



Split

By Swati Avasthi



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Split By Swati Avasthi

A riveting portrait of life after abuse from an award-winning novelist.

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Sixteen-Year-Old Jace Witherspoon arrives at the doorstep of his estranged brother Christian with a re-landscaped face (courtesy of his father's fist), \$3.84, and a secret.

He tries to move on, going for new friends, a new school, and a new job, but all his changes can't make him forget what he left behind—his mother, who is still trapped with his dad, and his ex-girlfriend, who is keeping his secret.

At least so far.

Worst of all, Jace realizes that if he really wants to move forward, he may first have to do what scares him most: He may have to go back. Award-winning novelist Swati Avasthi has created a riveting and remarkably nuanced portrait of what happens *after*. After you've said enough, after you've run, after you've made the split—how do you begin to live again? Readers won't be able to put this intense page-turner down.

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 11 Up—After Jace Witherspoon is kicked out by his abusive father, he seeks refuge in Albuquerque with his older brother, whom he hasn't seen in six years. Their mother, also a victim of her husband's abuse, promises to leave him and join her children on Thanksgiving. Jace counts down the days while trying to start a new life and rebuild his relationship with Christian, but he's haunted by a terrible secret and the people he left behind. This gripping story is especially noteworthy because Jace is a victim who has also become an abuser: he hit his girlfriend during an argument the night he left Chicago. He is quick-tempered, proud, and charming, like his father. In contrast, Christian is more like their mother: restrained, deliberate, and humble. Their father's abuse has made Christian emotionally distant, but Jace's presence forces him to open up and confront his guilt about leaving his sibling behind. The brothers' growing relationship, as they turn to each other to escape from their father's shadow, is touching. Jace's narration is raw and intimate, dramatic and poetic; readers will feel his internal struggle keenly. The rest of the characters aren't as richly or skillfully drawn, however, and the plot occasionally lacks subtlety. The book contains graphic depictions of physical abuse, as well as adult language and underage drinking.—*Erin Carrillo, formerly at Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Frustration is the emotion most prevalent in this novel about escaping the ravages of domestic violence—if that is even possible. After trying to prevent his father from beating his mother further, 16-year-old Jace is kicked out of his Chicago home. He arrives, swollen and bloody, at the doorstep of his brother in Albuquerque. It's been five years since 22-year-old Christian fled the violent home front himself, and the brothers' reunion is defined by awkward negotiations of acceptance and suspicion. With ground rules set, Jace is allowed to stay and resume school, but the specter of their father continues to haunt them—as does the chilling uncertainty of what may be happening to their mother in their absence. Avasthi has a great ear for naturalistic dialogue, and although some interactions feel purposeful, they're usually couched in convincing details. Jace's own history of violence makes him a complex and tortured protagonist, and his process of letting go is heart wrenching. A nuanced and mournful work; Avasthi is a writer to watch. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

Review, [Booklist](#), January 1, 2010

"A nuanced and mournful work; Avasthi is a **writer to watch**."

Review, [Publishers Weekly](#), January 25, 2010:

"...**gripping** and **heartbreaking**." —*Publishers Weekly*

Review, [School Library Journal](#), March 2010:

"...**raw** and **intimate, dramatic** and **poetic**." —*School Library Journal*

Review, [Kirkus Reviews](#), March 1, 2010:

"This **taut, complex family drama** depicts abuse unflinchingly but focuses on healing, growth and learning to take responsibility for one's own anger. —*Kirkus Reviews*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Florence Adams:

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question because just their can do in which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on guardería until university need this Split to read.

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Nona Smith:

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