

dear child analysis

Dear Child Analysis: Unpacking the Dynamics of Favoritism in Families

Introduction:

Have you ever felt like the "golden child" or the "scapegoat" in your family? The concept of "dear child" - the favored child - often lies at the heart of complex family dynamics, impacting self-esteem, relationships, and overall well-being. This comprehensive analysis delves into the multifaceted nature of "dear child" dynamics, exploring its causes, consequences, and potential paths to healing. We'll examine the psychological impact on both the favored and less-favored children, offer practical strategies for understanding and addressing these imbalances, and ultimately empower you to navigate these intricate family relationships with greater clarity and self-awareness. This post offers a detailed exploration of the "dear child" phenomenon, providing insights, tools, and resources to help you understand and address its impact on your life and relationships.

Understanding the "Dear Child" Phenomenon: Beyond Simple Favoritism

The term "dear child" doesn't simply refer to a parent showing preference for one child over another. While that is often a component, it encompasses a much broader and more nuanced dynamic. It involves a complex interplay of parental behaviors, unconscious biases, sibling rivalry, and the children's individual personalities and reactions. This "dear child" designation isn't usually consciously malicious; it's often rooted in unconscious processes, parental projections, and even unintentional reinforcement of certain behaviors.

The Roots of Parental Preference: Why Do Some Children Become "Dear Children"?

Several factors contribute to the development of a "dear child" dynamic within families. These include:

Parental Personality and Unmet Needs: Parents may unconsciously project their unmet needs and desires onto a child who mirrors their own personality or aspirations. This child then becomes the recipient of disproportionate attention and affection.

Child's Temperament and Behavior: Children with compliant, agreeable personalities may inadvertently become the "dear child" simply because their behavior aligns more closely with parental expectations. Conversely, rebellious or challenging children might be overlooked or even actively rejected.

Birth Order: While not a definitive factor, birth order can play a role. Firstborn children sometimes receive more attention initially, while later-born children might struggle to gain

the same level of parental focus.

Gender Roles and Expectations: Societal expectations and gender stereotypes can unconsciously influence parental behavior. A parent might favor a child who conforms to traditional gender roles, consciously or unconsciously.

Parental Trauma and Unresolved Issues: Unresolved childhood trauma or personal issues within the parents can significantly impact their parenting styles and contribute to favoritism.

The Impact on the "Dear Child": A Double-Edged Sword

Being the "dear child" is often perceived as a positive experience. However, this perceived advantage can have long-term consequences:

Entitlement and Lack of Empathy: Constant positive reinforcement can foster a sense of entitlement and a lack of empathy for others. The "dear child" may struggle to understand the perspectives of those who haven't received the same level of attention and support.

Difficulty with Criticism: Because of the consistent positive feedback, the "dear child" might struggle to handle criticism constructively, leading to defensiveness and avoidance.

Pressure to Maintain Perfection: The constant pressure to live up to parental expectations can lead to significant anxiety and stress. The "dear child" might feel the burden of always needing to perform perfectly.

Fear of Losing Favor: The fear of losing parental love and approval can be a constant underlying anxiety, driving the "dear child" to maintain the façade of perfection.

The Impact on the "Less-Favored" Children: The Silent Struggle

The consequences for children who are not designated as the "dear child" can be equally profound, even if they are less obvious:

Low Self-Esteem and Insecurity: Feeling overlooked or undervalued can lead to low self-esteem and feelings of insecurity. These children might struggle to believe in their own worth and capabilities.

Resentment and Anger: Unresolved feelings of resentment and anger towards the favored sibling and parents are common. This can manifest in various ways, from passive aggression to open conflict.

Difficulty Forming Healthy Relationships: The lack of secure attachment with parents can lead to difficulties forming healthy relationships in adulthood. These individuals might struggle with trust and intimacy.

Acting Out Behaviors: As a way to gain attention, children who feel neglected might engage in acting-out behaviors, such as defiance, aggression, or withdrawal.

Healing from "Dear Child" Dynamics: A Path Towards Resolution

Understanding the root causes of the "dear child" dynamic is the first step towards healing. Addressing these imbalances requires self-awareness, communication, and

potentially professional help.

Steps to Healing for the "Dear Child":

Self-Reflection: Examine your own behaviors and patterns. Are you overly dependent on external validation? Do you struggle with criticism?

Setting Boundaries: Learning to set healthy boundaries with parents and siblings is crucial. This involves asserting your own needs and respecting the needs of others.

Therapy: Therapy can provide a safe space to process emotions, develop healthy coping mechanisms, and build stronger self-esteem.

Steps to Healing for the "Less-Favored" Child:

Acknowledge Your Feelings: Allow yourself to feel the resentment, anger, and sadness. Suppressing these emotions will only prolong the healing process.

Forgiveness (Optional): Forgiveness, while not always easy or necessary, can be a powerful tool for letting go of resentment and moving forward. It's important to remember that forgiveness is for you, not for the other person.

Building Self-Esteem: Focus on building your own self-worth and self-esteem, independent of parental approval. Identify your strengths and celebrate your accomplishments.

Therapy: A therapist can help you process your emotions, develop healthy coping mechanisms, and build stronger relationships.

Navigating Family Relationships: Building Bridges and Fostering Understanding

Healing from the impact of a "dear child" dynamic requires open communication, empathy, and a willingness to understand each other's perspectives. Family therapy can be a valuable tool for facilitating these conversations and fostering healthier relationships.

Book Outline: "Understanding Family Dynamics: The Dear Child Phenomenon"

Introduction: Defining the "Dear Child" concept and its implications.

Chapter 1: The Roots of Parental Preference: Exploring the underlying causes of favoritism.

Chapter 2: The Impact on the "Dear Child": Examining the psychological and emotional consequences.

Chapter 3: The Impact on the "Less-Favored" Children: Addressing the often-overlooked struggles.

Chapter 4: Healing from "Dear Child" Dynamics: Strategies for self-reflection, communication, and boundary-setting.

Chapter 5: Family Therapy and its Role in Resolution: Exploring the benefits of professional intervention.

Conclusion: Moving forward and fostering healthier family relationships.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would follow here, expanding on the points already made in the article. This would add significantly to the word count, but for brevity, it's omitted from this example.)

FAQs

1. Is it always harmful to be the "dear child"? Not necessarily. However, there can be long-term challenges related to entitlement, difficulty with criticism, and anxiety related to maintaining parental approval.
1. Can a "dear child" dynamic be resolved in adulthood? Yes, with self-awareness, communication, and potentially professional help.
1. How can I address resentment towards my favored sibling? Therapy can help you process these feelings, and open communication (if appropriate) can foster understanding.
1. My parents deny favoritism - should I believe them? Parental denial is common. Focus on your own feelings and experiences rather than trying to convince your parents.
1. What if my parents are unwilling to participate in family therapy? You can still benefit from individual therapy to address your own feelings and develop coping mechanisms.
1. Is it normal to feel anger towards my parents? Yes, it's a normal and valid emotion to feel anger towards parents who have created an unbalanced family dynamic.

1. Can birth order definitively determine who becomes the "dear child"? No, birth order is one factor among many that contribute to the dynamic.
1. How can I set boundaries with my parents? Start small, and communicate your needs clearly and assertively. Be prepared for resistance, and be consistent in your boundaries.
1. Are there support groups for people affected by "dear child" dynamics? While not specifically named "dear child" groups, support groups focusing on family issues or childhood trauma can be beneficial.

Related Articles:

1. Sibling Rivalry and its Impact on Family Dynamics: Explores the common conflicts between siblings and strategies for conflict resolution.
1. The Effects of Parental Favoritism on Adult Relationships: Examines how childhood favoritism impacts romantic and platonic relationships in adulthood.
1. Understanding Parental Projections and Their Impact on Children: Discusses how parents' own unresolved issues can impact their parenting styles.
1. Building Self-Esteem After Childhood Trauma: Offers strategies for building self-worth and resilience after experiencing difficult childhood experiences.
1. The Role of Attachment Theory in Family Relationships: Explains how early attachment experiences shape relationships throughout life.
1. Navigating Family Conflict: Effective Communication Strategies: Provides tools for

communicating effectively in challenging family situations.

1. Forgiveness and Letting Go of Resentment: Explores the process of forgiveness and its benefits for emotional well-being.

1. Identifying and Addressing Unhealthy Family Dynamics: Provides guidance on identifying and addressing dysfunctional family patterns.

1. The Importance of Setting Healthy Boundaries in Relationships: Discusses the importance of setting healthy boundaries in all types of relationships.

dear child analysis: Dear Child Romy Hausmann, 2020-05-14 You escaped. But he will never let you go. Now a major Netflix series A windowless shack in the woods. Lena's life and that of her two children follows the rules set by their captor, the father: meals, bathroom visits, study time are strictly scheduled and meticulously observed. He protects his family from the dangers lurking in the outside world and makes sure that his children will always have a mother to look after them. One day Lena manages to flee - but the nightmare continues. It seems as if her tormentor wants to get back what belongs to him. And then there is the question whether she really is the woman called 'Lena', who disappeared without a trace over thirteen years ago. The police and Lena's family are all desperately trying to piece together a puzzle that doesn't quite seem to fit. 'Chilling, original and mesmerising. Hausmann is a force to be reckoned with' DAVID BALDACCI 'Couldn't put this book down, loved every minute' 5* READER REVIEW 'A peerless exercise in suspense' FINANCIAL TIMES 'So many twists and turns, you can barely catch your breath!' 5* READER REVIEW 'Will haunt you long after the last page' ALICE FEENEY 'A nail-biting page turner' 5* READER REVIEW 'Keeps you guessing' SUNDAY EXPRESS 'Addictive' 5* READER REVIEW 'Intelligent and original' SUNDAY INDEPENDENT 'Loved everything about this book' 5* READER REVIEW 'Claustrophobic, terrifying and fiercely compelling' DAILY MAIL 'If you loved Room you will love this' 5* READER REVIEW 'Disturbingly good' LESLEY KARA 'Gripping, astounding, heart-pounding' 5* READER REVIEW 'Gripping, suspenseful and beautifully written' JO SPAIN

dear child analysis: **Dear Child** Romy Hausmann, 2020-10-06 "[A] tantalizingly disturbing debut...As enthralling as it is thought-provoking." -New York Times Book Review Bustle Best Books of Fall 2020 Publishers Weekly Top 10 Mysteries & Thrillers of Fall 2020 She Reads Most Anticipated Books of Fall 2020 A woman held captive finally escapes—but can she ever really get away? Gone Girl meets Room in this page-turning, #1 internationally bestselling thriller from one of Germany's hottest new talents A windowless shack in the woods. A dash to safety. But when a woman finally escapes her captor, the end of the story is only the beginning of her nightmare. She says her name is Lena. Lena, who disappeared without a trace 14 years prior. She fits the profile. She has the distinctive scar. But her family swears that she isn't their Lena. The little girl who escaped the woods with her knows things she isn't sharing, and Lena's devastated father is trying to

piece together details that don't quite fit. Lena is desperate to begin again, but something tells her that her tormentor still wants to get back what belongs to him...and that she may not be able to truly escape until the whole truth about what happened in the woods finally emerges. Twisty, suspenseful, and psychologically clever, Romy Hausmann's *Dear Child* is a captivating thriller with all the ingredients of a breakout hit. "Chilling, original and mesmerizing." —David Baldacci

dear child analysis: *Dear Life* Alice Munro, 2012-11-13 WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE© IN LITERATURE 2013 A New York Times Notable Book A Washington Post Notable Work of Fiction A Best Book of the Year: The Atlantic, NPR, San Francisco Chronicle, Vogue, AV Club In story after story in this brilliant new collection, Alice Munro pinpoints the moment a person is forever altered by a chance encounter, an action not taken, or a simple twist of fate. Her characters are flawed and fully human: a soldier returning from war and avoiding his fiancée, a wealthy woman deciding whether to confront a blackmailer, an adulterous mother and her neglected children, a guilt-ridden father, a young teacher jilted by her employer. Illumined by Munro's unflinching insight, these lives draw us in with their quiet depth and surprise us with unexpected turns. And while most are set in her signature territory around Lake Huron, some strike even closer to home: an astonishing suite of four autobiographical tales offers an unprecedented glimpse into Munro's own childhood. Exalted by her clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, *Dear Life* shows how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be.

dear child analysis: *The Man Who Loved Children* Christina Stead, 2012-10-23 "This crazy, gorgeous family novel" written at the end of the Great Depression "is one of the great literary achievements of the twentieth century" (Jonathan Franzen, *The New York Times*). First published in 1940, *The Man Who Loved Children* was rediscovered in 1965 thanks to the poet Randall Jarrell's eloquent introduction (included in this ebook edition), which compares Christina Stead to Leo Tolstoy. Today, it stands as a masterpiece of dysfunctional family life. In a country crippled by the Great Depression, Sam and Henny Pollit have too much—too much contempt for one another, too many children, too much strain under endless obligation. Flush with ego and chilling charisma, Sam torments and manipulates his children in an esoteric world of his own imagining. Henny looks on desperately, all too aware of the madness at the root of her husband's behavior. And Louie, the damaged, precocious adolescent girl at the center of their clashes, is the "ugly duckling" whose struggle will transfix contemporary readers. Named one of the best novels of the twentieth century by *Newsweek*, Stead's semiautobiographical work reads like a Depression-era *The Glass Castle*. In the *New York Times*, Jonathan Franzen wrote of this classic, "I carry it in my head the way I carry childhood memories; the scenes are of such precise horror and comedy that I feel I didn't read the book so much as live it."

dear child analysis: *A Child's Garden of Verses* Robert Louis Stevenson, 1916 A collection of poems evoking the world and feelings of childhood.

dear child analysis: *The Underneath* Kathi Appelt, 2012-07-24 There is nothing lonelier than a cat who has been loved, at least for a while, and then abandoned on the side of the road. A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath. Kittens, however, are notoriously curious creatures. And one kitten's one moment of curiosity sets off a chain of events that is astonishing, remarkable, and enormous in its meaning. For everyone who loves *Sounder*, *Shiloh*, and *The Yearling*, for everyone who loves the haunting beauty of writers such as Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Flannery O'Connor, and Carson McCullers, Kathi Appelt spins a harrowing yet keenly sweet tale about the power of love—and its opposite, hate—the fragility of happiness and the importance of making good on your promises.

dear child analysis: *The Rabbit Listened* Cori Doerrfeld, 2018-02-20 A moving and universal

picture book about empathy and kindness, sure to soothe heartaches big and small—now a New York Times bestseller and a perfect gift for any special occasion When something sad happens, Taylor doesn't know where to turn. All the animals are sure they have the answer. The chicken wants to talk it out, but Taylor doesn't feel like chatting. The bear thinks Taylor should get angry, but that's not quite right either. One by one, the animals try to tell Taylor how to act, and one by one they fail to offer comfort. Then the rabbit arrives. All the rabbit does is listen . . . which is just what Taylor needs. With its spare, poignant text and irresistibly sweet illustration, *The Rabbit Listened* is about how to comfort and heal the people in your life, by taking the time to carefully, lovingly, gently listen.

dear child analysis: *The Drama of the Gifted Child* , 2008-12-15 This “rare and compelling” (New York Magazine) bestseller examines childhood trauma and the enduring effects it has on an individual's management of repressed anger and pain. Why are many of the most successful people plagued by feelings of emptiness and alienation? This wise and profound book has provided millions of readers with an answer--and has helped them to apply it to their own lives. Far too many of us had to learn as children to hide our own feelings, needs, and memories skillfully in order to meet our parents' expectations and win their love. Alice Miller writes, When I used the word 'gifted' in the title, I had in mind neither children who receive high grades in school nor children talented in a special way. I simply meant all of us who have survived an abusive childhood thanks to an ability to adapt even to unspeakable cruelty by becoming numb.... Without this 'gift' offered us by nature, we would not have survived. But merely surviving is not enough. *The Drama of the Gifted Child* helps us to reclaim our life by discovering our own crucial needs and our own truth.

dear child analysis: *A Tale Dark & Grimm* Adam Gidwitz, 2010-10-28 In this mischievous and utterly original debut, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches. Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive as Hansel and Gretel learn to take charge of their destinies and become the clever architects of their own happily ever after.

dear child analysis: *Sleepless* Romy Hausmann, 2021-10-19 Dark secrets past and present collide in *Sleepless*, a haunting novel of guilt and retribution from Romy Hausmann, the international bestselling author of *Dear Child*. It's been years since Nadja Kulka was convicted of a cruel crime. After being released from prison, she's wanted nothing more than to live a normal life: nice flat, steady job, even a few friends. But when one of those friends, Laura von Hoven--free-spirited beauty and wife of Nadja's boss--kills her lover and begs Nadja for her help, Nadja can't seem to refuse. The two women make for a remote house in the woods, the perfect place to bury a body. But their plan quickly falls apart and Nadja finds herself outplayed, a pawn in a bizarre game in which she is both the perfect victim and the perfect murderer...

dear child analysis: *Dear Miss Metropolitan* Carolyn Ferrell, 2021-07-06 A finalist for the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction A finalist for the 2022 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel Introducing an extraordinary and original writer whose first novel explores the intersections of grief and rage, personal strength and healing--and what we owe one another. Fern seeks refuge from her mother's pill-popping and boyfriends via Soul Train; Gwin finds salvation in the music of Prince much to her congregation's dismay and Jesenia, miles ahead of her classmates at her gifted and talented high school, is a brainy and precocious enigma. None of this matters to Boss Man, the monster who abducts them and holds them captive in a dilapidated house in Queens. On the night they are finally rescued, throngs line the block gawking and claiming ignorance. Among them is lifetime resident Miss Metropolitan, advice columnist for the local weekly, but how could anyone who fancies herself a “newspaperwoman” have missed a horror story unfolding right across the street? And why is it that only two of the three girls—now women—were found? The mystery haunts the two remaining “victim girls” who are subjected to the further trauma of becoming symbols as they continuously adapt to their present and their unrelenting past. Like Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*, Ferrell's *Dear Miss Metropolitan* gives voice to characters surviving unimaginable

tragedy. The story is inventively revealed before, during, and after the ordeal in this singular and urgent novel.

dear child analysis: Every Body Looking Candice Iloh, 2020-09-22 A Finalist for the National Book Award When Ada leaves home for her freshman year at a Historically Black College, it's the first time she's ever been so far from her family—and the first time that she's been able to make her own choices and to seek her place in this new world. As she stumbles deeper into the world of dance and explores her sexuality, she also begins to wrestle with her past—her mother's struggle with addiction, her Nigerian father's attempts to make a home for her. Ultimately, Ada discovers she needs to brush off the destiny others have chosen for her and claim full ownership of her body and her future. "Candice Iloh's beautifully crafted narrative about family, belonging, sexuality, and telling our deepest truths in order to be whole is at once immensely readable and ultimately healing."—Jacqueline Woodson, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* "An essential—and emotionally gripping and masterfully written and compulsively readable—addition to the coming-of-age canon."—Nic Stone, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Dear Martin* "This is a story about the sometimes toxic and heavy expectations set on the backs of first-generation children, the pressures woven into the family dynamic, culturally and socially. About childhood secrets with sharp teeth. And ultimately, about a liberation that taunts every young person." —Jason Reynolds, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Long Way Down*

dear child analysis: The Sense of an Ending Julian Barnes, 2011-10-05 BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A novel that follows a middle-aged man as he contends with a past he never much thought about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. A novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single sitting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

dear child analysis: Beyond the Bright Sea Lauren Wolk, 2017-05-02 - Winner of the 2018 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction - From the bestselling author of *Echo Mountain* and Newbery Honor-winner *Wolf Hollow*, *Beyond the Bright Sea* is an acclaimed best book of the year. An NPR Best Book of the Year • A Parents' Magazine Best Book of the Year • A Booklist Editors' Choice selection • A BookPage Best Book of the Year • A Horn Book Fanfare Selection • A Kirkus Best Book of the Year • A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year • A Charlotte Observer Best Book of the Year • A Southern Living Best Book of the Year • A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year "The sight of a campfire on a distant island...proves the catalyst for a series of discoveries and events—some poignant, some frightening—that Ms. Wolk unfolds with uncommon grace." -The Wall Street Journal □ "Crow is a determined and dynamic heroine." —Publishers Weekly □ "Beautiful, evocative." —Kirkus The moving story of an orphan, determined to know her own history, who discovers the true meaning of family. Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger. Vivid and heart-wrenching, Lauren Wolk's *Beyond the Bright Sea* is a gorgeously crafted and tensely paced tale that explores questions of identity, belonging, and the true meaning of family.

dear child analysis: The Daughter Jane Shemilt, 2015-03-03 In the tradition of Gillian Flynn, Tana French, and Ruth Rendell, this compelling and clever psychological thriller spins the harrowing tale of a mother's obsessive search for her missing daughter. Jenny is a successful family doctor, the

mother of three great teenagers, married to a celebrated neurosurgeon. But when her youngest child, fifteen-year-old Naomi, doesn't come home after her school play, Jenny's seemingly ideal life begins to crumble. The authorities launch a nationwide search with no success. Naomi has vanished, and her family is broken. As the months pass, the worst-case scenarios—kidnapping, murder—seem less plausible. The trail has gone cold. Yet for a desperate Jenny, the search has barely begun. More than a year after her daughter's disappearance, she's still digging for answers—and what she finds disturbs her. Everyone she's trusted, everyone she thought she knew, has been keeping secrets, especially Naomi. Piecing together the traces her daughter left behind, Jenny discovers a very different Naomi from the girl she thought she'd raised.

dear child analysis: Dear Mrs. Bird AJ Pearce, 2019-05-07 This charming, irresistible debut novel set in London during World War II about a young woman who longs to be a war correspondent and inadvertently becomes a secret advice columnist is “a jaunty, heartbreaking winner” (People)—for fans of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and Lilac Girls. Emmeline Lake and her best friend Bunty are doing their bit for the war effort and trying to stay cheerful, despite the German planes making their nightly raids. Emmy dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent, and when she spots a job advertisement in the newspaper she seizes her chance; but after a rather unfortunate misunderstanding, she finds herself typing letters for the formidable Henrietta Bird, renowned advice columnist of Woman's Friend magazine. Mrs. Bird is very clear: letters containing any Unpleasantness must go straight into the bin. But as Emmy reads the desperate pleas from women who many have Gone Too Far with the wrong man, or can't bear to let their children be evacuated, she begins to secretly write back to the readers who have poured out their troubles. “Fans of Jojo Moyes will enjoy AJ Pearce's debut, with its plucky female characters and fresh portrait of women's lives in wartime Britain” (Library Journal)—a love letter to the enduring power of friendship, the kindness of strangers, and the courage of ordinary people in extraordinary times. “Headlined by its winning lead character, who always keeps carrying on, Pearce's novel is a delight” (Publishers Weekly). Irrepressibly funny and enormously moving, Dear Mrs. Bird is “funny and poignant...about the strength of women and the importance of friendship” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis).

dear child analysis: *If He Had Been with Me* Laura Nowlin, 2013-04-02 If he had been with me everything would have been different... I wasn't with Finn on that August night. But I should've been. It was raining, of course. And he and Sylvie were arguing as he drove down the slick road. No one ever says what they were arguing about. Other people think it's not important. They do not know there is another story. The story that lurks between the facts. What they do not know—the cause of the argument—is crucial. So let me tell you...

dear child analysis: Sincerely, Your Autistic Child Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network, 2021-03-30 A diverse collection of autistic voices that highlights how parents can avoid common mistakes and misconceptions, and make their child feel truly accepted, valued, and celebrated for who they are. Most resources available for parents come from psychologists, educators, and doctors, offering parents a narrow and technical approach to autism. Sincerely, Your Autistic Child represents an authentic resource for parents written by autistic people themselves. From childhood and education to culture, gender identity, and sexuality, this anthology tackles the everyday joys and challenges of growing up while honestly addressing the emotional needs, sensitivity, and vibrancy of autistic kids, youth, and young adults. Contributors reflect on what they have learned while growing up on the autism spectrum and how parents can avoid common mistakes and overcome challenges while raising their child. Part memoir, part guide, and part love letter, Sincerely, Your Autistic Child is an indispensable collection that invites parents and allies into the unique and often unheard experiences of autistic children and teens.

dear child analysis: *The Abstinence* Ian McGuire, 2020-09-15 “This is Dickens in the present tense, Dickens for the twenty-first century.”—Roddy Doyle, The New York Times Book Review An Irishman in nineteenth-century England is forced to take sides when his nephew joins the bloody underground movement for independence in this propulsive novel from the acclaimed author of The

North Water. NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times • The New York Public Library • New Statesman • Publishers Weekly Manchester, England, 1867. The rebels will be hanged at dawn, and their brotherhood is already plotting its revenge. Stephen Doyle, an Irish-American veteran of the Civil War, arrives in Manchester from New York with a thirst for blood. He has joined the Fenians, a secret society intent on ending British rule in Ireland by any means necessary. Head Constable James O'Connor has fled grief and drink in Dublin for a sober start in Manchester. His job is to discover and thwart the Fenians' plans whatever they might be. When a long-lost nephew arrives on O'Connor's doorstep looking for work, he cannot foresee the way his fragile new life will be imperiled—and how his and Doyle's fates will become fatally intertwined. In this propulsive tale of the underground war for Irish independence, the author of *The North Water* once again transports readers to a time when blood begot blood. Moving from the dirt and uproar of industrial Manchester to the quiet hills of rural Pennsylvania, *The Abstinence* is a searing novel in which two men, haunted by their pasts and driven forward by the need for justice and retribution, must fight for life and legacy.

dear child analysis: *Dear Boy* Paris Rosenthal, Jason B. Rosenthal, 2020-04-14 Celebrate the good guys in your life with *Dear Boy*, a #1 New York Times bestseller. A gift to share for Father's Day, graduation, birthdays, or any day you want to honor your dear boy. The heartwarming and inspirational *Dear Boy*, is the follow-up to Amy Krouse Rosenthal's beloved *Dear Girl*. Amy's daughter, Paris, and husband, Jason, the author of *My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me: A Memoir*, teamed up to create this love letter. With the same tenderness as *Dear Girl*, Paris and Jason's charming text and Holly Hatam's stunning illustrations will make any boy reading this book feel that he's amazing just the way he is—whether he's offering a helping hand, singing in a choir, or reaching for the stars. ...be kind ...always trust magic ...and pursue your dreams.

dear child analysis: *Verity* Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller • USA Today Bestseller • Globe and Mail Bestseller • Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

dear child analysis: *Angel of Greenwood* Randi Pink, 2021-01-12 A piercing, unforgettable love story set in Greenwood, Oklahoma, also known as the "Black Wall Street," and against the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. Isaiah Wilson is, on the surface, a town troublemaker, but is hiding that he is an avid reader and secret poet, never leaving home without his journal. Angel Hill is a loner, mostly disregarded by her peers as a goody-goody. Her father is dying, and her family's financial situation is in turmoil. Though they've attended the same schools, Isaiah never noticed Angel as anything but a dorky, Bible toting church girl. Then their English teacher offers them a job on her mobile library, a three-wheel, two-seater bike. Angel can't turn down the money and Isaiah is soon eager to be in such close quarters with Angel every afternoon. But life changes on May 31, 1921 when a vicious white mob storms the Black community of Greenwood, leaving the town destroyed and thousands of residents displaced. Only then, Isaiah, Angel, and their peers realize who their real enemies are.

dear child analysis: The Dearly Beloved Cara Wall, 2019-08-13 "This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever." —Jenna Bush Hager (A Today show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection!) This "moving portrait of love and friendship set against a backdrop of social change" (The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice) traces two married couples whose lives become entangled when the husbands become copastors at a famed New York city congregation in the 1960s. Charles and Lily, James and Nan. They meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. Their personal differences however, threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to succeed his father as an esteemed professor of history at Harvard, until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. How then, can he fall in love with Lily—fiercely intellectual, elegantly stern—after she tells him with certainty that she will never believe in God? And yet, how can he not? James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his anxious mother. Nan grew up in Mississippi, the devout and beloved daughter of a minister and a debutante. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan and, despite his skepticism of hope in all its forms, her gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. In *The Dearly Beloved*, Cara wall reminds us of "the power of the novel in its simplest, richest form: bearing intimate witness to human beings grappling with their faith and falling in love," (Entertainment Weekly, A-) as we follow these two couples through decades of love and friendship, jealousy and understanding, forgiveness and commitment. Against the backdrop of turbulent changes facing the city and the church's congregation, Wall offers a poignant meditation on faith and reason, marriage and children, and the ways we find meaning in our lives. *The Dearly Beloved* is a gorgeous, wise, and provocative novel that is destined to become a classic.

dear child analysis: A Children's Bible: A Novel Lydia Millet, 2020-05-12 Finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Fiction One of the New York Times' Ten Best Books of the Year Named one of the best novels of the year by Time, Washington Post, NPR, Chicago Tribune, Esquire, BBC, and many others National Bestseller A blistering little classic. —Ron Charles, Washington Post *A Children's Bible* follows a group of twelve eerily mature children on a forced vacation with their families at a sprawling lakeside mansion. Contemptuous of their parents, the children decide to run away when a destructive storm descends on the summer estate, embarking on a dangerous foray into the apocalyptic chaos outside. Lydia Millet's prophetic and heartbreaking story of generational divide offers a haunting vision of what awaits us on the far side of Revelation.

dear child analysis: Lemons Melissa D. Savage, 2017 After her mother dies in 1975, ten-year-old Lemonade must live with her grandfather in a small town famous for Bigfoot sightings and soon becomes friends with Tobin, a quirky Bigfoot investigator.

dear child analysis: Dear Haiti, Love Alaine Maika Moulite, Maritza Moulite, 2019-09-03 "I couldn't put Dear Haiti, Love Alaine down!" —New York Times bestselling author Jasmine Guillory Co-written by sisters Maika and Maritza Moulite, this exceptional debut novel captures a sparkling new voice and irrepressible heroine in a story sure to thrill fans of Nicola Yoon and Ibi Zoboi! Alaine Beauparlant has heard about Haiti all her life... But the stories were always passed down from her dad—and her mom, when she wasn't too busy with her high-profile newscaster gig. But when Alaine's life goes a bit sideways, it's time to finally visit Haiti herself. What she learns about Haiti's proud history as the world's first black republic (with its even prouder people) is one thing, but what she learns about her own family is another. Suddenly, the secrets Alaine's mom has been keeping, including a family curse that has spanned generations, can no longer be avoided. It's a lot to handle, without even mentioning that Alaine is also working for her aunt's nonprofit, which sends underprivileged kids to school and boasts one annoyingly charming intern. But if anyone can do it all...it's Alaine. "Delightful." —Essence magazine Stunning." —Booklist (starred review) Also by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite: *One of the Good Ones*

dear child analysis: Last Witnesses Svetlana Alexievich, 2019-07-02 "A masterpiece" (The Guardian) from the Nobel Prize-winning writer, an oral history of children's experiences in World

War II across Russia NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST For more than three decades, Svetlana Alexievich has been the memory and conscience of the twentieth century. When the Swedish Academy awarded her the Nobel Prize, it cited her for inventing “a new kind of literary genre,” describing her work as “a history of emotions . . . a history of the soul.” Bringing together dozens of voices in her distinctive style, *Last Witnesses* is Alexievich’s collection of the memories of those who were children during World War II. They had sometimes been soldiers as well as witnesses, and their generation grew up with the trauma of the war deeply embedded—a trauma that would change the course of the Russian nation. Collectively, this symphony of children’s stories, filled with the everyday details of life in combat, reveals an altogether unprecedented view of the war. Alexievich gives voice to those whose memories have been lost in the official narratives, uncovering a powerful, hidden history from the personal and private experiences of individuals. Translated by the renowned Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, *Last Witnesses* is a powerful and poignant account of the central conflict of the twentieth century, a kaleidoscopic portrait of the human side of war. Praise for *Last Witnesses* “There is a special sort of clear-eyed humility to [Alexievich’s] reporting.”—*The Guardian* “A bracing reminder of the enduring power of the written word to testify to pain like no other medium. . . . Children survive, they grow up, and they do not forget. They are the first and last witnesses.”—*The New Republic* “A profound triumph.”—*The Big Issue* “[Alexievich] excavates and briefly gives prominence to demolished lives and eradicated communities. . . . It is impossible not to turn the page, impossible not to wonder whom we next might meet, impossible not to think differently about children caught in conflict.”—*The Washington Post*

dear child analysis: I've Been Meaning to Tell You David Chariandy, 2019-03-14 'There is, as you pick it up, nothing to prepare you for its power' OBSERVER 'Quite simply, one of the most beautiful books I have ever read' AMINATTA FORNA How do we navigate our complex histories for our children? What is our duty to share and what must we leave for them to discover? Writing to his daughter, David Chariandy asks difficult, unsettling, perhaps impossible questions - questions made all the more poignant by our current political landscape. With tender, spare and luminous prose, Chariandy looks both into his heart and mind and out to the world and humanity. In the tradition of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, this is a book about race; this is a book about family.

dear child analysis: The Good Daughter Karin Slaughter, 2017-08-08 Don't miss the next Will Trent thriller, *This Is Why We Lied*, coming this August! SOON TO BE A PEACOCK LIMITED SERIES STARRING JESSICA BIEL “The Good Daughter is like Law and Order meets The Good Wife.” —theSkimm The stunning new novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *Pieces of Her*—a searing, spellbinding blend of cold-case thriller and psychological suspense. Two girls are forced into the woods at gunpoint. One runs for her life. One is left behind... Twenty-eight years ago, Charlotte and Samantha Quinn's happy small-town family life was torn apart by a terrifying attack on their family home. It left their mother dead. It left their father — Pikeville's notorious defense attorney — devastated. And it left the family fractured beyond repair, consumed by secrets from that terrible night. Twenty-eight years later, and Charlie has followed in her father's footsteps to become a lawyer herself — the ideal good daughter. But when violence comes to Pikeville again — and a shocking tragedy leaves the whole town traumatized — Charlie is plunged into a nightmare. Not only is she the first witness on the scene, but it's a case that unleashes the terrible memories she's spent so long trying to suppress. Because the shocking truth about the crime that destroyed her family nearly thirty years ago won't stay buried forever... Packed with twists and turns, brimming with emotion and heart, *The Good Daughter* is fiction at its most thrilling.

dear child analysis: Concrete Rose Angie Thomas, 2021-01-12 International phenomenon Angie Thomas revisits Garden Heights seventeen years before the events of *The Hate U Give* in this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood. A Printz Honor Book! If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family. As the son of a former gang legend, Mav does that the only way he knows how: dealing for the King

Lords. With this money he can help his mom, who works two jobs while his dad's in prison. Life's not perfect, but with a fly girlfriend and a cousin who always has his back, Mav's got everything under control. Until, that is, Maverick finds out he's a father. Suddenly he has a baby, Seven, who depends on him for everything. But it's not so easy to sling dope, finish school, and raise a child. So when he's offered the chance to go straight, he takes it. In a world where he's expected to amount to nothing, maybe Mav can prove he's different. When King Lord blood runs through your veins, though, you can't just walk away. Loyalty, revenge, and responsibility threaten to tear Mav apart, especially after the brutal murder of a loved one. He'll have to figure out for himself what it really means to be a man.

dear child analysis: Dear Edward Ann Napolitano, 2021-02-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • READ WITH JENNA BOOK CLUB PICK AS FEATURED ON TODAY • “Make sure you have tissues handy when you read [this] sure-footed tearjerker” (NPR) about a young boy who must learn to go on after surviving tragedy, from the author of the Oprah’s Book Club pick *Hello Beautiful*. Now streaming as an Apple TV+ series starring Connie Britton, written and executive produced by Jason Katims (Friday Night Lights and Parenthood) ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post, Parade, LibraryReads What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live? One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured veteran returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. Edward’s story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a part of himself has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all of his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life’s most profound questions: When you’ve lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life? *Dear Edward* is at once a transcendent coming-of-age story, a multidimensional portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters, and a breathtaking illustration of all the ways a broken heart learns to love again. Praise for *Dear Edward* “*Dear Edward* is that rare book that breaks your heart and stitches it back together during a reading experience that leaves you profoundly altered for the better.”—Jodi Picoult, New York Times bestselling author of *Mad Honey* “Will lead you toward something wonderful, something profound.”—Kevin Wilson, New York Times bestselling author of *Now Is Not the Time to Panic*

dear child analysis: **Dear Mr. Henshaw** Beverly Cleary, 2009-10-06 Newbery Medal Winner * Teachers’ Top 100 Books for Children * ALA Notable Children’s Book Beverly Cleary’s timeless Newbery Medal-winning book explores difficult topics like divorce, insecurity, and bullying through the thoughts and emotions of a sixth-grade boy as he writes to his favorite author, Boyd Henshaw. After his parents separate, Leigh Botts moves to a new town with his mother. Struggling to make friends and deal with his anger toward his absent father, Leigh loses himself in a class assignment in which he must write to his favorite author. When Mr. Henshaw responds, the two form an unexpected friendship that will change Leigh’s life forever. From the beloved author of the *Henry Huggins*, *Ramona Quimby*, and *Ralph S. Mouse* series comes an epistolary novel about how to navigate and heal from life’s growing pains.

dear child analysis: **Julián Is a Mermaid** Jessica Love, 2019-06-18 In an exuberant picture book, a glimpse of costumed mermaids leaves one boy flooded with wonder and ready to dazzle the world. While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he’s seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián

sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.

dear child analysis: *Tiny Beautiful Things* Cheryl Strayed, 2012-07-10 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Soon to be a Hulu Original series • The internationally acclaimed author of *Wild* collects the best of The Rumpus's Dear Sugar advice columns plus never-before-published pieces. Rich with humor and insight—and absolute honesty—this wise and compassionate (New York Times Book Review) book is a balm for everything life throws our way. Life can be hard: your lover cheats on you; you lose a family member; you can't pay the bills—and it can be great: you've had the hottest sex of your life; you get that plum job; you muster the courage to write your novel. Sugar—the once-anonymous online columnist at The Rumpus, now revealed as Cheryl Strayed, author of the bestselling memoir *Wild*—is the person thousands turn to for advice.

dear child analysis: *All Your Perfects* Colleen Hoover, 2018-07-17 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *It Starts with Us* and *It Ends with Us*—whose writing is “emotionally wrenching and utterly original” (Sara Shepard, New York Times bestselling author of the *Pretty Little Liars* series)—delivers a tour de force novel about a troubled marriage and the one old forgotten promise that might be able to save it. Quinn and Graham's perfect love is threatened by their imperfect marriage. The memories, mistakes, and secrets that they have built up over the years are now tearing them apart. The one thing that could save them might also be the very thing that pushes their marriage beyond the point of repair. *All Your Perfects* is a profound novel about a damaged couple whose potential future hinges on promises made in the past. This is a heartbreaking page-turner that asks: Can a resounding love with a perfect beginning survive a lifetime between two imperfect people?

dear child analysis: *Dear Mili* Wilhelm K. Grimm, 1988-10 When a mother sends her little girl into the forest to escape a war, Saint Joseph cares for her.

dear child analysis: *Daddy Long-Legs* Jean Webster, 1912 Judy Abbott is a lively, endearing young girl growing up in an orphanage. Her dreams of college seem in vain until the unknown benefactor offers to pay for her tuition. The only requirements are that she must write to him every month, and that she can never know who he is.

dear child analysis: *Beautiful Disaster Signed Limited Edition* Jamie McGuire, 2012-11-27 Abby Abernathy is re-inventing herself as the good girl as she begins her freshman year at college, which is why she must resist lean, cut, and tattooed Travis Maddox, a classic bad boy.

dear child analysis: *Jefferson's Sons* Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2011-09-15 This story of Thomas Jefferson's children by one of his slaves, Sally Hemings, tells a darker piece of America's history from an often unseen perspective—that of three of Jefferson's slaves—including two of his own children. As each child grows up and tells his story, the contradiction between slavery and freedom becomes starker, calling into question the real meaning of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This poignant story sheds light on what life was like as one of Jefferson's invisible offspring.

dear child analysis: *Mister God, This Is Anna* Fynn, 2000-11-07 THE TOUCHING TRUE STORY THAT WON THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS OF READERS AROUND THE WORLD! Anna was only four years old when Fynn found her on London's fog-shrouded docks. He took her back to his mother's home, and from that first moment, their times together were filled with delight and discovery. Anna had an astonishing ability to ask—and to answer—life's largest questions. Her total openness and honesty amazed all who knew her. She seemed to understand with uncanny certainty the purpose of being, the essence of feeling, the beauty of love. You see, Anna had a very special friendship with Mister God. . . .

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