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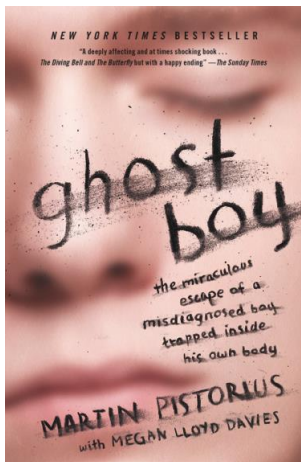
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In *New York Times* best-selling book  
**Ghost Boy**, Martin Pistorius tells  
of being trapped inside his own body  
and breaking free after 12 long years

**Since January 2015 "Ghost Boy" has sold more than 84,000 copies, launching it to #4 on the New York Times Bestseller List**

**They all thought he was gone.  
But he was alive... trapped inside his own body.**

**Ghost Boy**  
*The Miraculous Escape of a Misdiagnosed Boy Trapped Inside His Own Body*  
**By Martin Pistorius**

Recently brought to light by NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Invisibilia* podcasts in early January 2015, Martin Pistorius' story—as told in the *New York Times* best-selling book, **Ghost Boy**—has taken the world by storm. During the week of January 12, there were more than one million views of the book trailer on YouTube within a 72-hour period. Prolific internet buzz is spreading Martin's shocking story like wildfire, pushing print and e-book sales to more than 84,000 units, and catapulting the title onto the *New York Times* Bestseller List eight weeks in a row.

**Released Nov. 12, 2013**  
From Thomas Nelson

Martin's autobiography, **Ghost Boy: The Miraculous Escape of a Misdiagnosed Boy Trapped Inside His Own Body**, tells the full story of his terrifying misdiagnosis and mysterious return to life. While everyone thought he was in a vegetative state for twelve years, he was fully aware and trapped inside his own body.

**A New York Times bestseller for 8 weeks in a row!**

In January of 1988, at the age of twelve, Martin came home from school complaining of a sore throat. He never went back. An inexplicable illness took over his body, symptom by symptom. First, he lost his voice and stopped eating. Then he slept constantly and shunned those around him. Within a year and a half he was mute and wheelchair-bound. Doctors told Martin's parents their son had an unknown degenerative disease. He was given two years to live.

**Interviews and excerpts are available. For images, videos, and more info:**  
[www.GhostBoyBook.com](http://www.GhostBoyBook.com)

In a matter of months, Martin had gone from a happy, healthy boy to a hollow shell. He was in a virtual coma, and doctors would never find the cause of his condition.

**\* The "Ghost Boy" book trailer on YouTube has been viewed over 1.2 million times.**

"I was lost in the land where dragons lie, and no one could rescue me," Martin recalls. "I lay like an empty shell, unaware of anything around me. Then one day, I started coming back to life."

**Join the online conversation.  
#GhostBoy**

Four years later, at the age of 16, Martin started to regain consciousness. But no one knew. He was still trapped in his broken body, and he completely unable to communicate.

**Soundbite from  
NPR's *Invisibilia*:**

*"See, since all the world thought that Martin was basically a vegetable, they would leave him propped up in front of the TV watching "Barney" reruns hour after hour, episode after episode, day after day."*

**Praise from  
*The Sunday Times*:**

"It is a deeply affecting and at times shocking book... *The Diving-Bell and the Butterfly*, but with a happy ending."

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"Have you ever seen one of those movies in which someone wakes up as a ghost but they don't know that they've died?" he writes. "That's how it was, as I realized people were looking through and around me. However much I tried to beg and plead, shout and scream, I couldn't make them notice me."

For an unimaginable twelve years, Martin was fully conscious while trapped inside his unresponsive body, secretly aware of everything happening around him and utterly powerless to communicate it. He recounts how much he wanted to die in those days, how alone and powerless he felt.

Martin's journey back to communication—back to life—was a slow one. He first gained small amounts of body control, such as the ability to squeeze a hand. Even then, medical professionals declared he only had the intelligence of an infant. It was a special nurse named Virna who stood convinced that there was something more going on in Martin's mind, something very alive below the surface.

*Ghost Boy* is Martin's story, as written – shockingly and triumphantly – by Martin himself. In its pages, readers see a family's resilience, the consequences of misdiagnosis, abuse at the hands of cruel caretakers, and the unthinkable duration of Martin's mental alertness betrayed by his lifeless body.

But the story doesn't end there. We also see a life reclaimed, a business created, and a true love found and nurtured. *Ghost Boy* is the hopeful story of a discarded life awakened from captivity to freedom.

Martin currently lives in the UK with his wife Joanna, and works as a software designer. He speaks with the help of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technology and is now a licensed driver.

*Ghost Boy* was released by Thomas Nelson in November 2013. It was originally published in the UK and is an international bestseller.

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**Martin Pistorius** was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1975. At the age of twelve an unknown illness left him wheelchair bound and unable to speak. He spent fourteen years in institutions. In 2001 he learned to communicate via computer, make friends and change his life. In 2008 he met the love of his life, Joanna, and immigrated to the UK. In 2009, they married and in 2010 he started his own business. He loves spending time with friends and, most of all, being with his wife.

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**For videos, images, and more info:**

**[www.GhostBoyBook.com](http://www.GhostBoyBook.com)**

**#GhostBoy**

