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At What Cost



Synopsis

During her junior year, sixteen-year-old Maggie Reynolds expected to shop for prom dresses not maternity clothes. Now, instead of studying for the SATs, she's reading, *What to Expect When You're Expecting*. Maggie's "Mother Dearest" lives in fear that Maggie will somehow taint the family name, so Maggie can't turn to her for help. Meanwhile, her father is oblivious to anything but his 9-9 job. And her boyfriend, Justin? She's pretty sure he'll stay by her side. While Maggie wrestles with her options, Justin offers a solution: abortion. It would solve all her problems quickly, easily, and effectively. And her parents would never know, which means they won't throw her out and cut her off like they'd always threatened if she got herself knocked up. But an easy decision becomes difficult when Maggie's aunt discovers her secret and sets out on a mission to stop the abortion, putting a kink in Maggie's plan. Now Maggie must decide which choice she can live with: abortion or teenage motherhood. Either way, it'll be a tough road to travel.*Young Adult RONE finalist award and the USA Best Book Award finalist in Youth Issues *

Book Information

File Size: 584 KB

Print Length: 234 pages

Publisher: Astraean Press (June 13, 2012)

Publication Date: June 13, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008BEDPPO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #523,249 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #48

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Customer Reviews

At What Cost written by J. Andersen, kept my attention as a reader. Held my emotions as a mother. Had my stomach twisted at the scene where sixteen-year-old Maggie is in the process of making her decision to abort or keep her baby. Even though I've never had an abortion, I was literally holding my breath to see what Maggie would do. And I was shaking inside. J. Andersen had my attention at this pivotal moment in the story. I could tell Ms. Andersen put her heart and soul into this book. Thank you for writing At What Cost, Ms. Andersen. Great writing. Powerful theme. Easy to follow plot. What an amazing job!

"Time flies when you're pregnant and hiding it." For sixteen-year-old Maggie Reynolds, an unexpected pregnancy quickly spirals out of control...and as readers follow Maggie along her journey, we experience all of her emotions, from fear to anxiety, confusion to regret, and even some unexpected hope, right along with her. I was drawn into At What Cost from the very first pages, as J. Andersen's clear, fast-paced, evocative third-person narration pulled me right into the story and Maggie's life. I could easily imagine myself in Maggie's situation, doing everything I could to deny and hide my condition because I just wasn't ready to deal with it, but at the same time my worry grew with each day that Maggie kept her pregnancy hidden. The author did a great job of crafting physical, visceral descriptions of Maggie's anxiety (exacerbated by the symptoms of pregnancy, of course); reading this book, I felt like I was right back in high school myself, nervous stomachache and all! One of my favorite aspects of the book was the way family relationships and friendships were portrayed. At first, when Maggie seemed unable to find support no matter where she turned, my heart broke for her; however, I was surprised and pleased by the way her friendships and family relationships continue to develop throughout the novel. I especially liked Maggie's relationship with her aunt, and I appreciate a YA novel that devotes as much time and character development to the adult characters as the teenage ones. After all, adults play a huge role in all teens' lives, in both positive and negative ways. I also have to mention that the abortion clinic scenes in this novel were absolutely harrowing; it takes a brave author to tackle this topic in such a gritty, no-holds-barred way. While these sections were hard to read, they were absolutely essential to Maggie's journey, and if I had ever been faced with a similar decision as a teen, I would have wanted to read an honest account like this one. I appreciated the emphasis the author placed on Maggie making her own decision, and that the author's note included resources for both pregnant teens and teens dealing with the aftereffects of abortion. Finally, I have to mention how much I appreciated the book's open ending. Even though Maggie's newly strengthened relationships leave us with hope, there's

still a lot of uncertainty in her future, and the book doesn't sugarcoat that. Overall, I think the best word to describe *At What Cost* is real. This is an important book that will speak to both teenage and adult, male and female readers, and I would say in particular that it's a book every teenage girl should read.

J. Anderson has written an emotional story perfect for young adults, exploring in-depth characters - both major and minor - and the delicate question of choice for a pregnant teen. Anderson's deft handling of these issues makes this a powerful read.

This was a great read. The author effectively captured the voice of a teenage girl and addressed a serious topic with humor and warmth. Powerful. Very well done. Share this book with your daughters and nieces. Highly recommended.

The realism of dealing with teen pregnancy and the heartache it can cause really come forward in this book. I recommend it to all teens and to anyone who has ever had to deal with forgiveness issues.

Incredible young author! Great book for teens and up, should be in school libraries... might change a lot of young lives!

Love this book. Great story for women of all ages. Can't wait to read the next book by this incredible author.

a good read story good but also has a message in it, wish young girls would read this book.

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