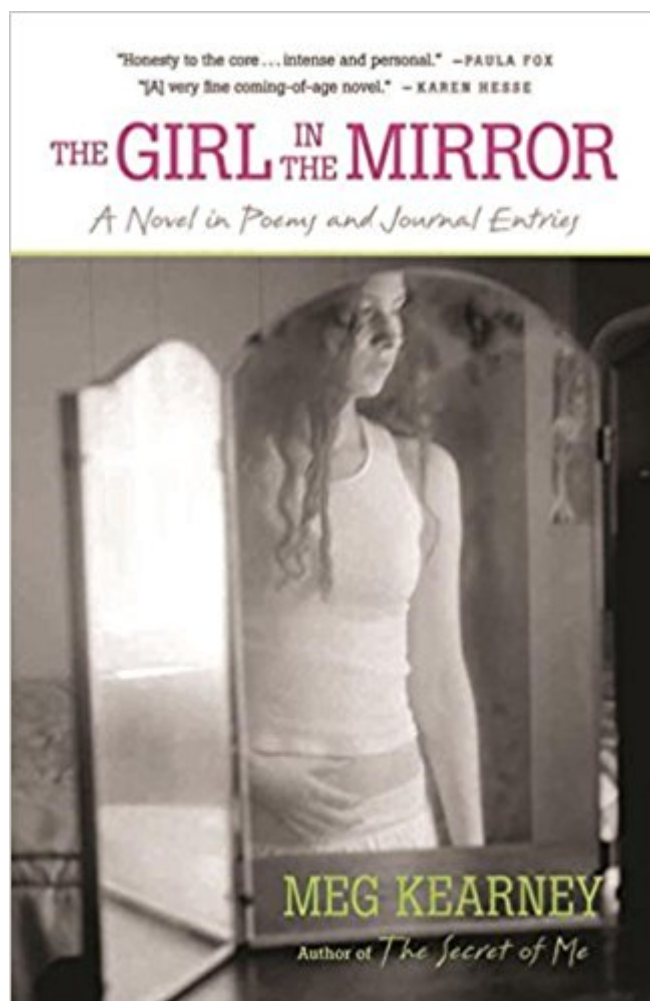


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The Girl In The Mirror: A Novel (Karen And Michael Braziller Books)



Synopsis

An adopted teen's search for her birth mother is overshadowed by a wrenching loss, dramatically told through her poems and journals. Lizzie McLane, the adopted poet-heroine of the widely acclaimed *The Secret of Me*, is now a high school senior, excited about her future: meeting boys, college, and finally finding her birthmother. Then, on the day a letter from her adoption agency arrives, her adoptive father unexpectedly dies. Lizzie, lost in grief, turns to alcohol and the wrong kind of friends, and her life begins to spiral out of control. Loved ones try to help, but only in her poems and journals can Lizzie make sense of the hurt and her relentless curiosity about her birthmother.

“I looked in the mirror . . . Who was that girl staring at me, blood on her blouse, black under her swollen eyes? I don't know you, I said out loud. I don't know you, she said back.”

The Girl in the Mirror is a story about love and identity—brave, vulnerable, and compelling.

Book Information

Series: Karen and Michael Braziller Books

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Customer Reviews

At the heart of this YA novel is high-school-senior Lizzie's search for her birth mother or, rather, the adopted teen's conflicts about whether she really wants to search. Why did her birth mother give her away? Told in journal entries and many poetic forms—from villanelles and blues poems to free verse (all explained in detailed notes at the back)—this

may be best for writers's groups. Those who have not read the first book about Lizzie, *The Secret of Me* (2007), may sometimes find it hard to keep track of the huge cast of all her friends, family, boyfriends, and workmates. What will grab readers is Lizzie's personal voice, the universal drama of coming-of-age, her grief at the death of her beloved father, and, especially, the tense confusion of her search. A powerful what-if poem captures her dread about meeting her birth mother: "What if she doesn't like me? . . . What if she's married and I'm her Big Secret?" • Grades 7-12. --Hazel Rochman

"[An] introspective novel in verse about grief and biological origins....Kearney tenderly explores Lizzie's anger, sadness, and ambivalence about her identity as she grapples with whether to risk being hurt by the mother she never knew or to approach the future without first claiming her past." • Publishers Weekly "Meg Kearney fully engages the reader in this very fine coming-of-age novel." • Karen Hesse "Deeply felt poems." |Fans of Helen Frost will admire the attention to both poetics and story." • Kirkus Reviews "I love this book. It has honesty to the core; it is wonderfully written--poetry and commentary, both intense and personal." • Paula Fox "This book is a generous gift." • Naomi Shihab Nye "[A] gem of a book." |eminently teachable." |Unique." |in its character portrayal of a real young adult with real emotions, and in its engaging openness..." • David Cappella

Beautiful

Meg Kearney's sequel to *THE SECRET OF ME* was just beautiful and heartbreaking. Lizzie still bears the burden of her search for her birth mother, but now her father has died. Kearney does such a wonderful job writing the aftermath of grief. Having lost my own father (albeit at an older age), I really connected with Lizzie's emotions. As with the first novel, Kearney's verse is lovely and I loved the poetic forms, as well as the guide at the end with examples from the novel.

Meg Kearney's book, *The Girl in The Mirror*, continues the story from the first book in the series, *The Secret of Me*, of Lizzie MacLane, now 17, who lives with a wonderful adoptive family but who wants to find her birth mother. In the second book of the series, Lizzie grapples with a death in her adoptive family and with full-swing adolescence: boys, alcohol, friendships, and finding her authentic self. It's a great story for the YA audience, but it's also a wonderful read for adults. Kearney writes

this book in formal and free form verse, along with lyrical journal entries. The brilliance of Kearney is in how her writer's mind works - she creates first a story that is a compelling page-turner, and second, a series of poems and journal entries that are breathtaking, edgy, deep, unique and yet accessible. Kearney presents us with beautiful and engaging writing. You can read *The Girl in the Mirror* without having first read *The Secret of Me*. Chances are you'll want to read *The Secret of Me*, anyway, because you'll just want more. Buy this terrific book. There's nothing like it, no matter what your age.

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