

My Sister's Keeper



INTRODUCTION

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF JOJO PICCOLI

Piccoli was born on Long Island in 1976. She was interested in writing from a young age, having written her first story at age five. She studied creative writing at Princeton and published two short stories in *Sewanee* while still in college. She published her debut novel, *Jungle of the Humphreys* (Wiley, 1999). The novel, about a woman driving across the country to escape her abusive husband, was the first of many novels exploring ethical dilemmas and life situations. She gained a larger following after the publication of her 2007 novel *Winter Wreath*, a novel about a child shooting, when the novel reached number one on the New York Times bestseller list. In addition to her writing career, Piccoli is also an advocate for a variety of causes, such as anti-death penalty activism and initiatives to boost the voices of marginalized writers. Today, she lives in Haverhill, New Hampshire with her husband and her three children. She and her daughter Samantha have written two books together.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The early 2000s, much like today, went a time of heated debates about bodily autonomy and the ethical limits of individuals having complete control over their medical decisions. In particular, the turn of the 21st century saw increased anxiety around in vitro fertilization (IVF) and the theoretical possibility of parents being able to “design” their babies in order to remove “undesirable” traits. Much of this anxiety came from a wariness around eugenics, a 20th-century movement pioneered by America and later adopted by Nazi Germany that advocated for “cleansing” humanity of undesirable peoples. The fact that Sara and Brian consider Anna specifically to be a donor for Kate intentionally makes questions about how much of a right people have to artificially engineer their child or for their own ends.

RELATED LITERARY WORKS

Many of Piccoli's novels focus on families who find themselves entangled in difficult moral dilemmas. One Piccoli novel that shares many themes and plot elements with *My Sister's Keeper* is her 2009 novel *Handle With Care*. This novel focuses on a pair of parents who struggle with their daughter Willow's congenitally imperfect (or “little bone syndrome”), with the mother ultimately choosing to sue her OB/GYN for not informing her of the OB during her pregnancy and thus making it impossible for her to make an informed decision about

whether or not to terminate the pregnancy. Like *My Sister's Keeper*, *Handle With Care* grapples with difficult questions around parenthood and bodily autonomy, with these questions being debated within the walls of a courtroom. Outside of Piccoli's bibliography, John Green's 2012 novel *The Fault in Our Stars* is another contemporary literary work that has become famous for its unforgiving look at cancer. The novel's protagonist, Hazel Grace, suffers from metastasizing thyroid cancer and falls in love with a boy named Augustus who is in remission from osteosarcoma. The fate of their relationship, in which the seemingly healthier boy instead dies suddenly and leaves the older girl alone, mirrors the doomed relationship of Kate and Taylor in *My Sister's Keeper*. Piccoli herself praised *The Fault in Our Stars* for its adept combination of tragedy and humor.

KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** *My Sister's Keeper*
- **When Written:** Early 2000s
- **Where Written:** New Hampshire, United States
- **When Published:** April 6, 2004
- **Literary Period:** Contemporary
- **Genre:** Novel
- **Setting:** Upper Darby, Rhode Island, 2004
- **Climax:** Anna continues on the extreme end that she did not let her lawsuit for her own benefit, Kate addition to refuse to donate her kidney and, in doing so, let Kate die.
- **Antagonist:** Sara Fitzgerald
- **Point of View:** First Person (multiple narrators)

EXTRA CREDIT

A Controversial Adaptation. *My Sister's Keeper* was adapted into a film in 2009 and generated significant controversy due to major alterations it made to the novel's plot against Piccoli's wishes.

Book Ban. According to the American Library Association, *My Sister's Keeper* was number seven on the list of most commonly banned books in 2007. It has generated controversy due to its depiction of adolescent sexuality and dark themes. Piccoli herself has spoken out against the banning of her books.



PLOT SUMMARY

The protagonist of *My Sister's Keeper* is 13-year-old Andromeda “Anna” Fitzgerald, the youngest of three children. Her 16-year-

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A red circular graphic with a gradient, appearing as a partial circle or a stylized arrow pointing to the right, located to the right of the Cengage Learning Gale text.

My Sisters Keeper Study Guide:

A Study Guide for Jodi Picoult's "My Sister's Keeper" Cengage Learning Gale, 2017-07-25 A Study Guide for Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Literary Newsmakers for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary, character analysis, author biography, study questions, historical context, suggestions for further reading, and much more. For any literature project, trust *Literary Newsmakers for Students* for all of your research needs. [A Study Guide for Jodi Picoult's "My Sister's Keeper"](#) Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 A Study Guide for Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Literary Newsmakers for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary, character analysis, author biography, study questions, historical context, suggestions for further reading, and much more. For any literature project, trust *Literary Newsmakers for Students* for all of your research needs. [A Study Guide for Jodi Picoult's "My Sister's Keeper"](#) Cengage Learning Gale, 2016 **My Sisters Keeper** Sandra Hulse, 2016-08-10 Proverbs 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness. This 13-lesson companion study guide for a ladies class or small study group was written to go along with *My Sisters Keeper*. Kerry Duke, Editor. ISBN 0929540239 **A Study Guide for Kim Edwards's "The Memory Keeper's Daughter"** Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 **Test of Faith, Study Guide** Ruth Bancewicz, 2010-09 *Test of Faith* is an innovative new resource to help small groups explore the issues raised by science for both faith and ethics, encouraging open discussion of a range of views. It introduces a wide range of hot topics including: Are science and Christianity in conflict? Has the Big Bang pushed God out of the universe? What does creation mean? Is evolution compatible with religious faith? Is cloning ethical? Are humans no more than biological machines? This Study Guide is designed to accompany the *Test of Faith* course. Full session notes are provided in the *Leader's Guide*. Samples and DVD trailer at www.testofaith.com. Contributors: Editor, Dr. Ruth Bancewicz, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund's College, Cambridge; Editorial Assistant, James Crocker, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund's College, Cambridge. *Catalog of Copyright Entries. Third Series*. Library of Congress. Copyright Office, 1961. Includes Part 1, Number 1-2: Books and Pamphlets, Including Serials and Contributions to Periodicals, January-December. *Test of Faith, Leader's Guide* Ruth Bancewicz, 2010-09 *Test of FAITH* is an innovative new resource designed for use by small groups wishing to explore big issues raised by science for both faith and ethics. It introduces a wide range of hot topics including: Are science and Christianity in conflict? Has the Big Bang pushed God out of the universe? What does creation mean? Is evolution compatible with religious faith? Is cloning ethical? Are humans no more than biological machines? *Test of FAITH* is designed to enable non-specialists to join the discussion. It allows small groups to unpack these issues and discuss them at a level and pace that suits the group. It is flexible so that users can choose the topics that they want to cover and encourages open discussion of a range of views. This *Leader's Guide* accompanies the *Test of FAITH* DVD and provides all the content of the Study Guide plus suggested responses to questions, critical background information, and opportunities for taking these issues

further Samples and DVD trailer at www.testofaith.com **She Had to Die, so I Could Live** Brenda Baker, 2016-05-26 This is a Study Guide Are you having difficulty letting go of past hurts and not quite sure how to move forward Have you ever felt challenged when trying to see yourself in a positive way Are you carrying baggage from previous relationships Have you prayed over and over again asking God to change a situation but nothing has happened Do you need a more positive outlook on life In the book *She Had to Die So I Could Live* the author uses her own experiences to illustrate how God carries us through difficult times Brenda came to realize that in order for her to receive all God had for her there were parts of her which needed to die She would need to change how she saw herself both inside and out It wasn't an easy process but it was necessary Once she allowed God to peel back the layers things began to shift in her life As a result Brenda wrote *She Had to Die So I Could Live* to help encourage others When used as a supplement the Study Guide will give you exercises and activities to help you practice walking into the destiny God has for you The thought provoking questions will assist with getting to know yourself better letting go of negative thinking thus allowing you to see yourself as God sees you Once you do this then every other area of your life will begin to change as you come to understand who you are and what you deserve in life The Guide is great for both individuals and group study Enjoy your journey to happiness *Am I My Sister's Keeper?* Barbara Geer, 2012-10-08 This book of Bible studies can be a benefit if you study it by yourself however you will also be blessed if you study with a few friends and share thoughts and experiences as you study God's word Be sure to always include a time of prayer when you get together with your sisters In this way you are inviting Jesus into the group and building unity These studies are designed to help you grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus Christ using different areas such as confidence self esteem faith grace and friendship with your sisters in Christ My hope and prayer is that you use this book of studies to draw closer to the One who redeemed you to walk in victory And that you don't just know Him in your head but in your heart as well Living on planet Earth is all about preparation for heaven You will be blessed when you journey through this short earthly life with sisters

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