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# Ruthless



## Synopsis

A spine-tingling debut about the ultimate game of cat-and-mouse in reverse as a teen struggles to retain hope and her sanity while on the run from a cunning and determined killer. Ruth Carver has always competed like her life depends on it. Ambitious. Tough. Maybe even mean. It's no wonder people call her Ruthless. When she wakes up with a concussion in the bed of a moving pickup truck, she realizes she has been entered into a contest she can't afford to lose. At a remote, rotting cabin deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Ruth's blindfold comes off and she comes face-to-face with her captor. A man who believes his mission is to punish bad girls like Ruth. A man who has done this six times before. The other girls were never heard from again, but Ruth won't go down easy. She escapes into the wilderness, but her hunter is close at her heels. That's when the real battle begins. That's when Ruth must decide just how far she'll go in order to survive. Back home, they called her Ruthless. They had no idea just how right they were.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Written in alternating first- and third-person points of view, this nail-biter will instantly catapult readers into a thriller that is equal parts suspense and horror. This is the tale of a young woman who becomes the victim of an acquaintance abduction. What follows is a game of cat-and-mouse in a remote, wooded area and the struggle for survival. Adams adeptly creates an emotional roller coaster through her vivid writing and the constant tension between the protagonists.

Spliced with flashback vignettes, the work horrifies as much as it asks readers to examine the root causes of the very things that drive the characters' decision-making. Ruth and her "Wolfman" nemesis are sure to elicit myriad emotions. While the vignettes serve their purpose of explaining why the events are occurring, they add a degree of chopiness to an otherwise well-written, fast-paced work. VERDICT Recommended as a first purchase for fans of contemporary psychological thrillers for teens. —Tamela Chambers, Chicago Public Schools --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Carolyn Lee Adams is originally from the Seattle area, which is known for serial killers and those who write about them. She attended USC film school and graduated with a BFA in screenwriting. Ruthless is her debut novel. When she isn't exploring the dark side of human nature in her writing, you'll find her on stage as a stand-up comedian. Because those things go together.

Ruthless by Carolyn Lee Adams was a really great book with a lot of thrill. It was a fast read and I'd rate it a 5 out of 5. I really enjoyed the suspense and thrill of the story. It was an amazing book that was really descriptive and made me feel as if I were there or in the main character's shoes. There were some parts that were a little inappropriate. Although the book is a Young Adult thriller and it's a book about kidnapping, some of the scenes made me uncomfortable. There were many parts in the story that were exciting and scary that would make me tense up. I wouldn't realize I was doing so until the scene was over and I felt my shoulders relax. Overall I thought Ruthless was an amazing book and I will definitely read it again.

Dude. This book. Once you pick it up you won't put it down. A great thriller for YA and adults, it's like a mix between a horror story and a survivalist tale. It also has a very strong female character, unlike many other YA books I've read recently. Highly recommend.

THIS BOOK IS AWESOME!! I highly recommend. I flew through it wanting to know what would happen next. I bought it to add to my classroom library for high school students who aren't very fond of reading. One of my students borrowed it and read the whole thing over the weekend. She came back raving about it. Another student started reading it and wasn't sure after the first page. The first to have read it told him he had to keep reading. He also finished the book quickly. In fact, I think the book has disappeared (I share a classroom). But hey, haven't you borrowed a book and forgotten to

return it?? I now I'm guilty of it! I'll be buying another few copies. Note: the readers are from very quite different backgrounds. This book appeals to different genders, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds. BUY IT!

This book immediately starts out with action as Ruth wakes up with a concussion in the bed of a pickup truck and wonders how she got there. The book details her choices as she wills herself on refusing to be the victim. I found the book very engaging and hard to put down. It's a tale of discovery and survival for Ruth as she finds out what she is capable of and who she is as a person. I believe this is Carolyn Adams first book and it is very evident that she has a bright future writing. I recommend this book to any young adult or adult especially if you like suspenseful crime thrillers. I can't wait to read what Carolyn has in store for us.

Ruth Carver has a very serious problem, she has awoken in an unfamiliar dark place and has no recollection for how she came to be there. After a little time and some investigating Ruth realizes she is in the bed of a moving pickup. When the truck finally comes to a halt a large man yanks her out of the bed and ties her up. Little does she know she has just entered a deadly game of cat and mouse. Will she become his seventh victim? Or will he become her first? Ruthless is a fascinating and thrilling young adult book that takes the reader on an adventure, page after page is filled with Ruth's battle to survive against her kidnapper she calls "The Wolfman". This book is full of page turning action that had me on the edge of my seat the entire time. Adams begins the book after the Ruth's abduction which automatically piqued my interest. Ruth is a tough, resourceful heroine and it serves her well, especially, while trying to outrun a monster. As the book continues it turns out Ruth isn't really the nicest girl around her town, she very competitive with somewhat of a mean streak, hence her nickname "Ruthless". Despite this the reader doesn't have a chance to really meet that side of her due to her being in fight or flight mode the majority of the book. I really enjoyed that Adams showed major character growth as the story developed. No one likes a snot for a heroine. The entire story her captor is trying to break her yet, despite his best efforts she doesn't let him. I really admire this about her. "The Wolfman" as Ruth nicknames him, is an interesting captor. I feel like Adams could have dug a little deeper into his backstory. Though she does do so, I feel like it was a bit shallow for the depths of his depravity and lacked some detail. That being said, it was very nice to have the little bit that she provided. How often do people do heinous acts and we

question why? Fortunately for us, Adams provided us with a bit of insight, despite it not being quite enough. The writing in this story was interesting, Adams pulls you in from the very first paragraph. I enjoyed that quite a bit. I feel like Adams could have pushed the envelope just a bit in order to make this book truly memorable. Throughout the book there are several flashbacks of both Ruth and Wolfman from before this incidence, and I felt like Wolfman's part of the story was lacking and Ruth's was a bit superfluous. Adams created an all too real situation, her book held me captive for all of 248 pages. It made me ask myself, "what would I do in a situation like this?" "What would my breaking point be?" It's a terrifying situation to imagine yourself in, even for a moment. I give Ruthless 4 stars.

Adams' fast-paced debut novel transcends the YA category with its mature, intelligent characterization and whiplash plot twists. Unpredictable and dynamic, "Ruthless" features multiple compelling plotlines and, while accessibly written, is not to be mistaken for the average summer thriller -- don't read it at home by yourself late at night unless you're way braver than me. Adams has skillfully crafted characters of mettle and grit who also feel touchably human and thoughtfully sympathetic, even her terrifying villain. Ruth is truly the heroine of our time and you'll quickly find yourself rooting for her on her quest for justice. "Ruthless" is refreshing, original, and definitely worth reading more than once!

I read this book in two sittings (back to back), I literally could not put it down. It sucked me in, and the way it is written you are experiencing the story with Ruth. Highly recommend, a must read. I am a reader and I have never been so captured by a book.

Great read! It's a relief to read a book about a young woman who's NOT a vapid idiot. It's easy to latch onto the no-nonsense heroine and root for her safety. The suspense starts off fast and never lets up until the end - which is difficult to predict, her survival is never promised. Highly recommend!

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