



Dr. Beare's Daughter: Growing Up Adopted, Adored, and Afraid

Janice Jones

Plot/Idea: Jones capably retells her life events, particularly those from her youth that shaped her adulthood. The narrative is clear and adheres to a logical progression, and readers will feel compelled to immerse themselves into Jones's experiences.

Prose: Jones is able to evoke sympathy in readers for herself as a young child who, adopted as an infant, always felt like she didn't measure up. Her isolation and insecurity are palpable, and she writes in candid, sometimes stark, prose that plunges readers into her world.

Originality: *Dr. Beare's Daughter* boasts uniquely idiosyncratic characters who come alive in Jones's skilled hands.

Character/Execution: Jones excels at characterization; her younger self in particular is sharply defined, making readers want to console and validate her in contrast to the adults in her life.