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# Taken



## Synopsis

A compelling new mystery from Dee Henderson! Abducted at the age of sixteen and coerced into assisting the Jacoby crime family, Shannon Bliss has finally found a way out. She desperately wants to resume some semblance of normal life, but she also knows she has some unfinished business to attend to. She has enough evidence to put her captors behind bars for a very long time. When Shannon contacts private investigator and former cop Matthew Dane to help her navigate her reentry into society, she quickly discovers that gaining her freedom doesn't mean her troubles are over. For one thing, her brother is the leading candidate in the race for Illinois governor, and news of her escape will create a media frenzy. For another, the ransom her family reportedly paid years earlier appears to have been a scam; no one knows what happened to the money. And then there's the fact that Shannon's escape involved faking her own death. If the Jacoby family learns she is still alive, they'll stop at nothing to silence her. If justice is to be done, and if Shannon's life is ever to get on track again, Matthew will need to discover exactly what happened to her— even if it means stirring up a hornet's nest of secrets.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501229710

ISBN-13: 978-1501229718

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 696 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,100,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Religious](#) #122 in [Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Fiction](#) #566 in [Books > Books on CD > Romance](#)

## Customer Reviews

An investigator who knows tragic loss firsthand, and his new client, missing far too long... Abducted at the age of sixteen and coerced into assisting the Jacoby crime family, Shannon Bliss has finally found a way out. She desperately wants to resume some semblance of normal life, but she also knows she has some unfinished business to attend to. She might have enough evidence to put her captors behind bars for a very long time. When Shannon contacts private investigator Matthew

Dane, a former cop, to help her navigate her reentry into society, he quickly discovers that gaining her freedom doesn't mean her troubles are over. If the Jacoby family learns she is still alive, they'll stop at nothing to silence her. If justice is to be done, and if Shannon's life is ever to get on track again, Matthew will need to discover exactly what happened to her--even if it means stirring up a hornet's nest of secrets." Henderson follows her tried-and-true formula in this well-paced tale of slowly developing love, which will please readers who enjoy the pairing of romantic suspense with evangelical Christian fiction." -Booklist "Henderson continues to prove her writing expertise in this psychological thriller." -CBA Retailers + Resources --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dee Henderson is the author of numerous novels, including *Unspoken*, *Jennifer: An O'Malley Love Story*, *Full Disclosure*, and the acclaimed *O'Malley* series. Her books have won or been nominated for several prestigious industry awards, such as the RITA Award, the Christy Award, and the ECPA Gold Medallion. Visit her at [DeeHenderson.com](http://DeeHenderson.com).

From the back cover blurb and the reputation of the author, I expected this book to be exciting and suspenseful. I was disappointed. The pace was extremely slow and there was no excitement at all. The only reason I kept reading was to see what would happen. And nothing did, at least not "on stage." All the excitement was behind the scenes. We never find out what happened to Shannon while she was in captivity, how exactly she got free, what was in her diaries, etc. All we get is the POV of the retired cop who tells us what Shannon is thinking, how she's going to act. what will happen long-term. There are no surprises and the story line is a bit unrealistic. Shannon shows no fear, just anxiety. She's extremely sure of herself, which I find strange from a victim. She does not fear retribution. And besides that, she takes her photos to an art dealer and finds out she is an instant millionaire. How believable is that? The book is at least 100 pages too long. The author could have eliminated all the descriptions of what and then they ate, which seemed to be all the time, and left out descriptions of setting. What happened to the conflict in the story? Everything goes so smoothly, it's boring and noneventful. I hate to give bad reviews, but I was extremely surprised by the lack of many elements of a good book in this one. We read it in our book club, and everyone felt the same way - waiting for something to happen and nothing did.

As a fan of Dee Henderson's, I expect to read a well written, interesting, researched book. Taken was that. What it wasn't, was realistic on the personal front. The characters were believable, but

not real. The story line was great, and had newsworthy tones. But the romance was nearly non-existent, and certainly not realistic. I applaud the main character's faith, and her belief in God's timing. What wasn't there, was God's grace, and most especially, His healing. Several of Ms Henderson's books deal with gut-wrenching pain and grief, but do not deal with the simple healing grace of God. Total healing, complete rejuvenation. He can do it! All in all, a good book, but I expected better.

Well, I've read all of the Dee Henderson's books, and I have loved them all - this one included. What I enjoy most is the way Dee tells the story of what is going on in the minds and emotions of the characters. All of her characters are complex, smart, intuitive, rich, compassionate, and flawed. Their flaws leave room for their faith to be examined by the reader and to be expanded and found trustworthy by the characters. I like that. Taken is probably not my favorite of Dee's books, and I'm not sure why. I plan to read it again to see if I can figure out the reason that the book leaves me feeling uneasy. Maybe it is the age difference between the main characters; maybe it is the window into a type of crime that I have heard very little about; maybe it is because the female main character - who is so strong and precise in her escape - doesn't seem to grow in her strength as the threads of her captivity are finally unraveled and then tied off. Nevertheless, this was an interesting "story" that I would certainly recommend to anyone.

Dee Henderson was one of my favorite author. I have read the O'Fallon Malley series several time. However, I do not like the recent books as much and did not like this one at all. It was too procedural for me. I also did not feel a romantic connection between the two. Although I did not sense the romance between the two, there did appear to be a little Stockholm syndrome going on between Shannon and Flynn. Another thing that I did not like is how Shannon decided how and when justice would be played out, such as sparing Flynn and her mother from the justice they may have deserved. I understand that it would have been difficult for Shannon to deal with her mother being questioned or arrested for the kidnapping, however, one of the kidnapper's identified her and I do not think that it was Matthew's position to come to the conclusion that she was not involved and keep the evidence from the authorities. His personal opinion was only done to make it easier for Shannon to deal with what happened to her. Something I hope a respectable police with integrity and who is a Christian, would not do. I got the impression the mother was responsible for the original kidnapping, but did not expect it to turn out the way it did. Another thing, the fact that this dangerous criminal family did nothing to find her was unrealistic for me. I kept expecting them to

turn up. The fact that she came and went as she pleased after going through such a horrific event was unrealistic. Let's not mention how she went about taking the authorities and Matthew to the place where people including children were killed. Also, Shannon mentioned to Matthew that she would like to know how she would react to a kiss, given how bad the memories are of some others that she would rather forget. An interesting statement to make, was she raped or molested? Very little information about what actually happened to her except for the diaries that she gave Matthew was given. But other than saying that it was difficult for him to read, we heard very little about what was written in them. Finally, Shannon suddenly becoming a millionaire by selling her pictures was also unbelievable. I will read the other books that Dee Henderson writes, because I usually purchase them as soon as I hear about them and have already purchased the one coming out in October. But if this is what I can expect, I will probably not purchase her books again.

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