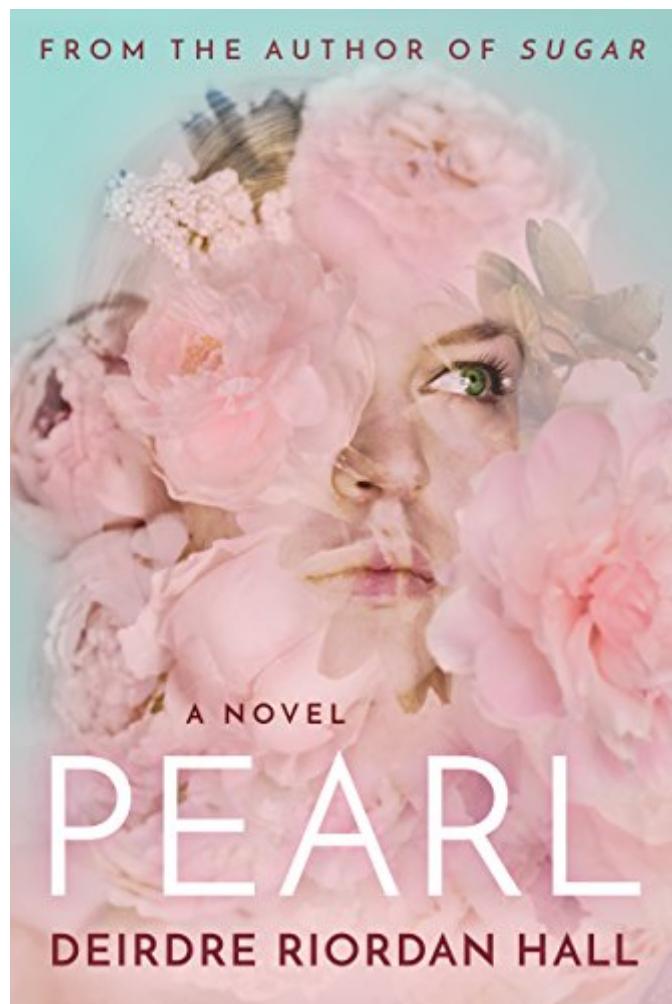


The book was found

Pearl



Synopsis

Run fast and run far, unless you're fearless. Unless you're courageous. I'm not, but I'd like to be. Pearl Jaeger is seventeen and homeless after drugs, poverty, and addiction unraveled the life she shared with JJ, her formerly glamorous rock star mother. This moment of happiness is fleeting; someone will take it from me. When tragedy brings a chance to start over at an elite boarding school, she doesn't hesitate. Yet the only salvation comes from an art teacher as troubled as Pearl, and she faces the stark reality that what she thought she wanted isn't straightforward. I trace the outline of my reflection in a window. I am no more than a replica of my mother. This is not the self-portrait I want to paint. Through the friendships she forms at school—especially with Grant, a boy who shows Pearl what it means to trust and forgive—she begins to see a path not defined by her past. But when confronted with the decision to be courageous or to take the easy way forged by her mother's failures, which direction will Pearl choose?

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Customer Reviews

Pearl was a random precious find; one that caught my eye because of the cover. Of course, after reading the synopsis I knew it was a Me book; shocking given the fact I don't read much young adult coming of age but I'm beyond happy that I was able to listen to it. There is so much to love about Pearl and I'm quite shocked it hasn't gotten a lot of buzz. Writing Deirdre's writing is metaphorical, lyrical and just straight up beautiful. I would listen to/read her writing all day long. She flawlessly wrote a realistic situation and didn't hold back when it came to pain, or the terrible decisions her characters, especially Pearl, made. I love it when an author doesn't hold back and shows us that not everything is what it seems and challenges us. There was so much emotion packed into the writing, you could feel it. I cried, I laughed, and then I cried some more. Characters Each character is flawed in Pearl. Pearl obviously, packing the most emotional luggage of the bunch. Growing up with her addicted mom on the streets, she's lonely, sad and understandably, goes through spurts of anger and hate. She has a problem DEALING with things, and watching her spiral out of control wasn't easy. Especially given the circumstances. She has so much growth throughout the book and I love the person that she becomes in the end. Addiction It's a real, honest portrayal of addiction. Not only in the downward spiral of those with an addiction but how it affects everyone from everyday life. Past, present and future. How it molds an individual and shapes your life. And how painful and devastating it is for all parties involved.

Pearl is a tale of overcoming, self discovery, and learning to cope when life is too much. The story starts out strong. It's a compelling, gritty, no holds barred look into a toxic family situation rife with drugs, abuse, and hopelessness. The story is real. It's a situation that happens everyday, but so many ignore, look away, and certainly don't talk about it. The portrayal of addiction and the secondary consequences of drug use like abuse, bullying, danger, homelessness, etc., are on full display and told with an honesty that transcends the fact that the story is fiction. It's almost like a diary of a lost, terrified girl whose whole world is lived in her mother's shadow. As the story progresses into Pearl's stay at the private school and summer school, the story kind of slows and flits in and out of focus. There's a drug-filled haze and depression coupled with romance and attempts to find herself. Regardless, it loses a bit of that dark, honest magic of the first section. Pearl is tainted by her mother. She loves her, she can't help it. No matter how much her mother lashes out at her, messes up, and puts them in dire situations, Pearl remembers the moments when she knew her mother cared for her equally as much as the hateful comments. Pearl

is not her mother, but everyone sees her as a messed up teen who is destined to get into trouble just like her mother. Everyone expects her to fail, there's no faith and because she doesn't have that direct or even indirect support, every single day is a struggle to stay focused and on the straight and narrow. Pearl is lost. She's never had a role model really and doesn't know how to be confident or even okay with herself.

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