

Girl, Stolen

April Henry

Reviewed by: Chi Mai, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Sick with pneumonia, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne Wilder decides to sleep in the back of her stepmom's car while waiting for her to pick up medicine. Only five minutes pass before the door opens and someone gets in and begins driving off. Immediately, Cheyenne knows that the person can't be her stepmom, but just as she realizes that the car's being stolen, she catches the thief's attention. Having been blind for the past three years, she cannot see where she's going or who's taking her.

The thief, seventeen-year-old Griffin Sawyer, only saw how the car's keys were still in the ignition, not Cheyenne in the back. The only option is for him to drive her to his home, even after she tells him that he's blind and can't identify him. When they get there, Griffin suggests to his dad, who runs a more disorganized version of a chop shop, that he could simply drop Cheyenne off somewhere at night because she doesn't know enough to inform the police. However, his plan is scrapped when the news comes on and reveals that Cheyenne is the daughter of Nike's president. Griffin's dad uses this to his leverage and keeps her for ransom. Now, held captive, Cheyenne has to utilize her wits and all her other senses to try and escape.

I found myself not wanting to put this down once I started reading. It was a relatively short book, but the pacing made sense and the characters were well-developed. These two elements can be hit-or-miss in short novels because the author doesn't have enough time to flesh them out, but April Henry did a great job here. This is the first time I've read a book that contains a blind person's perspective, and I really enjoyed how Henry characterized Cheyenne. Cheyenne's blindness is part of her identity, and it causes many obstacles (which are discussed during her interactions with Griffin) for her. However, it isn't the *only* thing about her. She's smart, resourceful, and persevering as well, which all makes her an interesting character. I also enjoyed Griffin's character. He's done questionable things, and his background is considerably rougher than Cheyenne's, but he has a good heart.

There were great action scenes and a good amount of suspense. Henry began with the carjacking scene right away, so that grabbed (and kept) my attention. I'd recommend this book to readers ages 13 and up and to anyone who likes quick reads with action, suspense, and a good kidnapping plot.

Recommended Titles

Count All Her Bones by April Henry

Shock Point by April Henry

Stolen by Lucy Christopher