

This book is a work of fiction.

Dear Reader,

If you're reading this book, I think it's safe to assume you know what to expect from one of my novels. If you skipped *Obedient* and *The Boy in the Box*, what are you doing here? (This is my very unsubtle way of saying you *need* to read the prequel before this one).

Yes, you know at this point that my books will delve into many uncomfortable issues, and that they are, most certainly, not light reading. I thought about not even including an author's note this go round, but something about that felt like sacrilege. So, here we are. You can expect this book to fall somewhere between the previous two in regards to emotional devastation. Gauge how many tissues you'd like to be equipped with based on that. If you've come this far, thank you for being here.

Our story is only just beginning,
Pearl

However, it contains subject matter that may be triggering, including:

- Child Death
- Infant loss/ Miscarriage
- Domestic Violence
- Eugenics
- Graphic Violence/ Gore
- Infertility
- Mental illness
- Profanity
- PTSD
- Sexual Assault
- Sexually explicit scenes