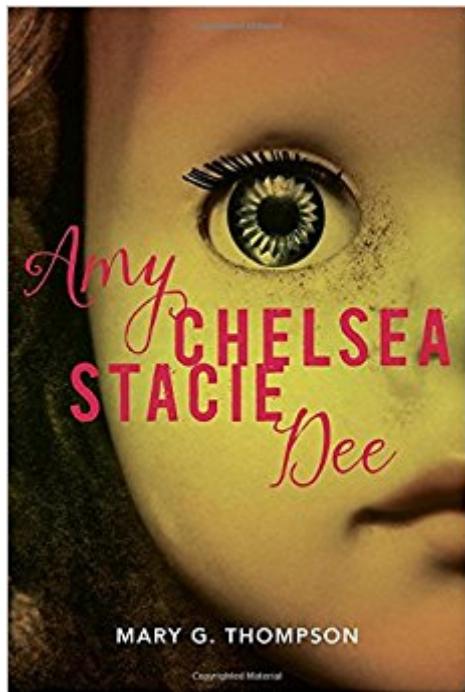


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# Amy Chelsea Stacie Dee



## Synopsis

A bittersweet homecoming holds dark secrets in this heart-wrenching story of loss, love, and survival for readers of Room. When sixteen-year-old Amy returns home, she can't tell her family what's happened to her. She can't tell them where she's been since she and her best friend, her cousin Dee, were kidnapped six years ago—who stole them from their families or what's become of Dee. She has to stay silent because she's afraid of what might happen next, and she's desperate to protect her secrets at any cost. Amy tries to readjust to life at home, but nothing she does feels right. She's a stranger in her own family, and the guilt that she's the one who returned is insurmountable. Amy soon realizes that keeping secrets won't change what's happened, and they may end up hurting those she loves the most. She has to go back in order to move forward, risking everything along the way. Amy Chelsea Stacie Dee is a riveting, affecting story of loss and hope.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (October 11, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101996803

ISBN-13: 978-1101996805

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #418,119 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #188 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse #644 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller #701 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Thrillers & Suspense

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—When Amy is 10 and her cousin Dee is 12, they are kidnapped by a man named Kyle. Now at 16, Amy shows up at home, without Dee, revealing limited information about what has happened over the past six years. While Amy is acclimating to "normal" life, her cousin and Dee's sister, Lee, befriends her and helps her adjust. All the while, Amy has blackouts that draw her into flashbacks of her time with Kyle. As the narrative unfolds, more is revealed about Amy and Dee's story in a style that blends past and present. Kyle is obsessed with dolls and renames Amy and Dee

"Chelsea" and "Stacie," respectively. Amy was never supposed to be kidnapped. Dee is raped repeatedly and bears two daughters, Lola and Barbie. As time goes on, Dee shrinks inside of herself and, without a competent parent or adult around, Amy has to step up to be mother and father to the girls. Amy struggles to come to terms with the life that she left behind. This is not a tale about Stockholm syndrome but rather a work about a girl who was kidnapped and has to unlearn the things she was led to believe by her kidnapper. Thompson tells a story that is raw without being overly graphic. VERDICT Fans of realistic fiction and similar titles, such as Emma Donoghue's *Room*, Lucy Christopher's *Stolen*, and April Henry's *Girl, Stolen*, will devour this novel. •Adrienne L. Strock, Nashville Public Library

Praise for Amy Chelsea Stacie Dee:  
"An intelligent, tense psychological drama." •Kirkus Reviews "Thompson expertly builds the novel's tension to an unbearable pitch as she guides readers to a bittersweet, satisfying conclusion." •Publishers Weekly "Fans of realistic fiction and similar titles, such as Emma Donoghue's *Room*, Lucy Christopher's *Stolen*, and April Henry's *Girl, Stolen*, will devour this novel." •School Library Journal "[A] traumatic, psychologically taut novel... Thompson deals honestly with the guilt and grief of Amy and her family, and, though grim, this tearjerker has a thankfully hopeful resolution." •Booklist "Teens who relish abduction stories will be most satisfied with this book." •VOYA "Thompson adeptly walks readers through the lingering trauma and misplaced guilt that Amy feels" | this takes readers on a credible hell-and-back ride that fleshes out the tangled emotions behind recent ripped-from-the-headlines scenarios." •BCCB

Thanks to First to Read for allowing me to preview *AMY CHELSEA STACIE DEE* in exchange for my honest review. GRADE: A+ After six years, Amy has escaped from her captor, Kyle. Called Chelsea by her kidnapper, she returns without her cousin Dee, who was renamed Stacie. Amy won't talk about Dee, or the little girls she mothered. Not to her therapist, nor the police. Not even to her aunt, desperate to find her daughter. *AMY CHELSEA STACIE DEE* was on my preorder list, before I had the opportunity to read the ARC. The cover enticed me and blurb left me eagerly anticipating this story. Mary Thompson did not disappoint. Amy's voice was pitch perfect, traumatized, fearful. She blamed herself, as many victims do. Her pain was palpable. Thompson depicted Amy's PTSD perfectly, the subtle and obvious symptoms. Rooting for Amy was easy, because she was

imperfect. Flawed, yet wonderful. Part thriller, part mystery, part character journey, I won't soon forget Amy and Dee's ordeal. **AMY CHELSEA STACIE DEE** gets my highest recommendation

Engaging story, couldn't put it down once I started. Difficult subject matter handled appropriately for a teenage audience.

Sobering, stunning, loving, moving...An incredibly well-executed tale of both surviving trauma-both for the individual victims and those whose lives are irrevocably changed by not knowing the fate of loved ones-and then surviving the return.I simply loved this book.

Ms. Thompson has written a novel that is mysterious, suspenseful and heartfelt. Her heroine shows humanity, love and courage in the face of horror and tragedy -- and shows us how to live.

This story of survival is perfect for fans of Room. Beautifully written, this riveting and heart-breaking novel is also about love and hope and the bonds of family. I guarantee it will stay with you long after you finish it. I highly recommend it.

I read this book in one sitting as I couldn't wait to see what would happen next. This is a fantastic story! Amy's internal dialogue and how she reacts to events are totally believable. While I think this book may be too graphic for the younger teen set, older teens and adults will enjoy this tale of survival in the face of terrible psychological and physical trauma.

Two girls were taken.Six years later, only one returns and she has nothing to say about what happened. With a terrible secret to keep, Amy fears the day that she might reveal too much. Facing pressure from her cousin and her aunt, will Amy's only choice be a desperate attempt to right the wrongs?Amy and Dee's harrowing tale should have been fraught with terror, emotion, and anxiety, but the format of the story did not let these feelings be known. By unspooling the story through a series of flashbacks and recollections, the feeling that the girls must have had during the ordeal was lost. Both the pacing and the plot were good, but Amy Chelsea Stacie Dee was just an average read for me.

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