



AFTERWARD by Jennifer Mathieu

Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2016

ISBN: 9781626722385 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 12-18

Grade Range: 9 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A tragic kidnapping leads to an unlikely friendship in this novel about finding light in the midst of darkness from the author of *The Truth About Alice*.

When eleven-year-old Dylan Anderson is kidnapped, his subsequent rescue leads to the discovery of fifteen-year-old Ethan Jorgensen, who had gone on a bike ride four years earlier and had never been seen again. Dylan's older sister, Caroline, can't help but wonder what happened to her brother, who has nonverbal autism and is not adjusting well to life back home. There's only one person who knows the truth: Ethan. But Ethan isn't sure how he can help Caroline when he is fighting traumatic memories of his own captivity. Both Caroline and Ethan need a friend, however, and their best option just might be each other.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A sensitive and surprisingly accessible exploration, it's a reminder that there's more to survival than making it past disaster, but that recovery remains possible." – *Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books*, **starred review**

★ "In a social networking world where debates about abuse and victimization are widespread, this is an important addition to any YA collection." – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

"In a sensitive portrait of trauma and recovery, a kidnapping kindles an unlikely friendship....It's a fully realized story of what happens after the news cameras fade away and the real work of moving forward begins." – *Publishers Weekly*

"A thoughtfully rendered story of the healing power of friendship in the wake of trauma, *Afterward* is equal parts hopeful, moving, and nuanced." —Julie Murphy, author of *Side Effects May Vary* and *New York Times* bestseller *Dumplin'*

"*Afterward* is a brave story about the transcendent power of friendship, told with remarkable grace. I became utterly engrossed in the beautifully drawn lives and minds of Ethan and Caronline, and the sensitive, truthful depiction of the bond that begins to heal them both." —Ava Dellaira, author of *Love Letters to the Dead*

Updated 1/25/2

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Contact Mary Van Akin mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

"Heartbreaking and heart-mending, *Afterward* is a beautifully crafted novel that shows the power of hope and the resilience of one incredible boy and the people who care about him. Jennifer Mathieu has again demonstrated the complexity and strength of survivors in an authentic and compassionate way." —Christa Desir, author of *Bleed Like Me* and *Fault Line*

"*Afterward* is a perceptive depiction of recovery from a trauma most of us have only read about in the news. Fans of Jennifer Mathieu's earlier books should be ecstatic: this is her best one yet." —Cammie McGovern, author of *Say What You Will* and *A Step Toward Falling*

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (BCCB) 2017 Blue Ribbon List
- 2017 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Share the Horn Book interview](#)
- [Teen Librarian Toolbox review](#)
- [A Book and a Hug review](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net materials](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

"As an English teacher and a mom, I know how important it is to provide the opportunity for young people to read and connect with stories that both validate their experiences and give them insight into the experiences of others. When we censor books, we take those opportunities away, and I believe this results in a society that is less democratic and less empathetic. Censoring books doesn't serve us as a people, and we all need to work against it." – Jennifer Mathieu

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

Updated 1/25/2

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
Contact Mary Van Akin mary.vanakin@macmillan.com