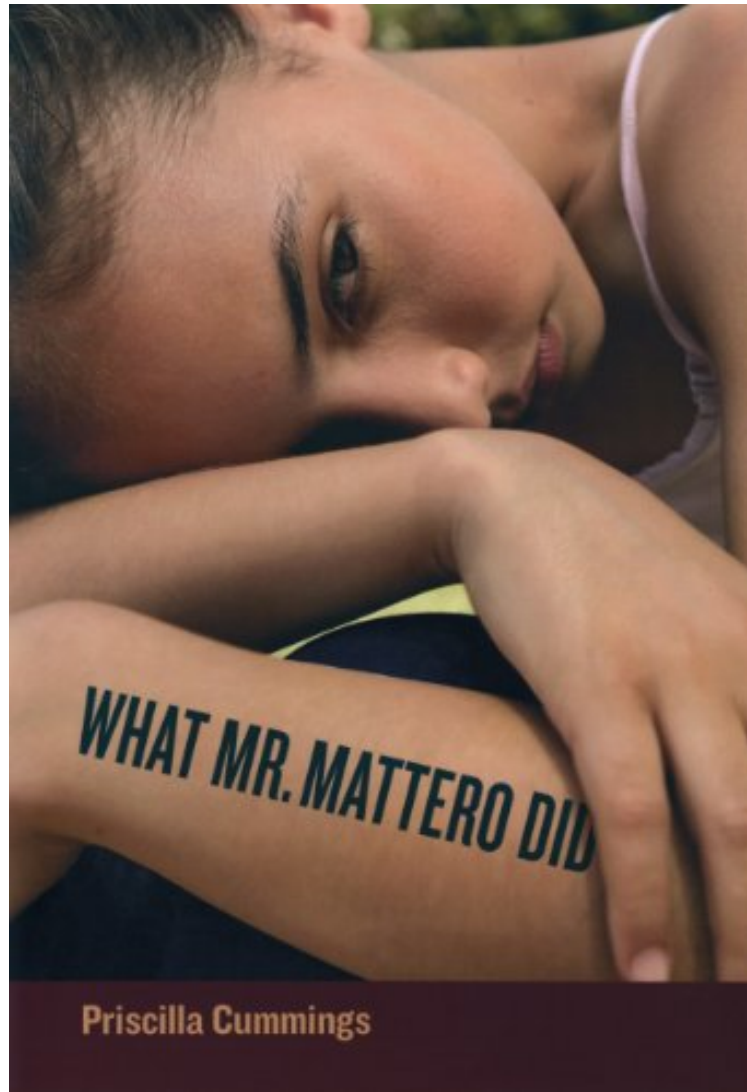


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What Mr. Mattero Did

Von Priscilla Cummings

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Von Priscilla Cummings : What Mr. Mattero Did before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Mr. Mattero Did:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Counterpoint - Counterattack Von BeatleBangs1964 Jenna, Clair and Suzanne are three 7th-graders who accuse their music teacher Mr. Mattero of touching them improperly. They further accuse him of making inappropriate sexual remarks. They present their accusations to the school principal. An investigation ensues and Mr. Mattero is left jobless during the interim. This story is like a song with a counterpoint. The Matteros, consisting of daughter Song, a music

major in college, son Cadence, 16 and daughter Melody, 13 try to pick up their lives after the accusation hits the fan. The Matteredos are a musical family; their children have names that are musical terms and all play more than one instrument. Melody at 13 is the one most directly involved as she attends the same middle school as her father's accusers. Melody is aptly named. She is the counterpoint to the accusers in this story. She is a melody separate from the rest of her peer characters; she is a blend of all the independent harmonies into a unified harmony that is not compromised; she is a contrast to her accusers. She is the Melody on which this story rests. The 3 accusers who remind one of the Salem Witch Trials have an agenda. Jenna, the ringleader lives a life of illusion. Her parents are separated and her father, a volatile man actually beats Mr. Mattero up. Jenna is at no loss for sneaky behavior. She steals; lies and leads her father to out her mother, who is involved with another man. Suzanne, the younger of two sisters is withdrawn from the middle school and placed in a parochial school. Clair, the one who wrote the accusation is the oldest of 3 children, one of whom has autism. Melody and the accusers' lives collide; battle lines are drawn in the school and in the immediate community. Once the truth is brought to light, the book ends in a reverberating crescendo. An excellent look at possible sexual abuse; accusations and the aftermath of such accusations. A very serious examination of a very serious topic of how rumors can damage lives. This book also reminds me of Lillian Hellman's classic, *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR* which was made into a movie in 1961 and released in early 1962. This book also brings to mind the Salem Witch Trials. Lynn Hall's *STICKS STONES*, which was published in 1972 explores a related theme in which a high school senior's reputation is forever changed when someone starts a rumor that he is gay. Although dated and more progressive thinking has prevailed since its publication, *STICKS STONES* is still a look at how rumors can ruin lives.

Kurzbeschreibung Three junior high school girls accuse their music teacher of inappropriate actions. The story is told through the eyes of one of the accusers, Claire, who lives in the shadow of a disabled younger brother, and the teacher's daughter Melody. Interwoven in the story are the problems the three accusers face in their own lives and the work Melody does at a horse farm where she helps disabled children one of whom turns out to be Claire's brother. From Booklist Gr. 6-9. Seventh-graders Jenna, Suzanne, and Claire don't anticipate the consequences of their actions when they accuse their music teacher, Mr. Mattero, of sexual abuse. Wanting merely to be moved from his class to a study hall, they show shocking naivete by accusing the teacher, and then surprise after he is forced to leave the school until further notice. Jenna, the ringleader, stands firm, but nervous Suzanne and insecure Claire begin to waver. Meanwhile, Mr. Mattero's family is beginning to fall apart as they wait to hear from the local police whether he will be formally charged. Told from the viewpoints of Claire and Melody, Mr. Mattero's eighth-grade daughter, this solidly written yet ultimately safe story of middle-school politics takes few risks and smacks slightly of "after school special." However, it is an age-appropriate introduction to a difficult topic and serves well as an entree to E. R. Frank's similarly themed but darker and more complex novel *Friction* (2003). Jennifer Hubert Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From School Library Journal Grade 6-8 When three seventh-grade girls from Oakdale Middle School come forward with an accusation that Mr. Mattero touched them inappropriately, the passionate, veteran music teacher is summarily sent home, and a formal investigation and lots of informal character assassination quickly gets underway. Once the media becomes involved, the man becomes persona non grata and is presumed guilty by most. Naturally, he's devastated, and his family suffers too, as the rumors and reproaches escalate. Melody, Mattero's daughter, is particularly affected; she happens to be an eighth-grader at Oakdale. The story is told from her perspective, alternating with chapters written from the point of view of Claire, one of the accusers. Cummings has crafted an engrossing and thought-provoking tale involving sensitive, real-life issues. The first-person dialogue sounds authentic, the pacing is brisk, and the personal situations woven into the plot are apt and age-appropriate. The book provides a great deal of high-interest suspense, and, when the issue of what Mr. Mattero did is finally resolved, readers get an ending that's both satisfying and realistic. Jeffrey Hastings, Highlander Way Middle School, Howell, MI Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.