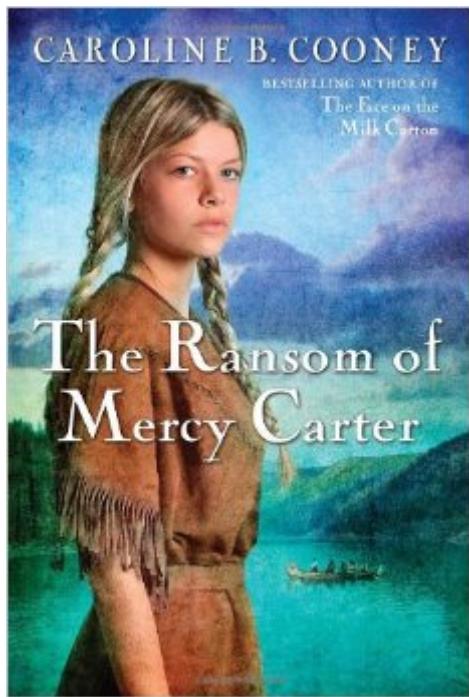


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# The Ransom Of Mercy Carter



## **Synopsis**

Deerfield, Massachusetts is one of the most remote, and therefore dangerous, settlements in the English colonies. In 1704 an Indian tribe attacks the town, and Mercy Carter becomes separated from the rest of her family, some of whom do not survive. Mercy and hundreds of other settlers are herded together and ordered by the Indians to start walking. The grueling journey -- three hundred miles north to a Kahnawake Indian village in Canada -- takes more than 40 days. At first Mercy's only hope is that the English government in Boston will send ransom for her and the other white settlers. But days turn into months and Mercy, who has become a Kahnawake daughter, thinks less and less of ransom, of Deerfield, and even of her "English" family. She slowly discovers that the "savages" have traditions and family life that soon become her own, and Mercy begins to wonder: If ransom comes, will she take it?From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

I thought this was an excellent account based on the known facts of the Deerfield Raid of 1704. The author endeavored to explore all the thoughts that might be in the mind of an 11 year old forced to endure such an experience and goes to great pains to write the known facts into the actual journey to Canada. However, like most books regarding whites and native Americans (although these were

Canadian Indians), I found this to be a bit slanted. I find it difficult to reconcile how the authors always seem to come across as a bit sympathetic, at least in Mercy's eyes, to the Indians who have stolen a number of the children after slaughtering some of their siblings and parents. If you put this in modern terms, imagine that a man breaks into someone's house and steals their child and adopts him/her into his family as his own. That man today is instantly condemned by society and will be justifiably punished for his crime. Kidnappings of that sort do happen and we as a society are relieved and rejoice if that child is found and returned to his or her family. Are not these Native American/Settler stories not exactly the same? Does it matter if the man is black, white, Asian, or Indian; isn't it the same crime, regardless of religion or culture? Innocent children stolen from families; most of whom have never harmed a Native American. Yet in the book, we are supposed to rejoice that Mercy has decided to stay with her captors rather than return to her father who has lost his entire family. And this after not much time has passed at all. Granted the real Mercy Carter did choose to stay, but it is still bothersome that the Indians who have done the kidnapping are mostly sympathetic characters in these stories. How does the fact that they are Indian somehow excuse such crimes?

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