



Bird

By Crystal Chan

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Entrenched secrets, mysterious spirits, and an astonishing friendship weave together in this extraordinary and haunting debut that *School Library Journal* calls “a powerful story about loss and moving on.”

Nothing matters. Only Bird matters. And he flew away.

Jewel never knew her brother Bird, but all her life she has lived in his shadow. Her parents blame Grandpa for the tragedy of their family’s past: they say that Grandpa attracted a malevolent spirit—a duppy—into their home. Grandpa hasn’t spoken a word since. Now Jewel is twelve, and she lives in a house full of secrets and impenetrable silence.

Jewel is sure that no one will ever love her like they loved Bird, until the night that she meets a mysterious boy in a tree. Grandpa is convinced that the boy is a duppy, but Jewel knows that he is something more. And that maybe—just maybe—the time has come to break through the stagnant silence of the past.

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Bird By Crystal Chan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Jewel never met her brother. On the day she was born, he tried to fly off a cliff and died. Her parents believe that Grandpa's nickname for his grandson, Bird, caused a bad spirit, a duppy, to trick the boy into believing he could fly. Twelve years later, Grandpa has still not spoken a word and Jewel is fed up with her moody parents and unloving household. She meets a boy who calls himself John, her brother's real name. They share their hopes and dreams and Jewel opens up about visiting the cliff to bury her worries as small stones. Grandpa thinks John is a duppy in disguise, come to cause more harm. Jewel is a multilayered, emotional character who struggles to come to terms with her family's issues. The mixture of superstition and science creates a wonderful juxtaposition in this powerful story about loss and moving on.—Clare A. Dombrowski, Amesbury Public Library, MA

From [Booklist](#)

“In my house we wield silence like shields and swords: We use it to push people away or injure them.” Ever since 12-year-old Jewel’s brother died by jumping off a cliff on the day she was born, her grandfather hasn’t uttered a word. He’s the one who gave his grandson, John, the nickname “Bird” and told him that, one day, Bird would fly. Jewel’s Jamaican grandpa and her dad believe in duppies, or harmful spirits, and think grandpa’s nickname attracted one. Now, Jewel is living in a house of fear, silence, and guilt. Jewel returns to the cliff where her brother died in order to connect with him and feels the place, unlike her family, speaks to her. When she meets a boy in town for the summer, she, a geology lover, and he, obsessed with space exploration, become friends. But this boy has secrets of his own, and, eventually, someone is going to have to talk. This is a slow read—thoughtful and introspective about the dynamics of a grieving family—and contemplative readers will be rewarded by Jewel’s journey. Grades 4-7. --Ann Kelley

Review

"Jewel’s observant reflections on her rural-Iowa world give this debut its considerable charm...the strong opening bodes well for future endeavors." (*Kirkus Reviews, November 2013*)

“Thoughtful and introspective about the dynamics of a grieving family . . . contemplative readers will be rewarded by Jewel’s journey." (*Booklist, December 2013*)

"Jewel is a multilayered, emotional character The mixture of superstition and science creates a wonderful juxtaposition in this powerful story about loss and moving on." (*School Library Journal, January 2014*)

"The voice of 12-year-old Jewel carries readers through this lyrical and buoyant debut from Crystal Chan. . . . Chan's strong characterizations and her way with words make her a writer to watch." (*Shelf Awareness*)

"Daughter of a Jamaican father and her half-Mexican, half-white mother, Jewel has always felt out of place in her small Iowa town. . . . When Jewel meets John, an adopted black boy staying with his uncle, she finds a kindred spirit, someone as out of place as she is. . . . Chan has carefully crafted John and Jewel as effective foils for each other; their shared interest in science propels multiple metaphors that help Jewel figure out what is solid and knowable versus what must be taken on faith or intuited. . . both character arcs show a deep respect for readers’ abilities to negotiate the complexities of belief and doubt, and to find meaning via character reflection." (*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, March 2014*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Flynt:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. In your case who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Bird book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

William Meadows:

This book untitled Bird to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that's because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this reserve from your list.

Lily McDermott:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Bird the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get previous to. The Bird giving you yet another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Sandra Easley:

Bird can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Bird however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

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