering love. There is hope, grace and a future in every circumstance—even (and especially) for those we did not cause but now live through. "How ragged is the hope you're clutching? It's no less valuable or essential than it was when it was new," writes Ruchti. "Hope—true hope—is indestructible. It can be battered, but not extinguished."

Ragged Hope's dedication reads: "To the wounded, the worn, the wondering, and to those who let us see their scars so others can discover Hope's hideout." The book was written for survivors and for those who care about, counsel or long to make a difference in their lives. Vetted by professional counselors and caregivers, this is the one guide everyone needs to thrive, no matter what situation they may be facing.

After each of the 26 stories shared in the book, Ruchti includes reflection questions as well as prompts so readers can consider how to reach out to the survivors they know. Each chapter also ends with a scripture, offering hope and encouragement that God is with us, no matter what.

Other people's choices don't always have a life-changing effect on us, sometimes they're merely annoying or mildly disturbing in the short-term. It doesn't mean we don't need grace to cope with their negative consequences. Ruchti gives readers perspective in these cases as well, interjecting humor as a relief valve when appropriate.

"When we stand in a muddle of misery someone else created for us, too weary to be creative, too worn down to embrace a trendy problem-solving technique or follow a seven-step plan to a new, improved life, we need an arm around our shoulder assuring us God hears, God understands, and He is not stingy with Hope."

Join Cynthia Ruchti for a Facebook chat on August 1 at 8:00 PM EDT. Readers will be able to discuss the book, answer and ask questions, and win prizes. Watch the Cynthia Ruchti Reader Page on [Facebook](#) for details.

Advance Praise

"What a beautiful book! So readable, the pages practically turned themselves. *Ragged Hope* is filled with stories written for those who are weary, worn and wounded. It offers each of us exactly that—hope that God can do a mighty work even with those of us who carry the ugliest of scars."

~ Debbie Macomber, #1 NYT bestselling author

About the Author



Cynthia Ruchti tells stories of Hope-that-glows-in-the-dark through her novels and novellas, nonfiction projects, speaking events and a history of 33 years of on-air storytelling through The Heartbeat of the Home radio broadcast.

Her books have been recognized by Retailers' Choice, RT Reviewers' Choice, Family Fiction Readers' Choice, ACFW's Carol Award nomination, and other honors. In addition to Ruchti's four previously released books, her novel *When the Morning Glory Blooms* (Abingdon Press Fiction) released in April 2013, followed by *Ragged Hope*, her second non-fiction release in July. Ruchti has also written articles for numerous magazines and industry publications and currently serves as Professional Relations Liaison for American Christian Fiction Writers.

Ruchti lives in Wisconsin where she spends her days diving into words, worship and wonder. It is her delight to serve on her church's worship team and creative arts team. One of her greatest joys is helping other writers grow in their craft. Cynthia and her husband have been married for 40-plus years and have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Learn more about Cynthia Ruchti and her books at www.cynthiaruchti.com. Readers can also become a fan on [Facebook \(cynthiaruchtireaderpage\)](#) or follow her on [Twitter \(@cynthiaruchti\)](#).

Suggested Interview Questions

- What inspired you to write *Ragged Hope*?
- You write this book from personal experience. Can you tell us about a time when your life was greatly affected by a decision that someone else made?
- Are there any scriptures that were particularly meaningful to you during a difficult time?
- How did you collect the stories you share in *Ragged Hope*?
- In the first chapter of your book, Lila, whose story you tell, says, "Remind your readers to look for the glory moments when life gets ugly." What is a glory moment?
- You write, "How ragged is the hope you're clutching? It's no less valuable or essential than it was when it was new." Those are powerful words — how can we remind ourselves of that when we're in our lowest moments?
- Is there a fine line between complaining about something you are going through caused by another's decision or simply blaming someone else for your problems? Is it even ok to complain about your situation?

- Is there any way to prepare or condition ourselves for when we are faced with the fallout of someone else's choices?
- What are some of the first necessary steps to overcoming a bad situation you find yourself in?
- What is the best thing to do for or to say to someone stuck in bitterness?
- Is it appropriate to take time to mourn our situation or should we immediately respond by putting on a happy face and a can-do attitude?
- Can you think of a situation where it is impossible to make the best of a bad situation?
- If you are the cause of someone's mess, even if you meant no harm, what responsibility do you have to the other person?
- Most authors either write fiction or non-fiction, but you write both. How did you get into writing, and what genre is your favorite to write?

Cynthia Ruchti is available for interviews to promote the release of *Ragged Hope*. To request a review copy, schedule an interview or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, audra@liffusegroup.com.