



***Pearl* by Jo Knowles**

Henry Holt & Co. BYR, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2011

ISBN: 9780805092073 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 12-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

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**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Bean (née Pearl) and Henry, misfits and best friends, have the strangest mothers in town. Henry's mom Sally never leaves the house. Bean's mom Lexie, if she is home, is likely nursing a hangover or venting to her friend Claire about Bean's beloved grandfather Gus, the third member of their sunny household.

Gus's death unleashes a host of family secrets that brings them all together. And they threaten to change everything—including Bean's relationship with Henry, her first friend, and who also might turn out to be her first love.

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**REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

"Knowles has perfectly told an intriguing story of dysfunctional characters who cannot, will not, or are unable to communicate because of fear...fear of learning the truth, fear of hurting others, fear of losing love." —VOYA

"...the story [...] funnels family oddities, secrets, and personal melodrama into eventual respect for family differences." —*School Library Journal*

"A touching family melodrama about the corrosive nature of secrets and the cleansing power of honesty." —[Kirkus](#)

The book's forthright, first-person narrative and believable dialogue will draw readers into her story, from the wretchedly botched funeral to the head-spinning glimpses into her mother's teen years to the heartache and fear that her family's history may have tainted Henry and clouded their future. —[Booklist](#)

Bean's grief at learning the unfortunate situation surrounding her birth and its ramifications is deftly rendered, offering up a raw, unmitigated picture of a little girl lost...the hopefulness of Henry and Bean's relationship is a welcome bit of optimism in this evocative tale that is sure to linger with readers." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

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**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- ALA Best Books for Young Adults

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### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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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.

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