



### **Perfect by Ellen Hopkins**

ISBN: 9781416983255 (Trade Paperback)

Margaret K. McElderry, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2013

\*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

---

Everyone has something, someone, somewhere else that they'd rather be. For four high school seniors, their goals of perfection are just as different as the paths they take to get there.

Cara's parents' unrealistic expectations have already sent her twin brother Conner spiraling toward suicide. For her, perfect means rejecting their ideals to take a chance on a new kind of love. Kendra covets the perfect face and body—no matter what surgeries and drugs she needs to get there. To score his perfect home run—on the field and off—Sean will sacrifice more than he can ever win back. And Andre realizes that to follow his heart and achieve his perfect performance, he'll be living a life his ancestors would never understand.

A riveting and startling companion to the bestselling *Impulse*, Ellen Hopkins's *Perfect* exposes the harsh truths about what it takes to grow up and grow into our own skins, our own selves.

## **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

---

"In this companion to *Impulse* (2007), Hopkins addresses teens' struggles with unrealistic expectations in gut-wrenching free verse."—[Booklist](#)

"While not razor-edged like her previous work, Hopkins' portrait of four 12th-graders who are expected to be perfect will nonetheless keep teens up all night reading."—[Kirkus](#)

"Hopkins is painfully adept at channeling perfectionist psychology — not only its incumbent fears and secrets, but the use of substances and behaviors to numb the pain of a false existence. It's an ambitious idea, powerfully executed." —[Los Angeles Times](#)

## **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

---

- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- ILA Young Adults' Choices
- ALA Rainbow List Selection
- Joan F. Kaywell Book Award - Honoree (FL)
- ALA/YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults - Nominee

**Updated 7.23.24**

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Contact: [Education.library@simonandschuster.com](mailto:Education.library@simonandschuster.com)

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

---

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Perfect Book Trailer](#)
- [Ellen Hopkins Author Interview](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

---

[KIDS' RIGHT TO READ PROTESTS EFFORTS TO CENSOR YA AUTHOR ELLEN HOPKINS](#)

[NCAC DEMANDS RETURN OF 13 BOOKS BY ELLEN HOPKINS TO HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES](#)

[NCAC PROTESTS CANCELLATION OF ELLEN HOPKINS APPEARANCE AT TEEN LIT FEST IN TEXAS](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

---

“Censorship comes from a place of fear. We fear that which is different, what we cannot comprehend. Books gift us with understanding, empower us with knowledge. So, obviously, would-be censors have it all wrong.” —Ellen Hopkins

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

---

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

Updated 7.23.24

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Contact: [Education.library@simonandschuster.com](mailto:Education.library@simonandschuster.com)