

The Face on the Milk Carton

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Reviewed by: Elisabeth Suarez, 14

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Janie Johnson, an ordinary teenage girl, goes to her cafeteria one day and decides she feels in the mood for some milk. While drinking her friend's milk, she is stunned to see her face on the carton. The carton has her picture on it, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar, at three years old. The caption reads that she was kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey. How could this be true? She had two loving parents; one who coached a little boys' soccer team, and another who volunteered regularly. They weren't capable of kidnapping. Or are they?

Janie tries to put the pieces together, bring her crush and next-door neighbor, Reeve, along, yet nothing seems to make any sense. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson truly her parents? If not, who is Janie Johnson, and what happened at that shopping mall twelve years ago?

I found *The Face on the Milk Carton* to be quite boring honestly. The characters have almost no personality. The only way I could describe Janie is having big, red, curly hair, and being worried (like any person would be in her situation). Reeve, the boy next door, is way too dull. His characteristic is being careless. Wow, such an interesting person! He only cares about kissing Janie, disregarding Janie's feelings in this unimaginable circumstance. She's dealing with finding out if her parents are actually her parents, yet he is upset that Janie is a bit uneasy and anxious.

The ending could have been a bit more exciting and shocking. This is supposed to be a mystery, right? Also, it leaves you on a cliffhanger. I prefer when books tell you the whole story in one, but this trick leaves you wanting to know the rest of Janie's tale. The series is five books long. Overall, I wouldn't bother reading this book unless you have nothing else to read. The audience best suited for this book is twelve and older.

Recommended Books

Stranger with My Face, Lois Duncan

The Name of this Book is Secret, Pseudonymous Bosch

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