

EXPLORING ETHICAL CONFLICTS AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN JODI PICOULT'S MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Ramya. K,

Ph.D. Scholar (Reg. No. 21121274012018),

The PG and Research Department of English,

St. John's College, Palayamkottai,

Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

E-mail: ramyaramesh467@gmail.com

Dr. R. Jeya Sundara Raj,

Research Supervisor & Associate Professor (Retd.),

The PG and Research Department of English,

St. John's College, Palayamkottai,

Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

E-mail: rajjejasundar@gmail.com

Abstract

The novel *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult explores the intricate moral and emotional terrain of ethical dilemmas within familial relationships. The book's main character is Anna Fitzgerald, a young child who was conceived as a genetic match to provide her sister Kate with life-saving treatments for her sickness. After growing up and running into an ethical dilemma with her role as a donor, Anna asks her parents for medical independence.

This critical analysis examines the moral implications of medical autonomy, parental decision-making, and the concept of bodily ownership, especially in light of familial responsibilities. Through a multi-narrative structure, Picoult asks readers to reflect on the competing moralities of love, selflessness, and free will, shedding light on how these ideas affect the relationships within the Fitzgerald family. This essay examines how the book compels readers to think about the complex interrelationship between individual liberties and the moral and emotional responsibilities of family members. Ultimately, *My Sister's Keeper*

highlights the fuzziness of right and wrong in situations where life or death is at risk, challenging readers to reevaluate the interactions between medical ethics, familial bonds, and personal agency.

Keywords: Family dynamics, moral conflicts, medical ethics, and personal choice.

Moral dilemma: should an individual, regardless of age, have the authority to decide their own destiny regarding their physical form?

In *My Sister's Keeper*, the moral complexities of love, selflessness, and free will are all interwoven. Through the use of the multi-narrative framework, Picoult offers three different perspectives on the same issue: that of a young child who yearns for independence, parents who adore Kate, and a sister who feels bound to her brother. Through Anna's trip, the novel asks readers to consider the contradictions in the moral choices that people must make when lives are at stake. Characters are forced to weigh the needs of others against their own, which blurs the definition of selflessness.

Selflessness for Anna entails putting up with excruciating medical procedures to ensure her sister's existence, but as she gets more conscious of her own needs and independence, this selflessness becomes more challenging to uphold. When it becomes difficult to distinguish between self-preservation and self-sacrifice, the emotional complexity of love, whether it be love for a kid or a sibling, is called into doubt.

Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* are readers to think about the relationship between individual liberty, family duty, and moral quandaries that emerge in life-or-death circumstances. The moral and emotional challenges that family members have when juggling their responsibilities to one another are explored by Picoult through Anna's quest for medical emancipation. The narrative ultimately compels us to face the ambiguities of morality, where choices must be made between one child's life and the love and welfare of another. *My Sister's Keeper* challenges readers to consider the inherent tension between medical ethics, parental decisions, and personal liberties in a society where these forces frequently clash, as well as the intricacy of human connections in the face of illness and suffering.

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