



## Kidnapped #1: The Abduction

*Gordon Korman*

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## **Kidnapped #1: The Abduction** Gordon Korman

Gordon Korman offers another edge-of-your-seat action/adventure in a return to the trilogy format that sold more than 1 million copies of Island, Everest, and Dive.

It's every brother's worst fear: As Aiden and his sister Meg are walking home from school one day, a van pulls over and Meg is kidnapped. There's no way for Aiden to stop it from happening. He's the only witness to his sister's disappearance.

Why has Meg been kidnapped? Is it for ransom? As a vendetta against Meg and Aiden's parents? Or is there an even bigger conspiracy at work?

While Meg fends off her kidnappers and plans an escape, Aiden must team up with the FBI to try to find her—tracking down clues only a brother could recognize.

## **Kidnapped #1: The Abduction Details**

Date : Published August 27th 2013 by Scholastic Inc. (first published January 1st 2006)

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Author : Gordon Korman

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## **From Reader Review Kidnapped #1: The Abduction for online ebook**

### **Jill says**

Aiden and Meg's parents have just been released from jail, new evidence proving that they were framed and wrongfully convicted of aiding terrorists. Aiden just wants life to go back to normal, but everything has changed. When Meg is kidnapped, Aiden and his parents are forced to team up with the FBI agent who got them convicted in the first place, in order to find Meg before it's too late. This is a fast-paced thriller that dips into Aiden's, Meg's, and the FBI agent's points of view to keep the action going strong.

Because of the pacing, this is a great quick read, and might be a good recommendation for reluctant readers—especially those who enjoy action movies. It would be good for girls or boys, though Aiden's point of view is the most developed. This book is thrilling without being scary, which makes it a great read for a variety of tastes.

This would be a perfect book for a display of tween action/adventure stories. It might also appeal to fans of survival stories, as Meg tries several ways to escape her captors and leave clues for her brother, which creates a survival-story vibe.

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### **Riley says**

I liked the book, I thought it was good, but the book jumped around to places a lot

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### **Andrea Medina says**

The book was about Meg being kidnapped and her brother, Aiden. Never gave up to find her. This book was very sad and it seemed like it was really happening in real life. I would recommend this book to all the kids who have been kidnapped.

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### **Kieran Cobb says**

This is a book about how the falconer kids had to run away from killers and managed to survive. Meg falconer, was kidnapped with chloroform and her brother tried to stop them but couldn't when meg woke up she was in a van and she was making a daring escape but they got her she could not escape they brought her where they had plans for her but she was not going to stick around she made a staircase out of old bricks up to the widow where she could escape but she had to get passed her kidnappers first.....

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## **Emily says**

Wow! Talk about an edge-of-your seat series! Book 1 starts the action off with a quick reflection on the lives of the Falconer family post-On The Run (apparently a preceding series also by Gordon Korman). Only a couple of minutes in, and the action is ON in trademark GK style. I've read the Dive, Everest, and Island trilogies, and this one is more in line with the action of Island, but with less disgusting crises, though still quite high in suspense.

Meg is kidnapped early on in the story, and the book switches POVs between Meg and Aiden, her brother. Meg is a resourceful, stubborn girl with fugitive experience from the first series (I did not read the first series, and while I think it would have made me enjoy this one MORE, it did NOT inhibit me in any way), and Aiden, having been a fugitive with her, has special insight with how Meg would try to escape and/or catch his attention.

This book (along with book 2) ends with a cliffhanger, making me really glad that I borrowed all 3 at the same time! I HAD to keep reading to find out what was going to happen.

These books are leveled as early 5th grade, and that's also the age I would recommend. The series as a whole contains some violent incidences, but they are not graphic. Ex. mentions of gunshots, blood, physical altercation, but no specific details about them.

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## **Lexi Koop says**

I read the Kidnapped series by Gordon Korman and, it was really good. The series is about a girl who gets kidnapped and, her brother tries to find her. The girl keeps trying to find ways to escape while, her brother goes through a lot of obstacles trying to find her. While the brother runs off trying to find her, their parents are worried sick so, they get the FBI involved. The brother hears about the FBI getting involved and, he doesn't like the idea of that because, he doesn't believe that they'll be able to find his sister. He thinks that he is the only one who can find her.

This book puts you on the edge of your chair because, you don't know what's going to happen next. It's a great book especially if you like suspense. I definitely enjoyed the series because, I like suspense and, trying to figure out what will happen next. Gordon Korman really makes the characters come alive and, he draws you in with great action and mysteries.

If you like suspense, mystery, and an action packed book, I think that you'll like the Kidnapped series because, it has all of that and more.

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## **Nicole Luiken says**

Rereading this to my kids. As with the first Falconer series, it's a high-tension quick read. The kids are clever and resourceful. I especially enjoyed the introduction of Richie, Aiden's best friend, whom he's having trouble relating to in his post-fugitive life. On to book two!

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### **Kimberly Larreta says**

This book is about this girl who got kidnapped while going home with her brother . While they were walking a van pulled up and they snatched Meg ( the girl ) away from her brother but they were all wearing animal masks and they took her far away. Days later her brother is still searching and the kidnappers were sending her family that they wanted 2 million dollars . But then Meg realizes that her search was very far away. I would recommend this book to people who like mystery books.

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### **Hamelynn Harzman says**

This story let me down. I will admit, I picked this book up just to last the day until I checked out a longer book at the library. I was expecting to read a good book, it didn't have to be great, just satisfying. This wasn't exactly that.

The book just felt disorganized and rushed. The characters were either far too intelligent for their age (Meg, the kidnapped girl) or far too dumb for their age (the kidnappers) then suddenly showed smarts and fighting talent in the last 20 pages or so.

If I were introduced well into the story, I might've had a better view on it. But the book made me feel like I was thrown into this storyline without warning. You'll get a hang of the story eventually, but I feel the author knew the introduction was sudden and purposefully riddled the book with hints of the main character's pasts. However I felt annoyed at the amount of times Gordon Korman mentioned the main characters were fugitives.

Going along with my other idea, the book was kind of unrealistic all together. Children of criminals would logically go to an orphanage and not a juvenile prison. Not here! I also felt that the media and press and public were unnecessarily hateful of this family who were framed. I also think Meg, though my favorite character, was unrealistically smart and strong. At 12 years of age, she was able to knock a middle-aged man out cold with only a small glass ashtray. She was also able to knock down tables and shelves while running. These shelves and tables had items in and on them. I also don't think anyone would drill holes into their car trunk to provide air holes for their hostage.

Overall, I think this book could totally have potential. It just wasn't there. And the fact that the problem wasn't solved in the end made me dislike the fact that my brain was telling me to read another book of this series just so I know how it ends. I've read a few Gordon Korman books and thoroughly enjoyed them. This was not one of those books.

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### **Wes Please says**

Personal Response: I think this book was good because it was very realistic. This book could be shocking or scary for some people because an eleven year old girl was abducted. The book had lots of action in it which makes me want to keep reading. I also liked how they went back and forth from two different points in the book. It made it so you were always taking in new information.

Recommendation: I would recommend this to anyone ninth grade and up because its a little more serious. Or people who have an interest in action. Also people who like to be surprised by what happens next.

Plot summary: Meg is not an average 11 year old girl. Her parents were put in jail and she was on the run with her brother for months on end, all to find out they were framed. The family is still hated by lots of people. Meg and her brother are on there way home from school when Meg is captured and her brother is left to find her. The police and her brother have to find Meg before it's too late.

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## **Sophie Gootter says**

### Gordon Korman's Kidnapped Book Review

#### Character Backgrounds:

This is a mystery story that follows the lives of the four members of the Falconer family. The family consists of the mother; Louise Falconer, the father; John Falconer, and their two kids, Aidan who's 15 years old and Meg who's 11 years old. John and Louise Falconer were doctors until one day they were sentenced to life in prison because they were accused of helping foreign terrorists. The Falconer family was now extremely well known and hated by the whole nation, including the children. The couple was in jail for 14 months until they were proven innocent because they were framed. During the time the Falconer parents were in jail, their two kids were in a juvenile detention center until they escaped. Aidan and Meg were now fugitives and were on the run for eight weeks. Eventually the entire Falconer family was reunited and tried to live a normal life though they were still hated by millions.

#### Overview:

The family tried to lead normal lives but it was especially difficult for Aidan and Meg. The most significant detail is that the Falcons are disliked by the majority of the people in the nation. Therefore, it causes people to take violent acts against them and be mean to them because they want to seek their own type of 'revenge' even though the Falcons were proven innocent. They had lost all their friends due to the incident and they often found themselves alone. "How long would this go on? They'd been back at school for a month and a half. Surely things should be getting easier by now. Were he and Meg doomed to be outcasts and misfits forever?" (Korman, 15). Luckily, Aidan still had one friend by the name of Richie.

One day, while the kids were walking home from school, a white van drove up to them and out came three people in masks. One in a Mickey Mouse mask, one in a Tiger Woods mask, and the other in a Spider-Man mask. They suddenly took a handkerchief, put it over Megs nose and mouth and she passed out. The handkerchief had chloroform on it. They put Meg in the back of their van and drove away. Aidan chased the van trying to rescue his sister but it was too late.

Meg was taken to a part of town where there is tons of abandoned factories and her kidnappers take her into one and that's where she is kept. Meg attempts to escape from her kidnappers a total of three times. Meg is a very persistent young girl who doesn't give up. Everytime she tries to escape she is almost successful but right as you think she's going to succeed she doesn't. Eventually Meg sees the faces of her kidnappers during one of her escape attempts because they're usually in their masks. She then constantly believes she is going to be killed now that she's actually seen them and could now possibly describe them to the police if she ever got away. This could be a way of foreshadowing what might happen in the next book. "She remembered a

piece of wisdom from her father's Mac Mulvey novels. When you've seen your kidnappers' faces, it usually means they're going to kill you to keep you from identifying them after your release. Had Meg just signed her own death warrant?" (Korman, 63).

You also read about how the rest of the Falconers are doing while Meg is missing. The Falconers are working with the FBI and you see how the FBI tries to unfold the situation. Because the Falconer family is so well known by the public, there is constantly press outside their home.

#### Chapter Layout and Narration:

Every other chapter in the book is from Meg's perspective and what she's going through while being kidnapped along with the different ways she tries to escape and send out clues to the public from captivity. While the other chapters are from Aidan's perspective of what's going on back at home. How the family is feeling, what the FBI is doing about it, and different leads they get to find Meg.

This book is narrated in first and third person. Some points you are reading the book as if you are in one of the characters head and at other points it's being narrated in third person.

#### The Ending:

This book is part of a two part series which I did not realize until I was finished with the book and it left off on a cliffhanger. This is the first book in the series. If you want to know whether or not Meg gets rescued from her kidnappers you would have to read the second book as well. The second book leaves off where this first one ends.

The book finishes off with a very exciting and nerve-racking adventure where the kidnappers send an e-mail to the Falconers telling them that they need Aidan to meet them at a specific phone booth with 2 million dollars in cash and then they will give Meg back to them. But Aidan needs to be completely alone or there will be 'consequences'. The FBI gets the money needed and Aidan goes to the phone booth. The kidnappers lead him all over town until eventually he gets to a giant parade where the kidnappers try and take the money and Aidan ends up in the hospital. You'll need to read the book to find out all the details. That's where the book ends. Meg is still in captivity and the huge attempt at rescuing her was a failure.

#### My Personal Opinion:

This book is very easy to read and follow. The language used is quite simple which also makes it sort of a boring book to read. Therefore, it's not incredibly well written. The book moves at a fairly quick pace which keeps you hanging on and entertained most of the time. I really wasn't too fond of the ending. When I read a book I want to be able to know the outcome of the book when I am done reading it and with this book, you don't get the pleasure of doing that. I would say this book is directed towards younger kids. Ages 10 and up. Overall it was a good book and I enjoyed reading it, especially for the age group it was directed at.

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#### Justin says

Kidnapped Series  
Gordon Korman

Realistic Fiction

Pages: 137, 137, 139 (413 Total)

Imagine yourself walking home from school today with your sister. Then, all of a sudden, a white van starts pulling up to you. Out jumps a person with a Spiderman mask, and he grabs your sister, knocks her out, and then takes her away. This is the case in Kidnapped, a book about two kids called the Falcons that are considered as traitors to everyone else, even after they're innocent. The brother, who is the main character in this book, named Aiden, desperately tries to pinpoint down his sister, Meg's location, and will stop at nothing to rescue her.

Now, let's start getting into the meat and potatoes of this review. These three books are great mysteries to read, and they will always keep you on your toes at every turn. The character development is great, especially for one of the kidnappers. He goes from a person who is coldhearted and only wants money, to a person who cooperates with the police and helps track down Meg. The setting constantly changes from place to place, so it can be an abandoned warehouse one minute, and a mountain cabin the next. Finally, this book has charm. It is always a beautiful feeling to start a new book, but it is most noticeable in this one. I just love that moment when I come to the event at the end. However, that feeling is something you'll have to discover for yourself.

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### **Sanara♥ says**

This book was okay...not bad at all but not good as the "On The Run" book series.

Also I didn't like the fact that the adults were too stupid and Meg was smarter. It makes sense for Meg to be kind of smarter and able to handle the situation better than other kids of her age cause of what she and her brother faced before. However, for criminologists, their parents are too stupid and I hate how they won't take Aiden's hunches seriously..

Also it doesn't really make sense why the kidnappers targeted the Falcons. If all they wanted was a ransom, they could have targeted anyone else right? And they should be aware that Meg and Aiden are kind of tougher than other kids of their age, so why would they just make it harder for themselves? ??

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### **Caleb Jedlicka says**

This book is the first of three, and I am excited to read the next three. I love books that always keep you wanting more and this one did exactly that. I especially loved the part when they tried to meet up with the kidnappers during the parade. You didn't know what was going to happen. One day Meg and Aiden were walking home from school and Meg got kidnapped. Their mom and dad were accused of being terrorists many years ago so they still had connections with the FBI and that helped a lot. The FBI set up a meeting to give the kidnappers money in exchange for Meg. The operation didn't go as planned and the kidnappers got scared and bailed. At the end of the book a cop saw Meg get thrown into a vehicle and called it in. After that we know nothing because the book ended.

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### **Amy Angel says**

This book was about a girl her name is Meg . Meg and her brother Aiden where walking home from

school. When they were walking there way to there house a van pulls up and pulls Meg inside the van. Aiden started to run but he couldn't get closer to the van. Aiden never give up on his sister. I would recommend this book to the people who like drama.

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