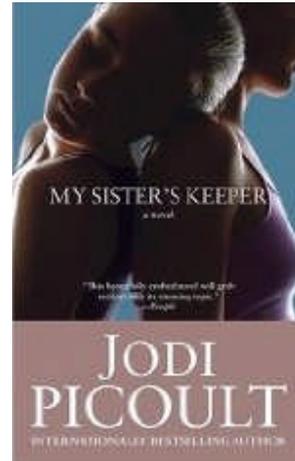


A Review of  
***My Sister's Keeper*** (a 2004 novel)  
Author: Jodi Picoult



In this 400+ page novel by international bestseller, Jodi Picoult (see also her book: **Change of Heart**), again we have a great fictional story that was an “overnight read” for me, which is my highest rating when a book so captivates that life is set aside to focus on that reading. The chapter lengths are fairly short for the most part (several even only 1 page) that each tell the story from the perspectives of one of the main characters, and given their length and the way they lead the reader right into the next chapter, the novel moves rather fast. The story itself is fairly complex in the various dimensions of ethical and human conflicts centered around medical issues that are in the news regularly. While some complain the ending was too predictable, I didn’t find it so, allowing myself to be led to a surprise ending that really didn’t resolve those ethical issues, but then such issues aren’t resolved in the real world either, and that made for very interesting twist and turn reading.

The story revolves around a 13 year old daughter who was genetically conceived to be a bone marrow donor for her cancer stricken sister. By this age, Anna, asserts herself when she is called upon to be a living kidney donor, and thus creates the courtroom and family drama that is engrossing enough to have been made into a movie (see Note below), but as I understand it, the movie version has a different ending that this author is not particularly happy about.

The ongoing conflicts between siblings, parents, the legal and medical authorities combine to provide both entertainment and food for thought as both their history and current life events unfold. All lead up to a courtroom drama and decision on the suit this 13 year old brings to claim her medical emancipation from her parents who love both girls, but are so focused on the sick daughter that the younger feels left out and unable to control her own life decisions about all these medical demands. To say more than this would give too much of the story away, so I will stop here. This is fascinating reading for audiences of all ages and background, especially families and medical professionals who should enjoy the emotion filled dialogue that one has to keep reminding themselves is a novel, not based on real life.

Note: **My Sister’s Keeper**, release date June 26, 2009 as a movie, is available in paperback on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). The book cover shown above is only one of several in the mass book market.

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**Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. ’94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.