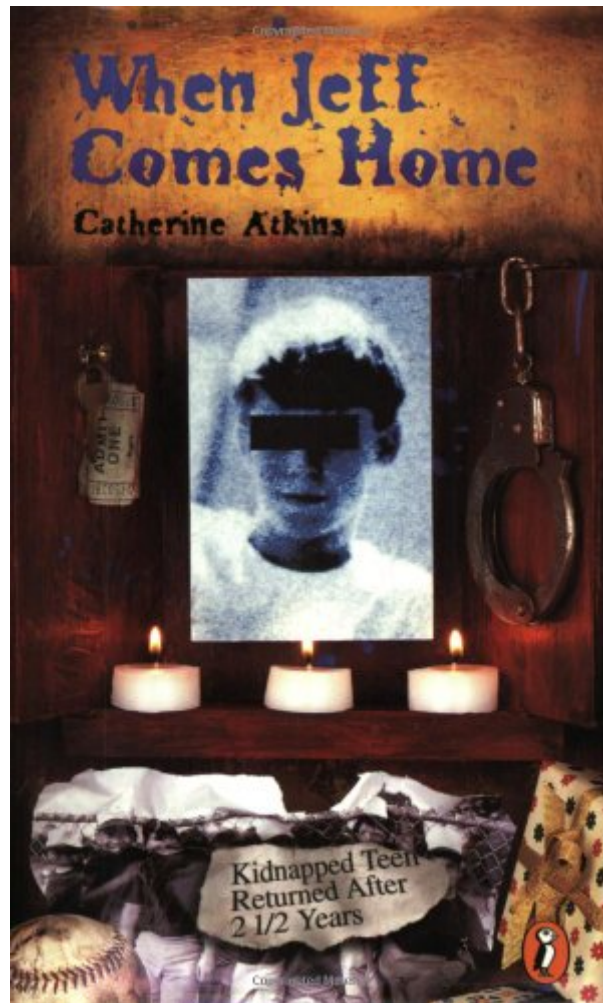
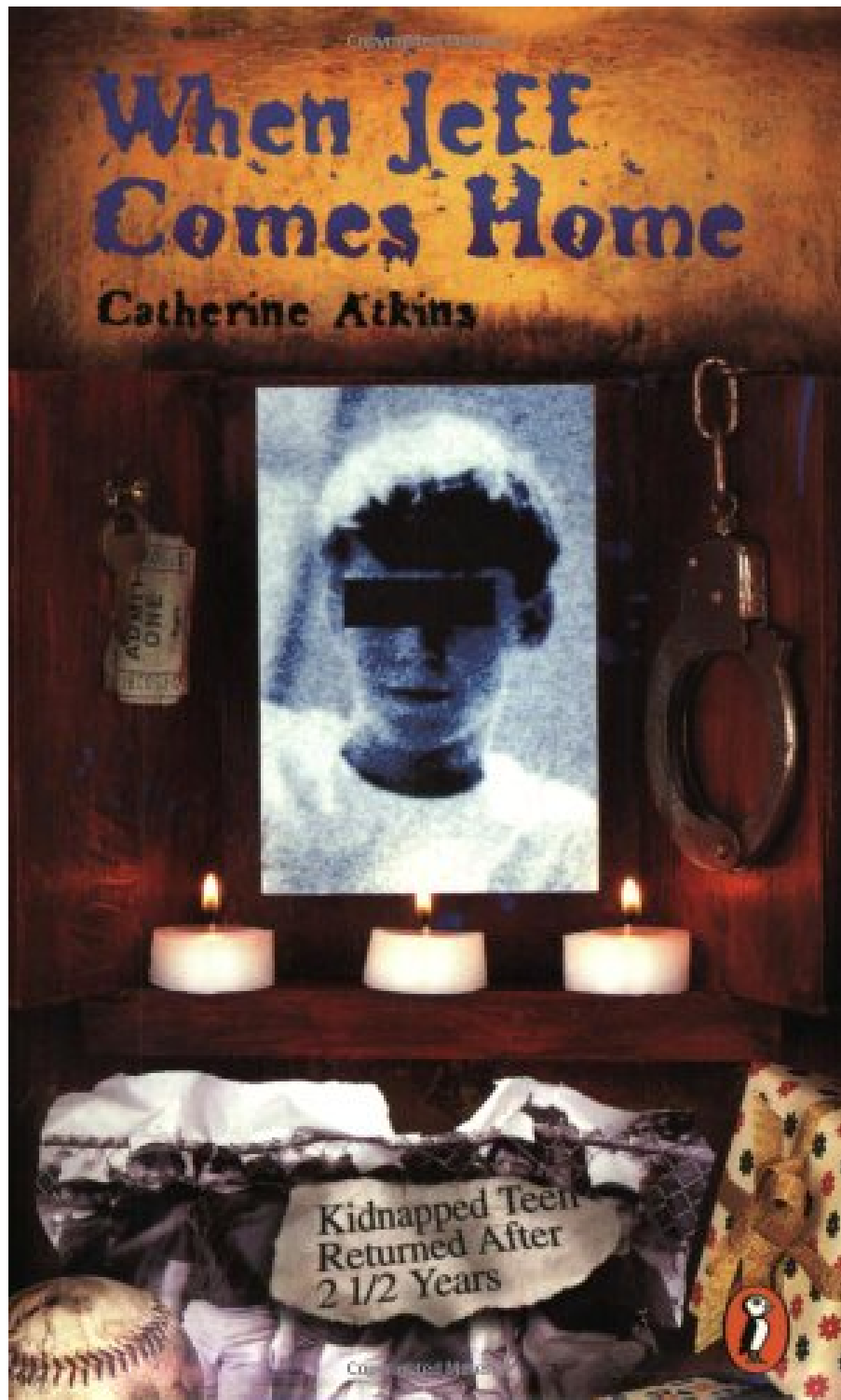


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From Publishers Weekly

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From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up-Abducted from a California rest stop and abused-physically, emotionally, and sexually-by his kidnapper for 2 U years, Jeff, now 16, is finally released and allowed to return home. Once a star athlete and quintessential "good kid," he is reunited with a family and friends who have become strangers and is caught in a maelstrom of emotions he tries desperately to suppress and deny. Once the apple of his father's eye, Jeff now has a strained relationship with him. His siblings are eager to reconnect, but treat him with a mandated fragility. Consumed with self-loathing, feeling ashamed and unclean, Jeff refuses to cooperate with investigators and name his abductor. The denial comes to haunt him when his kidnapper asserts that their relations were consensual, thus destroying the tentative trust Jeff had rebuilt with an old friend and making his return to school a nightmare of persecution. This is a strong, uncompromising first novel. Jeff's awkwardness and raw pain at having his outlook on life forever altered are drawn with a remarkable sensitivity and honesty. Supporting characters are equally well realized, with each individual differently, yet relatedly affected by the teen's abduction. There can be no instant resolution, ironically no return "home," and there is none. Jeff's emotional scars run deeper than the physical ones scored on his back. There is, however, positive motion toward healing. At last, the boy begins to talk, breaking through his denial and expressing his anger. A powerful, difficult, yet cathartic read.

Jennifer A. Fakolt, Denver Public Library
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From Kirkus Reviews

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Two years ago, Jeff Hart was kidnapped at knifepoint. Now his kidnapper is releasing him to return home. But when Jeff finds his family, he feels shell-shocked and unable to tell anyone what happened. He can't believe that anyone-not even his family or friends-will understand what he went through. Jeff isn't the same person he was before, and he never will be again.

"An accomplished, intense, and powerful first novel." (Kirkus Reviews)

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From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A fictional story about how a young boy is kidnapped by a sexual abuser and how he slowly comes to terms with his abuse.

By Allan D. Hulme

This is a fictional account about a young boy who is kidnapped at a rest stop with his parents nearby and his held for several years by his sexual abuser. The focus is mainly on the boy after his kidnapper/abuser drops him off near his home and how difficult it really is for him and his parents to really understand the deep trauma and emotional upheaval the boy has experienced. The FBI is very involved and the ending is well done. I found the method of capture and the circumstances involved somewhat unbelievable, but overall the story should hold the readers attention.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Terrific.

By Meaghan

I'm really interested in kidnappings and have read lots of books about them, both fiction and nonfiction. This I think is one of my favorites. All the characters were very well done, particularly Jeff and Vin. Vin was my favorite character, the way he wouldn't give up, trying to help Jeff even as Jeff pushed him away. What happened to Jeff, the beatings and the molestations, are written about in such a way so that you know it all but not too much -- many writers less talented would turn this story into something like sadomasochistic pornography, but Catherine Atkins is much more subtle than that. Jeff's recovery with all the fits and starts

seems realistic to me, and I felt like cheering when he said he was ready to talk though of course it will be years before he ever feels really safe again. A great novel; I look forward to reading future works by this author.

1 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Very Depressing

By IsisBaast

I have no complaints on the author's style, grammar, or character development, but I found the subject matter dark and disturbing. It's says it's for young adults, but I would think that most young adults would not have common ground with the main character Jeff and his awful experiences, thus finding the book, not only unsettling, but unrelatable.

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Investing the leisure by checking out **When Jeff Comes Home By Catherine Atkins** could supply such fantastic experience even you are only seating on your chair in the office or in your bed. It will certainly not curse your time. This **When Jeff Comes Home By Catherine Atkins** will certainly lead you to have more priceless time while taking remainder. It is extremely enjoyable when at the twelve noon, with a mug of coffee or tea as well as a book **When Jeff Comes Home By Catherine Atkins** in your gadget or computer system monitor. By enjoying the views around, here you could start checking out.

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