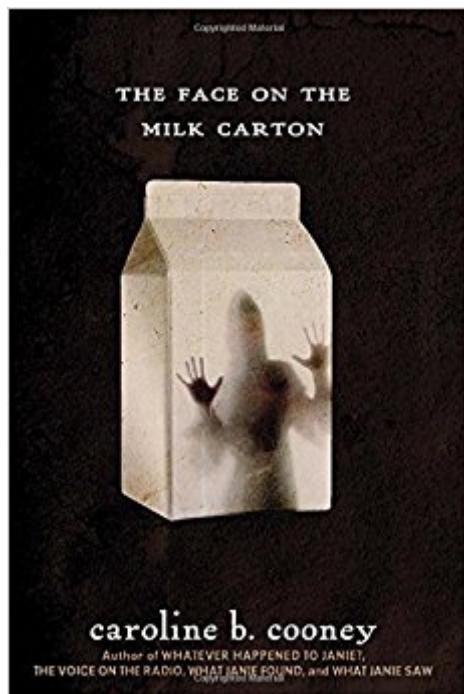


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# The Face On The Milk Carton



## Synopsis

In the vein of psychological thrillers like *We Were Liars*, *Girl on the Train*, and *Beware That Girl*, bestselling author Caroline Cooney's JANIE series delivers on every level. Mystery and suspense blend seamlessly with issues of family, friendship and love to offer an emotionally evocative thrill ride of a read. No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was she. How could it possibly be true? Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really her parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 796 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,719 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents #37 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective #40 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Thrillers & Suspense

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The picture of a missing child printed on a milk carton attracts the attention of 15-year-old Jane Johnson. A glimpse of the girl's polka-dot dress causes memories to surface, and Jane begins to review her past and question her true identity. It is nearly impossible for Jane to perceive her loving parents as kidnappers; the task of gathering evidence and drawing conclusions proves less difficult than confronting the undeniable truth. As the novel ends, Jane has found the courage to contact her

real parents, but Cooney cleverly leaves the events that follow to readers' imaginations. Although the book's plot is based largely on coincidences, Cooney's skilled writing makes even the most unlikely events seem plausible. The roller-coaster ride Jane experiences with her emotions is both absorbing and convincing. Strong characterizations and suspenseful, impeccably-paced action add to this novel's appeal. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7-10-- The message on the milk carton reads, "Have you seen this child?" Three-year-old Jennie Spring was kidnapped 12 years earlier, but Janie Johnson, looking at the photo, suddenly knows that she is that child. Fragments of memory and evidence accumulate, and when she demands to know about her early childhood years, her parents confess what they believe to be true, that she is really their grandchild, the child of their long-missing daughter who had joined a cult. Janie wants to accept this, but she cannot forget Jennie's family and their loss. Finally, almost against her will, she seeks help and confides in her parents. Her mother insists that she call the Spring family, and the book ends as she calls them. Many young people fantasize about having been adopted or even kidnapped, but the decisions Janie must face are painful and complex, and she experiences denial, anger, and guilt while sorting her way toward a solution. Janie's boyfriend--sensible, funny, with problems of his own--is an excellent foil for her intensity. Their romance is natural and believable. Cooney again demonstrates an excellent ear for dialogue and a gift for portraying responsible middle-class teen-agers trying to come to terms with very real concerns. A good choice for readers of Norma Fox Mazer's *Taking Terri Muller* (Morrow, 1983). --Tatiana Castleton, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, CA Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This seems hastily written with no editing. The story jumps around leaving moments and thoughts unfinished. I was thoroughly confused what was going on for the entire book. And then the ending.... I was interested enough to at least finish it, but if it were any longer than 100 pages I wouldn't have.

Daughter had to read for school.

thank you!

Dude. Can't help it. I am 30 and I love this book. The drama!. Ugh.

This is such a good series for teens or adults. I usually like more non-fiction books but this series was so hard for me to put down. I think I finished all of the books in about a month because I was so into it.

The ending of this book is nothing short of a rip off.

It was a wonderful book. there was a lot of detail to describe the characters. It was also a cliff hanger which I loved about the book, and other books. It also had a little over romance, which dropped my rating by .5, but there isn't a 4.5 option so I settled for 5. The romance enhanced the book, but not what happened when Janie and Reeve almost did go home from New Jersey. Yet, I can't imagine the book without Reeve. Other than that it was a fabulous book.

Janie is an ordinary girl with teenage longings of being extraordinary, she doesn't even like her name. She recognizes herself in a missing child photo and all of a sudden what used to seem boring and ordinary becomes just the things she longs for. This book is 5 stars for sure, it's filled with action and tension and it has a unique plot line. Very good reading.

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