

GHOSTBREAD: Early Reviews

“Livingston writes with an understated restraint and paints her past in careful detail. The result is captivating. *Ghostbread* is a heartrending encounter...” —ForeWord Magazine

"Exquisite in its details and insights, *Ghostbread* shows us the invisible undersides of poverty. Sonja Livingston renders this so solidly that we come to understand the roots of despair, and the beauty that can be found in the midst of squalor. In an age when memoir exploits the seamier sides of life, thrusting their authors into the limelight, this book holds back, quietly resisting shock value in favor of understanding." —Judith Kitchen, author of *House on Eccles Road*

"Livingston reveals the daily challenges poverty-stricken young children face. Her thoughtful testimony sheds new light on a tragic predicament that now affects not only lower-income families, but the entire nation." —*Booklist*

"*Ghostbread* weaves together a child's experience of not belonging, the perilous ease of slipping into failure, and the deep love that can flow from even a highly troubled parent. This is rich, sensual storytelling. An amazing debut from a wonderful new writer." —Dinty W. Moore, author of *Between Panic and Desire (American Lives)*

"'I know where I came from.' With this declaration, the author of *Ghostbread* takes us on a journey through a childhood scarred by poverty and graced by love. Like an American version of *Angela's Ashes*, the book allows us to encounter—and see, taste, and smell it—through the eyes of a beleaguered and intelligent child. We are grateful to be reminded of the human reality at the heart of a world that is all too often hidden in governmental 'poverty indicators,' and also glad that the author has survived to tell the tale." —Kathleen Norris, author of *Acedia & Me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life*

"[A]n absolutely astonishing debut . . . harrowing and hilarious." —Caroline Leavitt, author of *Girls in Trouble*