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Title: Girls Wear Combat Boots Too

Author: Dee Bryant

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Genre: Illustrated Children's Book

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Reviewed by: Beth Adams

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The story of a young girl overcoming her fear of heights and ultimately aspiring to become a parachute jumper, sky diving out of military airplanes, comes to vivid life in *Girls Wear Combat Boots Too*, a wonderfully illustrated book by award-winning author and inspirational speaker Dee Bryant.

The story is narrated by G. Skylar Jamison, where the G stands for Grace. She and her sister live in Florida with both of her parents being in the military. The book begins when Grace, now 9 years old, was 6 years old and playing on a slide when a boy pushed her off the top of the ladder and Grace fell down on her back – relatively uninjured except from that moment on she was afraid of heights. The boy apologized profusely, but that wasn't able to normalize the anxiety now instilled within her about heights. Grace learns that her mom jumped out of airplanes in the army and began to seek to overcome her fear, first by having her dad help her by jumping off the three steps on her porch, then little-by-little bringing in more challenging jumps. It was when

the family went to the Air Show at the military base when she watched a plane-full of parachute jumpers demonstrate their skill that her fear suddenly went away and her drive to become a jumper herself took hold. She ultimately went to a children's parachute jumping camp and graduated with a diploma, achieving a task she set out to accomplish by "Never Giving Up!"

Dee Bryant covered all of the bases for creating an impressive story. First, it is noticeably written with zeal, enthusiasm and an unyielding positive moral. The author has put so much "life" into the narration of Grace that readers will want to identify with her and emulate her passions. Next, the illustrations and galley text create a symbiotic storyboard with ample details to captivate the eye of the reading audience with expressive faces and an artistic world of realistic events. Finally, the interleaving of rhetorical questions throughout the book gives a way for pauses for the reader and the child to discuss what's going on, for both to highlight the retention of the theme and to allow for the child to embellish Grace's feelings with those of their own. In a way this book educates while totally entertaining, instilling the values of overcoming fear, never giving up, and becoming a winner in life.

In our ever-homogenized society with roles being shared by both male and female participants in all niches, *Girls Wear Combat Boots Too* will become a beacon of faith for young girls to be whatever they want to be when they grow. Whatever they chose in the future may be somewhat a result of having such a powerful book such as this as a part of their family library while growing up, and a keepsake for future generations.