



Counterfeit Son

By Elaine Marie Alphin

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Cameron Miller is pretending to be someone he isn't. When he began presenting himself as Neil Lacey, it was the only way he could think of to distance himself from what Pop had done, to finally climb out of his nightmarish existence. He thought it would be easy--playing the rich kid, sailing his boat--but he didn't count on Cougar. Now Cougar, his father's old accomplice, has tracked Cameron down and presented an ultimatum: Share the wealth or be exposed. Will Cameron give up his new identity to protect Neil's family? Or will he let his search for a new life destroy those around him?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After suffering at his father's hands, as well as being locked in the cellar while his father beat to death more than 20 boys over the years, Cameron sees a chance at normal life by passing himself off as one of his father's murder victims. PW wrote, Readers will be enthralled by the suspenseful plot. Ages 12-up. (July) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 8-10-A gripping but not altogether convincing psychological thriller. Cameron Miller's father was a serial killer who preyed on young boys; when he dies in a police shoot-out, Cameron takes on the identity of Neil Lacey, one of his father's victims who was abducted and supposedly murdered six years earlier. The Lacey family accepts "Neil" into their home with few questions, but he lives in fear that old dental records and a suspicious police officer will expose his lies. Finally, when someone from Cameron's past threatens his new family, the 14-year-old must decide whether to tell his "parents" the truth. The engaging premise will keep readers on the edge of their seats, though some of the plot points strain credibility. For example, the story depends on the fact that the parents refuse a DNA test to prove the boy's identity. The novel deals with the years of sexual and physical abuse that Cameron endured at the hands of his father, but only on a surface level and never in graphic detail. Many of the interactions between Cameron and his new family are quite moving, especially in the scenes where he expects punishment and finds kindness and love instead. Counterfeit Son ends with a clever twist that should surprise readers and leave them well satisfied with this solidly written, fast-paced read.

Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8-12. Cameron Miller has spent his life with his monstrous father, who kidnaps and then abuses and murders young boys. When his father is killed in a shoot-out with the police, Cameron decides to take the identity of one of the victims and be part of a nonabusive family. As Neil Lacey, he is "reunited" with an upper-middle class family. The mother and father fall for his ruse, but the family's daughter and a police officer are soon on to him. The reappearance of his father's scummy cohort, who attempts to kidnap the youngest son in the Lacey family, forces Cameron to reveal his scam, which turns out not to be quite the trick Cameron thought. The plot is both grim and over-the-top, which will turn off many teens. But those who stick with it will find that Alphin has done a creditable job of evoking a confused, abused boy's psychological state and his longing to find a real family. *Todd Morning*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wanda Matthews:

What do you consider book? It is just for students as they are still students or that for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book Counterfeit Son. All

type of book can you see on many options. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Juan Crowe:

Counterfeit Son can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Counterfeit Son yet doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

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