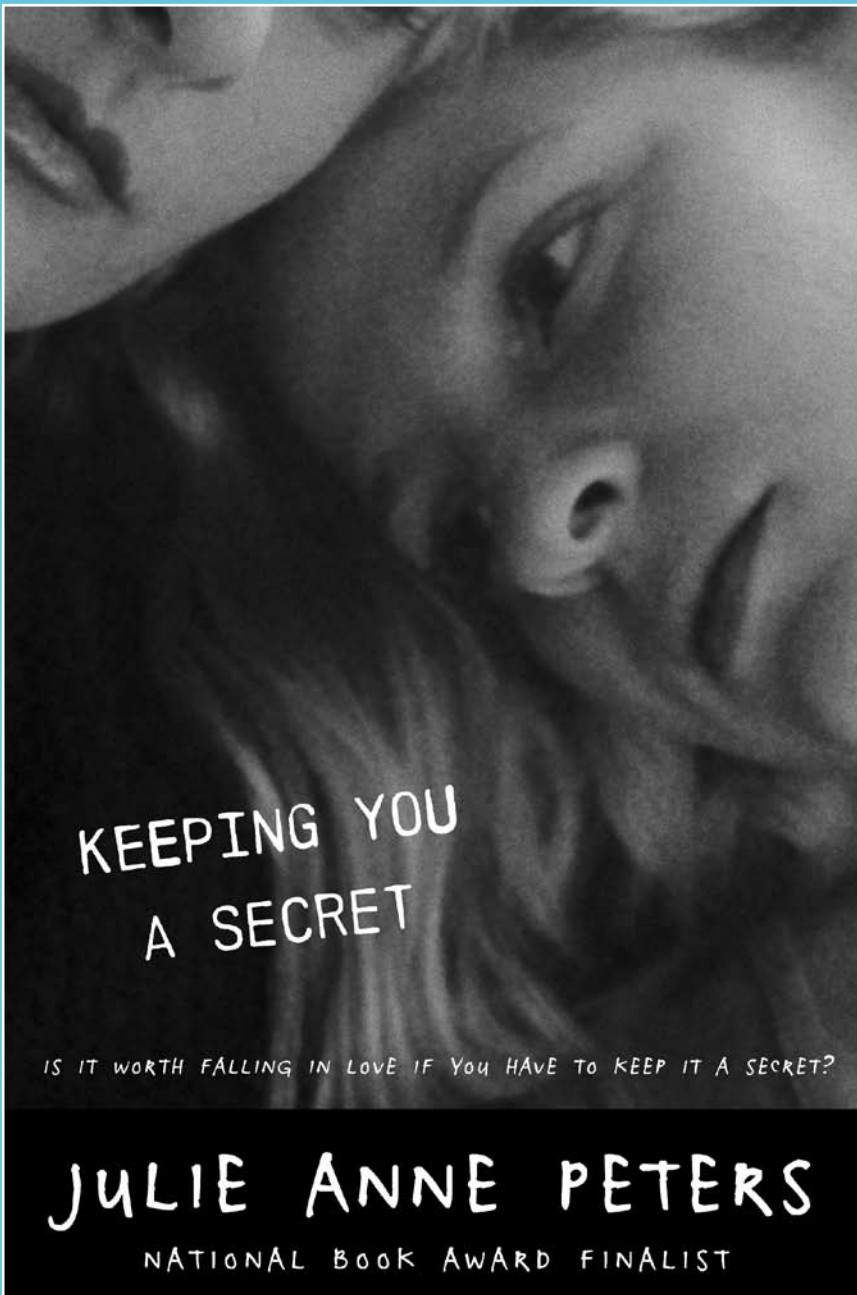


KEEPING YOU A SECRET



curriculum connections

- ❖ Homosexuality
- ❖ Tolerance
- ❖ Honesty

By
Julie Anne Peters

Discussion Questions

- 1. What expectations are placed on you by your parents as a son or daughter? Do you feel expectations as a student? As a friend? Girlfriend or boyfriend? Do you expect things of yourself? Are expectations good or bad? Do expectations shape your life?
 - A recurring theme in *Keeping You A Secret* is honesty—telling the truth about yourself, to yourself and to others. Can you think of a time in your life when you didn't acknowledge the truth about yourself? Why did you hold back?
 - Give specific examples where the story and setting in *Keeping You A Secret* reflect current social and political attitudes. Do you find the same attitudes exist where you live? Why do you think there are regional differences in the level of discrimination and tolerance?
 - What stereotypes exist about lesbians and gays? Where do stereotypes come from? Do you ever feel you're stereotyped and judged?
 - What obstacles did Holland have to overcome to get to the truth that she was a lesbian? Why do you think it took Holland so long to come to terms with it?
 - Coming out is a difficult, personal process. What do you think makes it so hard for most people? If you're going through the coming-out process, describe your experiences, both positive and negative.
 - Do you think the culture at your school or work contributes to a climate of fear among lesbian and gay people? How? What can be done about that? Are you responsible? Who is?
 - Does your school have a Gay/Straight Alliance? Would you join if it did?
 - If you found out your best friend was lesbian or gay, how would you react? What if it was your sister or brother? Your mother or father? Would it change the way you feel about them? Would it change the way you feel about yourself?
 - Do you think being gay is a choice? As a lesbian or gay person, are there choices to be made in the way you live your life? How can you empower yourself? Do you feel you can change your nature? Would you want to?
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about the author



Julie Anne Peters is the critically-acclaimed author of popular books for young adults and children. Her first young adult novel, *Define "Normal,"* won the California Young Reader Medal, the Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award, and the Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award, all voted on by young readers as their favorite book of the year. *Keeping You a Secret*, a young adult lesbian love story, was a Borders Original Voices selection, an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book, and an Amelia Bloomer recommended feminist book for youth. *Luna*, a novel about a transgender teen beginning her transition from male to female, was a National Book Award Finalist. Ms. Peters' new book, *grl2grl*, is a collection of short fictions. Julie Anne Peters is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Pen America, the Authors Guild, and the Colorado Authors' League. She lives in Lakewood, Colorado with her partner, Sherri Leggett, and far too many cats.

about the book



With a steady boyfriend, the position of Student Council President and a chance to go to an Ivy League college, high school life is just fine for Holland Jaeger. At least it seems to be. But when Cece Goddard comes to school, everything changes. Cece and Holland have undeniable feelings for each other, but how will others react to their developing relationship? This moving love story between two girls is a worthy successor to Nancy Garden's classic young adult coming out novel, *Annie on My Mind*. With her characteristic humor and breezy style, Peters has captured the compelling emotions of young love.

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praise for *Keeping You A Secret*:

“Peters knows how to tell an **intriguing** story... this is a **well-written** and thought-provoking novel.”—*School Library Journal*

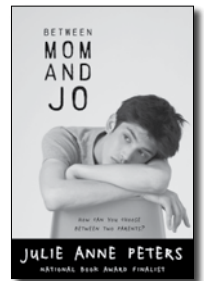
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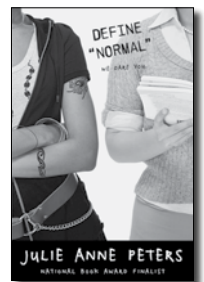
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