



Taken

By Kathleen George

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Taken By Kathleen George

The child was taken in broad daylight, on a warm June morning, in a crowded shopping area in downtown Pittsburgh.

Marina Benedict first saw the baby with his mother. Then, just minutes later, she saw him again, in the arms of a man she was certain was not the child's father. In a single life-altering act, Marina followed them. What happens next will plunge her into a mystery that is both heartbreakingly chilling. Within hours of the abduction, the city is galvanized by the story: a child, the son of a pitcher for the Pirates, is missing. And soon a community begins to unravel...Detective Richard Christie struggles with his own demons as he tries to solve a baffling mystery. And Marina Benedict, pulled from the safety of her ordinary life by a brutal crime, is at the center of the story. Because once, Marina tried to save a life and it changed her forever. Now she will risk her life again--for a child who is still out there somewhere, still in need of saving.

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One minute aspiring actress Marina Benedict is admiring a baby in a stroller in downtown Pittsburgh, the next she's tracking a man she believes kidnapped the infant, in this uneven debut thriller. After leaving her marriage counselor's office, where she has just taken the first step toward divorce, Marina longingly admires a little boy whom she later sees in the arms of a seedy man on a bus. Suspicious, she follows them until she, too, is kidnapped by the man's cohorts. Through news reports, they learn that the baby is the son of a Pirates rookie pitcher, and Marina is shot and left for dead. Rescued by the police, she tries to help them find the baby, befriending the boy's mother and becoming more than friends with lead detective Richard Christie. As she convalesces, she uncovers an adoption ring that includes sleazy lawyer Manny; his amoral sister, Emelia; and Marina's former captors Joe, Vol, and Anton who do Emelia's bidding. Drama teacher George (The Man in the Buick and Other Stories) produces dead bodies and new clues, and keeps Marina one step ahead of the police and the FBI but this thriller romance isn't especially thrilling or romantic. George proves herself a rookie at establishing dramatic tension with her preference for psychological exposition over action at potentially climactic moments and with an overuse of theater images (a thief contemplating murder is like an actor contemplating a role in Lear). Chicago, Miami, New York and even Richmond, Va., boast popular female detectives; despite this novel's riveting premise, the position's still open in Pittsburgh. (May 15) Forecast: This generic thriller will do respectably but probably no better, though its effective cover showing the back of a man stalking a woman should draw browsers' attention.

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From Library Journal

The promotion bills this first novel by short story writer George (The Man in the Buick and Other Stories) as a psychological thriller. "Psychological" is accurate, but "thriller" may be overstating matters a bit. The opening moments of suspense are overshadowed by psychological character studies, albeit intriguing ones. All of the elements revolve around the kidnapping, in Pittsburgh, of a baby boy named Justin. Justin's kidnapper is spotted and followed by Marina Benedict, whose efforts will force her to make some painful life decisions and push other characters to re-examine their own. Justin's parents, the primary investigator, and the kidnappers all have their stories told which is, unfortunately, to the detriment of the suspense. As the book reaches its climax, readers will be more involved with each character than with the kidnapping.

Recommended for larger public libraries. Jane Jorgenson, Madison P.L., WI

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From Booklist

Set in Pittsburgh, this engrossing thriller features the lovely and resourceful Marina Benedict, a would-be actress whose marriage is falling apart and whose career is at a standstill. During a tense counseling session with her husband, Michael, Marina asks for a separation. When Michael angrily drives off in their car, Marina is forced to take the bus and through this quirk of fate witnesses a strange, unfriendly man holding a baby she had seen with its mother a few moments earlier. Suspecting foul play, Marina warily gets off the bus in a bad part of town to trail the suspected kidnapper, who disappears into an abandoned building. Compelled to follow, Marina is captured by three thugs and joins the infant as a hostage. Assigned to the case when the abducted child turns out to be the baby son of one of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Detective Richard Christie has few leads--until he discovers a seriously injured Marina, shot and left for dead by the kidnappers. A lyrically written and fascinating tale. *Jenny McLarin*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Smith:

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James Buscher:

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