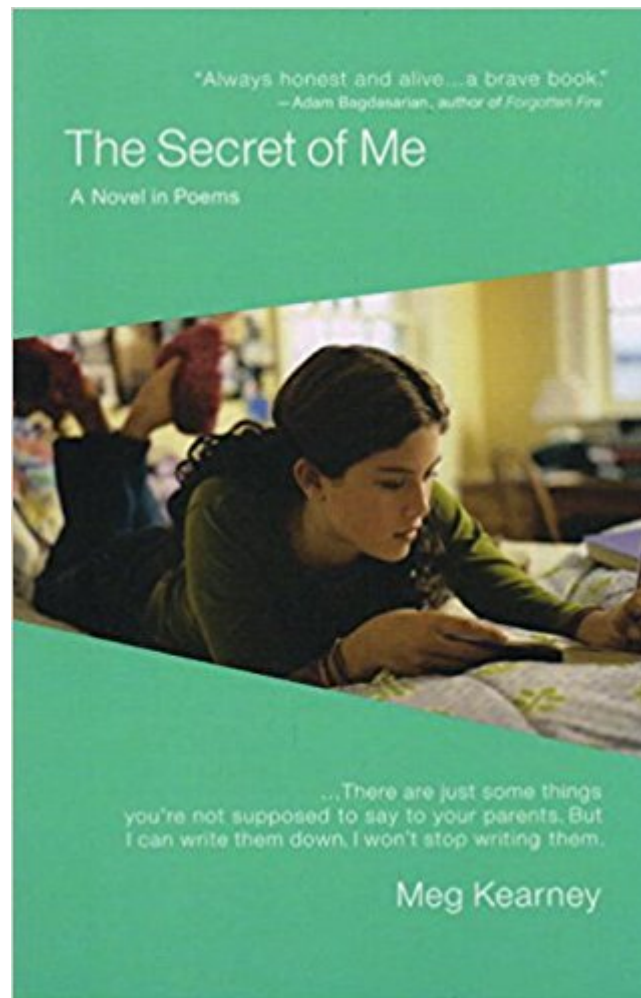




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# The Secret Of Me: A Novel In Verse



## Synopsis

The acclaimed story of an adopted teenager's quest to find her place among family, friends, and the wider world. Being adopted is a fact of life in the McLane household: fourteen-year old Lizzie, as well as her older brother and sister were adopted as infants. But facts are not feelings, and what it feels like to be adopted is something Lizzie never dares discuss with her loving parents, let alone with outsiders. Lizzie yearns to confide in others, especially her friend, Peter. Yet something stops her. Will Peter think she is less because her birthmother gave her away? Would telling be disloyal to her adoptive parents? To make sense of her life, Lizzie pours her emotions into her poetry--list poems, sonnets, free verse, sestinas, blues--about her family, best friends, basketball, the dance. Then a tragic accident occurs, and Lizzie knows she must find the courage to speak. In an afterword, the author discusses her own adoption and the beneficial powers of reading and writing poetry. Also included are a guide to the book's poetics and recommended books and links about adoption and poetry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up  
This novel in verse follows 14-year-old Lizzie through a year in which, despite her loving family, a circle of good friends, and a potential first boyfriend, she is plagued with a personal secret. She desperately wants to find out the story behind her adoption and her own identity, and while her parents and brother and sister (also adopted) are sympathetic, they discourage her from pursuing it. The lack of information leads her to worry obsessively and she frequently finds herself in her broken place where she wonders if being adopted makes her less of a

person and if she can ever share her secret with others. The poems are readable and heartfelt, based in part on the author's life. Kearney creates a believable voice for her protagonist, and this book will be welcomed by adults working with young adoptees. Though lacking the broader appeal of Kate Banks's *Dillon Dillon* (Farrar, 2002) and Hilary McKay's *Saffy's Angel* (S & S, 2002), it will find a receptive audience among teens who enjoy introspective coming-of-age dramas and thoughtful family stories. Kearney includes a good deal of supplemental material, including some thoughts on how families can discuss adoption among themselves, a guide to the poetic forms she has used (including pantoums, sestinas, and villanelles), six of Lizzie's favorite poems, and a list of recommended books on poetry and adoption.

—Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"An amazing story of loss, love, growing up, and forgiving. This book speaks to anyone who has ever asked the questions 'Who am I?' and 'Who will I become?'"

A great collection of poems, exploring the issues of adoption for a young teen

Meg Kearney does such a beautiful job in this verse novel about Lizzie's desire to know who her birth mother is and her guilt at the thought of hurting her parents, whom she loves so very much. I loved Lizzie's journey, the emotional rawness in her poems, and the family that's come out of love. I also really enjoyed the different poetic forms, along with the back matter that explained them and provided examples.

Marie Harris is a local NH author. She donated this book to our PTO so that we could use it at our Reading Under the Stars event. At the end of the event, we were able to donate all of the books from local authors to our town library, which is also the library utilized for the school. It was a wonderful teaching opportunity as the students were able to read books from people that are from our state and it helped them to realize their potential later in life. We greatly appreciate her generosity!

This book is a great start for those who enjoy poetry and wish to write their own verse novels. She explains the types of poetry and uses her poetry as examples. The story about her feelings about adoption is just fabulous, which makes you feel like you are in her shoes. An easy and enjoyable

read.

It seems pretty daring to attempt "a novel in verse" for young adults---how many of them read poetry?---but Meg Kearney brings so much passion, narrative skill, technical ability, and insider's insight to this wonderful little book that kids (and adults) will love it. There's a very engrossing story here, told in a novel way. Make that a poetic way. I have friends and relatives who were adopted, and I never felt such understanding and empathy for them as I did after reading this book. I hope "The Secret of Me" gets the attention it deserves.

I bought this book at the recommendation of a friend, and was initially concerned that the format (poetry) wouldn't hold me. Turns out it was so engaging and fluid that I couldn't put it down. Like the lead character, I'm adopted and this book really captured the essence of growing up with a "secret me". I laughed and cried, and bought extra copies for friends and family. It's a moving, beautifully written book. Cheers and thank you Meg Kearney!

The Secret of me is a good book that is based on a kid that is adopted. When you start to read this book you wont be able to put it down because its so good. But the best part about this book is the format becasue it is poetry. The Secret of me is a book that all of you should and see what is it like to be adopted.

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