



**Title:** After

**Author:** Amy Efaw

**Imprint:** Speak

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

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**ISBN:** 9780142415900

**Format:** Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 12 and up

**Grade Range:** Gr 7 Up

## BOOK RESUME: AFTER

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

An infant left in the trash to die. A teenage mother who never knew she was pregnant . . .

Before *That Morning*, these were the words most often used to describe straight-A student and star soccer player Devon Davenport: responsible, hardworking, mature. But all that changes when the police find Devon home sick from school as they investigate the case of an abandoned baby. Soon the connection is made, Devon has just given birth; the baby in the trash is hers. After *That Morning*, there's only one way to define Devon: attempted murderer.

And yet gifted author Amy Efaw does the impossible? she turns Devon into an empathetic character, a girl who was in such deep denial that she refused to believe she was pregnant. Through airtight writing and fast-paced, gripping storytelling, Ms. Efaw takes the reader on Devon's unforgettable journey toward clarity, acceptance, and redemption.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "This is a skillfully written, emotionally raw story detailing one girl's difficult journey from denial of her circumstances to acceptance and redemption."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"This is an emotional, compelling listen, as the details of the birth are told in great detail and Devon often seems like an observer rather than a participant."

—*School Library Journal*

"Efaw captures Devon's mortification, denial, and despair, shifting fluidly between her present experiences in a juvenile jail and the terrifying night a baby inexplicably arrived." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This dramatic courtroom novel presents an in-depth picture of the juvenile justice system. A detached third-person narrator conveys Devon's mixed-up emotions and psychological distress." —*The Horn Book*

"It's an emotionally wrenching story that will keep readers' attention through its surprising conclusion." —*Publisher's Weekly*

"Efaw assigns herself a seemingly impossible task creating sympathy for a teen mother who tosses her newborn baby into a trash bin yet somehow pulls it off in this successful button pusher." —*Booklist*

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“How does an unlikable protagonist become a sympathetic heroine? This seems impossible in the case of Devon Davenport, a 17-year-old who has dumped her newborn into the trash. But narrator Rebecca Soler makes us care right from the beginning. She even sustains the listener's compassion during Devon's time in a juvenile center. Soler conveys Devon's thoughts and observations in a flat deadpan, contrasting them with her mother's too-cheery, too-bright dialogue. Devon's outward responses sound as dull and evasive to us as they do to her frustrated attorney. But Soler also expresses the inner Devon, who is filled with fear, confusion, and despair as she tries to find her way to self-awareness and hope.” —*AudioFile Magazine*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- An Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award selection
- An Arkansas Teen Book Award selection
- A Washington DC Capitol Choices 2010 selection
- A Florida Teens Read selection
- A Georgia Peach Book Awards for Teen Readers selection
- An Iowa High School Book Award selection
- A Missouri Gateway Readers Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award selection
- A Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award selection
- A Texas Tayshas Reading List selection
- A Virginia Readers' Choice, High School selection
- A Soaring Eagle Book Award

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](https://www.teachingbooks.net/resources/)

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