

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

***PLEASE STOP LAUGHING AT ME...* THE NY TIMES BESTSELLING MEMOIR THAT HELPED TO IGNITE THE ANTI-BULLYING MOVEMENT NOW IN ITS THIRD EDITION;**

**TWO DECADES AND OVER 300,000 COPIES IN PRINT LATER, THIS SEMINAL AMERICAN CLASSIC IS STILL SAVING LIVES**

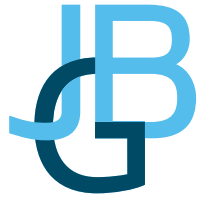
(April 2022) When bullying survivor Jodee Blanco decided to write about her painful adolescence in *Please Stop Laughing at Me... One Woman's Inspirational Story*, she never expected that it would become a seminal *New York Times* bestseller, required reading in schools, a source of courage for other adult survivors, and would establish her as the first voice of the anti-bullying movement.

Blanco also never expected the countless children who would turn to her for help after they read *Please Stop Laughing at Me...* asking her to come to their schools. Their suffering was her call to action. In the two decades since the book's original publication, Blanco has continued to fulfill that promise across the nation with her anti-bullying program INJJA (It's *NOT* Just Joking Around™) that focuses on the human element of bullying and incorporates the matrix of students, educators and parents into each aspect of prevention.

School administrators from all over the country bring her in to speak and work with their schools. She'll often give four and five presentations daily for weeks at a time driving hundreds of miles each night to reach the next school, making sure that no one, no matter how vast the school district, is left out.

*Please Stop Laughing at Me...* began as Blanco's simple desire to write about her lonely school years looking back as a grown-up trying to make sense of it all. She wanted to offer hope to hurting kids and wake up the adults to the long-term damage bullying can cause. That the book became a cultural phenomenon and saves lives is something the author says will always humble her. "I'm grateful that I was able to get a publisher," says Blanco. "I have a box of rejection letters and each one said the same. 'Bullying is a non-issue, there's no audience for this thing.' It was definitely the book that almost never was."

Some of the book's noteworthy achievements include:



- Considered a catalyst for the anti-bullying movement and the first book by a survivor.
- Sold over a quarter-million copies and has been published in many languages including Japanese, Arabic, Dutch, Indonesian, and Lithuanian.
- Endorsed as an essential resource by scores of public and private entities including The National Crime Prevention Council, The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, The U.S. Department of Justice, The U.S. Department of the Interior, The National Catholic Educational Association, Special Olympics, The American School Counselor's Association, as well as foreign governments, regional and local educational associations and many others.
- Led to a successful line of other anti-bullying books by the author including multiple sequels and a series for educators
- Is among the top summer reading program picks for middle and high students nationwide and a popular performance piece in school drama clubs

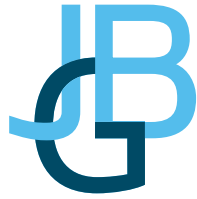
*Please Stop Laughing at Me...* also has become a guidepost for teaching children and adults alike, the power of compassion. Not only did Blanco forgive her former classmates, but they have helped her to understand that bullying is rarely if ever personal, and that the bully is almost always a child in pain acting out in a cry for help. Blanco credits that insight as the reason her message of hope endures in schools and among readers.

In the new and third edition, Blanco brings the reader up to speed on her life and work since the book's initial release with a new chapter, all-new Letter to My Readers and Reader's Guide, and she also offers the latest information on digital/cyberbullying and social media; the Adult Survivor of Peer Abuse; her in-school antibullying program, INJJA (It's *NOT* Just Joking Around!™); and provides discussion questions for schools.

For more information, please contact: The Jodee Blanco Group 312-961-3430

### **About the Author:**

Survivor, expert, and activist JODEE BLANCO is one of the country's most trusted voices on the subject of bullying. Schools regularly turn to her for help. A sought-after keynote speaker, seminar presenter, and crisis consultant, her work inside America's schools has drawn the attention of major media and earned the



respect of governments, global educational organizations, universities and others involved in bullying prevention. Thousands of students, teachers, and parents have participated in her anti-bullying program *It's NOT Just Joking Around!*<sup>™</sup>, an intuitive-based, compassionate approach to inclusivity. Jodee is also the author of *Please Stop Laughing at Us . . . The Please Stop Laughing at me Journal*, and *Bullied Kids Speak Out*. She lives in Chicago. For more information, please visit Jodee's website, [www.jodeeblanco.com](http://www.jodeeblanco.com) or email [jodee@jodeeblanco.com](mailto:jodee@jodeeblanco.com).