



# The Dear One

*By Jacqueline Woodson*

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**The Dear One** By Jacqueline Woodson

**An intriguing look at teen pregnancy from a three-time Newbery Honor winning author**

Feni is furious when she finds out that her mother has agreed to take a fifteen-year-old pregnant girl into their home until her baby is born. What kind of girl would let herself get into so much trouble? How can Feni live under the same roof as someone like that? Her worst fears are confirmed when Rebecca arrives: she is mean, bossy, and uneducated. Feni decided she will have nothing to do with her. But it's hard not to be curious about a girl so close to her own age who seems so different...

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## **The Dear One By Jacqueline Woodson Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1274732 in Books
- Published on: 2010-11-11
- Released on: 2010-11-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .40" w x 5.50" l, .34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In PW 's words, "Woodson's deep understanding of and concern for the role of black women in society is evident as she eloquently introduces the reader to teenage pregnancy, alternate lifestyles and adoption in her moving, powerful story." Ages 12-up.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Second-novelist Woodson (the well-received *Last Summer with Maison*, 1990) gives thoughtful consideration to the impact of a pregnant teenager on the 12-year-old daughter of a friend who takes her in. Afeni (Swahili for "Dear One") is still coping with her grandmother's death and her parents' divorce when her mother invites Rebecca, 15, daughter of a childhood friend who now lives in Harlem, to share their suburban home until her baby is born. Rebecca finds it as hard to deal with a group of caring women (which includes recovering alcoholics and a lesbian couple) as Afeni does to share her room with a stranger whose concerns are her boyfriend and the baby she's about to give up. Still, in their time together the two form a bond that enables each to grow in understanding and love. Minimal plot, but the characterizations are rich, warm, and memorable; Woodson draws a frank, realistic picture of a community of African-American women who thrive while bravely confronting a myriad of problems and life situations. Though the writing is occasionally a little slapdash, this is a strong, original, and life-affirming book. (Fiction. 12+) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

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**From reader reviews:**

**James Drennan:**

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**Linda McGrane:**

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