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THOUSANDS OF INTERVIEWS WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
INSPIRE A STUNNING YA DEBUT FROM SWATI AVASTHI

# SPLIT

by *Swati Avasthi*

“A nuanced and mournful work; Avasthi is a **writer to watch**.”—*Booklist*

“**Gripping and heartbreaking**.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“**Raw and intimate, dramatic and poetic**.”—*School Library Journal*

“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*



In the stunning young adult debut, **SPLIT** (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers / On sale March 9, 2010 / Ages 14 up), Swati Avasthi delivers a riveting portrait of domestic violence and its devastating aftermath. This powerfully real and emotionally intense novel was inspired by Avasthi’s experience coordinating a domestic violence legal clinic where she interviewed thousands of abuse victims who were seeking orders of protection. Avasthi said, “Women, men, and their children sought civil orders of protection at the clinic, and I listened to their stories.”

*What happens after you’ve said enough, after you’ve run, after you’ve made the split?* 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. Jace tries to move on but grapples with the fact that he has left his mother behind, and an ex-girlfriend, who is keeping his secret. Jace realizes that to move forward he may need to do what scares him most—go back to confront his past. In **SPLIT**, Avasthi skillfully explores the possibility of building a new life, healing scars, and moving on after leaving an abusive situation.

With an authentic voice and informed perspective, Avasthi tells an incredibly nuanced and psychologically astute story that readers will not be able to put down. **SPLIT** will help raise awareness about the serious issue of domestic violence, and start important dialogue about relationships and healing.

**Swati Avasthi** has been writing fiction since she read *Little House in the Big Woods* at age five. Emily Brontë, Harper Lee, and many others furthered her addiction. She institutionalized her habit at the University of Chicago, where she received her B.A., and at the University of Minnesota, where she is currently studying for her M.F.A. She has received a Loft’s Mentor Series Award, a Marcella DeBourg Fellowship, University of Minnesota’s GRPP, the Thomas H. Shevlin Fellowship, and her fiction has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She lives with her riotously funny family—two large dogs, two small kids, and husband—in the Twin Cities.



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**SPLIT**

by Swati Avasthi

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