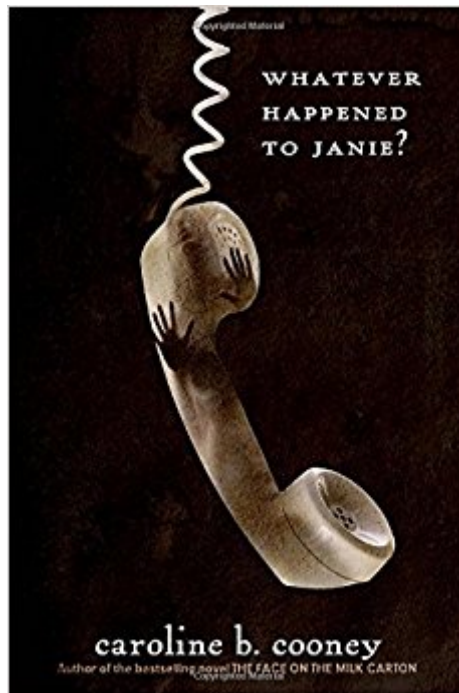




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# Whatever Happened To Janie?



## 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. As Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl on the milk carton, she was overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl "it was she. How can it possibly be true? But it is. With the mystery of her kidnapping now unraveled, Janie's story continues, and the nightmare is not over. No one can bring back or relive the 12 years gone by. The Spring family wants justice, but who is really to blame? The Johnsons know that they must abide by the court decisions made, but it's difficult to figure out what's best for everyone. Janie Johnson or Jenny Spring? Who is she? Certainly there's enough love for everyone, but how can the two separate families live happily ever after?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Readers left on the edge of their seats at the conclusion of *The Face on the Milk Carton* will race to get their hands on this equally gripping sequel. Janie is an illegally adopted child who discovered the existence of her natural parents 12 years after her kidnapping. As this phase of the saga begins,

Janie Johnson (nee Jennie Spring) has contacted her real mother and father, who have lost no time in reclaiming her. Trying to do the right thing, the 15-year-old agrees to leave her much-loved adoptive parents' home in a small Connecticut town and move to the Springs' crowded New Jersey split-level. The Springs' expectations prove to be too great for homesick Janie, who cannot stop thinking about the pain her adoptive parents are suffering and feels guilty whenever she begins to be the slightest bit happy in her new household. Janie's struggle to sort out who she is and where she belongs turns out to be profoundly upsetting not only for herself, but also for both sets of parents and her natural older sister and three brothers. Cooney builds a strong case for the rights of adoptive parents while painting a sympathetic portrait of birth parents who have given up a child, unwillingly or otherwise. The power and nature of love is wrenchingly illustrated throughout this provocative novel, which expresses multiple points of view with remarkable understanding. However strange the events of this book, the emotions of its characters remain excruciatingly real. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Grade 7-10-- Cooney's *The Face on the Milk Carton* (Bantam, 1990) involved a 15-year-old girl who discovers she had been kidnapped when she was 3. Those left hanging by the ambiguous ending to that story will want to read this sequel in which Janie goes to live with her biological parents and four siblings. Although all of the family members are eager to include her, she's determined to remain emotionally aloof. Finally, Janie asserts her desire to return to her adopted family, and her biological parents love her enough to let her go. The strength of this book is that all of the parties are easy to empathize with. They are well-rounded characters with quirks and annoying qualities, yet all have compassion for "the other guy," even while feeling their own pain. The suspense centers around the question of which family needs Janie more and which she will choose. There is no clear answer to her dilemma since both love her and have suffered through no fault of their own. While Janie ultimately puts her own feelings first by choosing the family that is "real" to her, the stage is set for future changes of heart and perhaps another sequel. Meanwhile, this book won't gather dust on the shelf. --Jacqueline Rose, Southeast Regional Library, NCCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

What struck me most about this book was that no one (with the possible exception of Reeve) seem to think about what was best for Janie or have any sort of realistic expectations about her reunion with the Spring family. While the Spring clearly love their daughter, they don't have her best

interests at heart. Instead they insist that she immediately come to live with them. On the day Janie leaves her adoptive family, she has not yet even met the Springs. She is told that she cannot contact her adoptive parents, her friends or her boyfriend for at least three months and then 'they'd see.' As if someone can turn love on and off like a faucet and quit their family cold turkey. How can these otherwise intelligent adults have thought this was a good idea? How could anyone think this was in Janie's best interests? Further, none of the Spring children seem to have been given any guidance about their expectations of their lost sister. Janie is met with hostility because she (quite rightly) is overwhelmed at being taken away from the life and family she knows and dropped into an alien situation. Because she has a hard time answering to a different name or calling strangers 'Mom and Dad', she's branded a rotten person and spoiled brat. Is it any shock she's acting out and not making any attempts to fit in? Overall Cooney had written a well crafted novel that does a great job of capturing the chaotic emotions and heart-rending choices of a terrible situation. A terrific follow up to "The Face on the Milk Carton".

This book was okay. I never did finish it, was just too slow and did not hold my attention

This series is full of twist and turns. Love all the plot twist and the way the author executes the story of Janie or Jennie. I give this book a booming 10/10. #inlovewiththiseries

I got this faster than I expected it. It is a VERY good book. So good, in fact, that I ordered the rest of the series! Except that I ordered 3 & 4 at the same time, & I got 4 & already have read it (out of order) because 3 hasn't come yet.

Riveting, thrilling book!

There are few books out there that can make me cry, but this sequel to "The Face on the Milk Carton" was so touching. It was written so well that you could feel Janie's pain and I found that there were tears streaming down my face as I read. It was so good i couldn't put it down and I finished the book in less than a day! I totally recommend this to people who have read "The Face on the Milk Carton". But don't read it before you have read "The Face on the Milk Carton". It truly is an amazing book!

This book is 200 pages and and it certainly had me on edge with every sentence I read. For me, it

was a quick read and I nearly finished in a day. Very good book. I recommend this to anyone honestly. There's something for everyone to enjoy. Not the best thriller I've read, but it was certainly very good. Worth every penny. This book was good and I can't wait to read the next in the series. Be sure to A Face On the Milk Carton first, so your not lost of course! Happy reading!

Good quality, as expected. Quick, fun read. Really happy it didn't end as a cliff hanger because then I would have to buy another book and read it before school starts.

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