



## My Life as a Rhombus

*Varian Johnson*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# My Life as a Rhombus

*Varian Johnson*

## My Life as a Rhombus Varian Johnson

Staying on track at school means a boy-free equation for Rhonda Lee, who spends most evenings doing homework and eating Chinese takeout with her dad. While Rhonda needs a scholarship for college, some kids at her private high school, like beautiful Sarah Gamble, seem to coast along on popularity and their parents' money.

When forced to tutor Sarah in trigonometry, Rhonda recognizes all too well the symptoms-queasiness, puking, exhaustion-that Sarah is trying to mask. On a sudden impulse, Rhonda shares her past with Sarah. Exchanging their secrets adds up to more truths than either girl would have dreamed.

## My Life as a Rhombus Details

Date : Published January 8th 2008 by Flux (first published December 31st 2007)

ISBN : 9780738711607

Author : Varian Johnson

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Teen

 [Download My Life as a Rhombus ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online My Life as a Rhombus ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online My Life as a Rhombus Varian Johnson**

---

## From Reader Review My Life as a Rhombus for online ebook

### Tammi says

I really liked this one. I know many people will hear "deals with teen pregnancy and abortion" and think *issue novel* and put it back on the shelf. DO NOT do this with this book. It doesn't moralise or pass judgment on the characters and it's not really about abortion, as such. It's about Rhonda and her struggle to love and trust again after what she's been through. Being hurt by past experiences and having to overcome that is not an 'issue', it's an universal experience.

Rhonda is a great character, too. She's bright, she's hard-working, she's loyal and she's fair-minded. I actually think she's a great role model for teen girls, despite her early mistakes. It's OK; she didn't spring forth into the world completely awesome, she had to learn to be that way. At the start of the story, Rhonda is closed off - she has a small group of friends but her sole focus is on getting into college and she's sworn off relationships completely. While that's an understandable and not altogether unwise decision for someone with her past, Rhonda's also become distant from her father and disinclined towards making new friends. It's clear she's shutting out more than boys here.

However, Rhonda can't help but bond with Sarah over their similar situations and their friendship begins to open up Rhonda's world again - especially when she gets to know Sarah's brother, David. Sarah and David are probably a little too nice to be true (David's incredibly understanding of Rhonda's "no sex" rule) but I couldn't help but like them, either, and hanging out at their house eating home-made cookies sounds like lots of fun.

Rhonda's relationship with her father is a far more difficult fix and the uncomfortable atmosphere between them is realistically conveyed. Many girls have had to experience that feeling of not being 'daddy's girl' anymore. If I have one complaint against this book, it's that we don't see the final reconciliation between these two. It's a shame, as I felt that the father-daughter relationship was the most vital to Rhonda's character.

Rhonda's a math whizz and something cute that Varian Johnson adds to the text are little diagrams, where Rhonda tries to work out her life as a mathematical equation. It gives you an insight into the character and it's a fun way of doing it. Educational, too.

The happy ending to this book might be a bit too neat (Sarah's life, in particular, seems too tidily wrapped up), but to be honest, after enjoying the characters as much as I did, I didn't care. I wanted everything to work out for Rhonda and I think every reader will feel the same.

---

### laaaaames says

I really liked this book. Rhonda was so fully developed, and I thought Johnson did a good job of keeping her arc at the forefront even when the capital-d Drama was going on with Sarah. There are a small (and growing, knowing what I do about some wonderful 2013 releases) number of YA novels that focus on a protagonist who needs so badly to forgive herself but just can't quite, and it's a journey that done well is really beautiful. Just really loved Rhonda's arc, love how smart she is, love how much that didn't keep her exempt from.

In my copy of the book there's an interview with Johnson at the end; he claims he didn't go into this book

with a pro- or anti-choice slant. However, this book is so vividly about the importance of girls and women having agency over their own bodies and not being afraid to claim that. That's the most beautiful pro-choice message I could hope for in a YA novel. I am as pro-choice as they come and I don't want any woman to have an abortion she doesn't want.

PREACHING OVER. THIS BOOK ALSO HAS SWOONY MOMENTS.

(read: 12)

---

### **Fleur Philips says**

The story of Rhonda Lee is one I feel many teenagers can identify with—at 14, she got pregnant and had an abortion. Because she's an only child and her mother died when she was 11, her father is left with the task of making the decision for Rhonda that she should end the pregnancy. He wants her to concentrate on her grades, and stay clear of boys. And for three years, that's exactly what she does. But suddenly, she's asked to tutor one of the rich, snobby cheerleaders (the exact kind of people her father wants her to stay away from because the boy who got her pregnant is “one of them”), and her life changes. The rich, snobby cheerleader, Sarah, is pregnant and alone, and she and Rhonda become friends.

But it's not just the friendship with Sarah that has Rhonda's father nervous. Rhonda has also befriended Sarah's brother, David, and the two eventually start dating and fall in love. *My Life as a Rhombus* is a teenage struggle story, intertwined with a teenage love story, and although it touches on topics relevant to teenagers today, I felt the characters were not genuine. The sudden friendship between Rhonda and Sarah, and the attraction David has for Rhonda, were especially difficult for me to believe. And because this happened within the first few pages of the novel, I had a tough time comprehending the rest of the story. In addition to not being able to identify with the characters, the writing was poor, and this made the book even more difficult to read. Most significant was the use of the word “that” instead of “who” when referring to a person. For example, “...notice all of the half-drunk, half-naked girls THAT were wrapping...” and “...she didn't look like a girl THAT had failed...” This grammatical error was prevalent throughout the novel, not just in the narration of the story, but also in the dialog between the characters. The voices of the characters also felt, at times, not genuine, as though they were robots talking rather than people.

Although a good enough story, reading *My Life as a Rhombus* was like reading a first draft novel—too many grammatical errors, overuse of adverbs, tons of cliques, boring descriptions of people and places, and characters who were difficult to believe.

---

### **Grace Seok says**

I personally found this book very inspiring. It was inspiring to me because Rhonda tries to help Sarah with something Rhonda has been through. Rhonda personally did not like Sarah because she was one of those popular girls. Rhonda has been in Sarah's shoes in the past and knew she made a huge mistake. Rhonda was dating a popular guy, Christopher. Christopher got Rhonda pregnant and she had to go get an abortion although she wanted to keep the baby. Because of the way her father forced her to get an abortion, Rhonda and her father does not have a good relationship. Sarah, a girl that Rhonda is tutoring to get a scholarship for her college, is found pregnant. Sarah wants an abortion but Rhonda talks some sense into her. Little did they both know, Sarah listens to Rhonda's advice and doesn't get an abortion. While reading this book, I learned

that you can't judge a person by their cover. You never know what hardships and sufferings they're going through. Maybe they have the same problems you had overcame in the past.

---

### **bjnearly says**

I have never read a book by Varian Johnson, he writes about a tough subject using a steely female protagonist, Rhonda, who has made mistakes and as a result, changed her way of life, friends, etc for the next few years. Now she is a senior and she tutors at a community college, stays away from guys (they only lie to you anyway) and will do almost anything to get a scholarship to Georgia Tech. Along the way, she begins to tutor rich, beautiful Sarah Gamble (one of the kinds of friends Rhonda stays away from) and finds they have some things in common. Rhonda is one tough chick but you understand why, but it is her mother's best friend, Helen, who really forces Rhonda to think about why she continues to push people away; her father and Sarah's brother David. Teens will love this book, it has drama, humor and romance and lots of reality, recommended for reluctant readers too! A great, satisfying read keeps you turning the pages to see what Rhonda the Rhombus will do/say next!

---

### **Mikaela Tynski says**

My book is 'My Life as a Rhombus' by Varrian Johnson. Rhonda is a genius (especially in trigonometry). She has the highest marks in her grade, and tutors those who don't. On a particularly ordinary day, while tutoring her favorite eight year old twins, she gets notified that she has a new student to tutor. None other than the most popular girl in her grade, Sara. As the days go by, Rhonda learns that Sara has made the same HUGE mistake that she did in her 'not-so-innocent' past. As Rhonda attempts to 'conceal and heal' Sara's burden, she faces challenges of her own, relationships, tutoring, and school, none of which can be compared to Sara's secret. Will Rhonda buckle under the pressure? Will Sara's burden be finally lifted of her shoulders? Or will she have to deal with this for the rest of her life... I got this book from my cousin, and started reading it because she recommended it to me. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading realistic fiction.

---

### **Les says**

\*\*\*\*\* SPOILER WARNING \*\*\*\*\*

I wanted to like this book because of its initial appeal to me:

- 1) The catchy name of the title caught my attention.
- 2) An interesting beginning where the protagonist Rhonda explains what happened to her as a freshman in mathematical terms:

### **Questions They Never Ask on the SAT**

A very smart, attention-starved freshman (subject X) falls for the most popular guy in her class (subject Y). If X and Y date for at least three months, which of the following extra-curricular activities is X most likely to

be involved in?

- A: Backseat anatomy lessons, clothing optional.
- B: Accuracy and precision experiments involving peeing onto a little plastic stick.
- C: Two-hour biology lectures from a very disappointed father.
- D: Field trips across state lines for "routine" medical procedures.
- E: Proving the statistical fallacy of the statement, "It can't happen to me."

Notes: More than one answer may apply.

3) The story is set in Columbia, SC, my hometown.

So, given all that, I had relatively high hopes. While the basic premise was good there were too many minor things that when they're added up caused me to downgrade it to \*\*.

In her freshman year, Rhonda dated, got impregnated by, and ditched by the star basketball player, who is a rich obnoxious troll. He denies responsibility and throws money at her to "take care of it." But because his father is physically abusive to him and expects perfection, she "protects" his reputation and tells no one about getting pregnant (and prevents her dad from opening a can of whupass on him).

She blames her dad for "forcing" her to get an abortion and he becomes an overbearing tyrant, constantly harping on the past and accusing her of imagined misdeeds. He's never hugged or kissed her since the incident and is focusing all his affection on the much younger woman he is now dating. So her home life is pretty crappy.

Ever since then she has faded into the background. She is now a Senior and is totally invested in winning a full-ride scholarship to Georgia Tech for their mechanical engineering program. Guys are trouble to be avoided (one guess where this is heading...).

She is math tutoring younger kids after school when she is assigned to assist snob classmate Sarah. She refuses until she finds out that Sarah's mother (a State Supreme Court Judge) is a Georgia Tech engineering alumnae who may be able to pull strings to get her the scholarship she needs. She also almost immediately figures out that Sarah is pregnant and in the same situation she was in as a freshman. Sarah also has a very hunky brother, but he's a basketball teammate of Rhonda's impregnator, so she decides immediately that he has to be a horndog as well.

There were some good parts to the story such as Sarah agonizing over whether to get an abortion like Rhonda or not (she gets to the clinic in Atlanta and changes her mind). The eventual blow-up scene between Rhonda and her dad was good. He essentially accuses her of being a slut because she's now dating another basketball player. He refuses to believe nothing has happened between them because he knows she won't be able to keep her legs shut, so he tells she has to get on the pill. She goes into her room, brings the package back and throws it at him, and tells him he's so clueless that she's been on the pill for 3 years now and if she's such a slut why hasn't she had sex in all that time she's had protection? Touche!

However, the things that drove down my rating:

- 1) the lack of affection between any of the characters. Dad can't touch his daughter, but is constantly draped over his girlfriend, and always assumes the worst about Rhonda. She is equally strident when dealing with dad, hates the girlfriend, and is judgemental about David because he's also a basketball player. Sarah and her mother can only scream at each other. David has serious anger management and control issues. Gail is a

megabitch who Rhonda questions why she's her best friend, etc etc etc.

2) the Judge as a puppetmaster was too much for me. First, there were the coincidences that she'd also had an abortion at 14 and had gone onto engineering at Ga Tech (exactly mirroring Rhonda). It was her plan all along to get an engineering degree and then go to law school, which seems contrived to meet the needs of the plot. She's certainly not honorable in misusing her power to get what she wants. For example, she (illegally) gets a copy of Rhonda's school records so she can decide if she's an appropriate tutor for Sarah. She points out that she is a personal friend of the Ga Tech President and if Rhonda doesn't do what she wants then her scholarship hopes can go away with a phone call (don't know what Ga Tech folks would think about the implication that their President is that sleezy).

3) the abortion records incident was too ludicrous to be believeable. Somehow a Judge in South Carolina is able to work around HIPPA and clinics' zealous guarding of patient records to throw it in Rhonda's face that she knows she got an abortion in Atlanta, GEORGIA 3 years ago? That's when the story jumped the shark for me.

4) this may seem petty, but there was a total lack of local scenery descriptions and landmarks in the story. When you read Pat Conroy you actually feel like you're in Charleston. Even if the author is making up the town of East Podunk, Iowa they'll have some kind of descriptions (main street, local diner, shops) to give you some perceptions of the setting. There was nothing in the story about Columbia, SC other than a couple of peripheral references to USC. It could have equally been set in Columbias in CA, MD, MO, NJ among others and you woundn't know the difference.

---

### **Becky says**

Rhonda the Rhombus. Perhaps not the most-appealing nickname a girl can have. But...Rhonda makes for quite a good heroine as one of the stars in Varian Johnson's *My Life As A Rhombus*.

Rhonda Lee is great at math. She excels so much that she tutors students of all ages at West Columbia Community Center. Which is how our heroine comes to meet Sarah Gamble. Sarah is one of the beautiful, popular people. Sarah needs help...and she needs it quickly if she's going to pull her grades up. But what starts as a rather reluctant relationship...becomes much much more through the course of the novel. As these two unlikely teens find they have much in common.

Their common bond? Unplanned pregnancies. Rhonda's is in the past--two years previous--and Sarah's is in the present. Sarah's secret is revealed to Rhonda alone. And the two come to discuss life and all its hardships in detail as Sarah puzzles out what to do with her life, her body. Rhonda's pregnancy ended in abortion--it's a choice that was out of her hands. Rhonda's father controlled the situation then, and this has put some strain into the relationship. It's not that Rhonda wanted to have her baby--not really. But she wanted to be the one to think it through, the one to decide. She wanted the choice to be hers. And the whole situation--sex, pregnancy, abortion--still haunts her in many, many ways. Her past keeps her from living in the present.

Sarah's friendship--and Sarah's brother, David--offer Rhonda a unique opportunity. A chance to offer comfort and support, yes, but a chance to heal as well. A chance to learn that your life need not be defined by past mistakes and regrets. A chance to accept life in all its fullness.

I enjoyed this one. I liked the transformation and development of the relationships between Rhonda and Sarah and Rhonda and David. For that matter, I liked the characterizations in general.

© Becky Laney of Becky's Book Reviews

---

### **Gracie says**

It's really good and interesting. The main character is a really smart black girl who's had some "issues" in her past. She's a senior in high school. She tutors kids younger than her who aren't in high school. She ends up getting forced to tutor a popular girl, who's a junior. She hates it at first, but it all changes after she finds something out about the girl. I have to stop trying or else I'm gonna spoil it, just read the book.

---

### **Tiana says**

I saw the title of this book and was drawn to it immediately. I read this book all in one sitting because I found the main character Rhonda to be compelling. I thought the story was nicely paced and was a page turner for me. I haven't read so much about the subject of abortion in YA fiction yet and I thought the way the author handled it in terms of Rhonda and her friendship with Sarah was good and well thought out. In this book the consequences of abortion and life afterwards were explored just enough that I think a YA audience would be able to grasp. I also thought the math related chapter titles were a bonus. However, there did seem to be a lot of over the top drama in some places, but it made for an exciting read. Overall I'm glad I read this book.

---

### **Katie says**

I have a strange appreciation for YA issue novels...if it deals with pregnancy, suicide, violence, eating disorders, etc., I'll probably want to read it. I've had my eye on this book for a while but I ended up spontaneously downloading it last week to kill some downtime. It ended up being a fast, enjoyable, and well-written novel about teen pregnancy that managed to avoid preachiness and melodramatic cliches.

The main character, Rhonda, is an academically-driven senior at a prestigious prep school who we learn had an abortion a year and a half ago. During her tutoring job after school, she's placed with another high school student - an extremely popular girl named Sarah who is also pregnant and struggling with the same issues as Rhonda. Rhonda decides to confide in Sarah about her own past, which brings the girls closer together but also forces Rhonda to re-evaluate the decisions she made a year and a half ago.

The best word that I can use to describe this novel is "satisfying." Rhonda feels authentic, flawed, and complicated, her blossoming romance with Sarah's brother does not feel contrived, and the final confrontation that Rhonda has with her ex-boyfriend (and the guy who got her pregnant) is extremely satisfying, particularly for anyone who's ever found themselves under the power of a mean-spirited person in high school. Rhonda's revenge is exceptionally sweet!

It would be easy for this novel to fall back on a particular moral stance - teens should not be having sex, abortion should be illegal, etc. - but the author keeps the discussion fluid and complicated without sacrificing the elements of a good story.

While the story itself is strong, this isn't a novel I would automatically suggest for someone looking for a contemporary setting or strong characters. The complicated issues are what will draw readers to this novel, and some people just don't want to deal with these moral quandries while reading. But for someone who does appreciate a well-constructed teen issue novel, this would be an excellent suggestion.

Readalikes:

November Blues - Sharon Draper. November is a high-achieving senior, but the day after her boyfriend dies in a freak hazing accident, she learns that she is pregnant. Both novels deal with teen pregnancy and shattered family relationships, although November Blues is told from two perspectives: November's & Jericho's - the cousin & close friend of November's boyfriend.

The First Part Last - Angela Johnson. Told from the teen father's perspective, this story recounts the struggle of a sixteen-year-old single dad through alternating "then" and "now" chapters.

Jumping Off Swings - Jo Knowles. This complex contemporary novel tells the story of one girl's pregnancy through four different perspectives without casting blame on any one character.

---

### **Samantha Luna says**

What i've learned from this book is that, you go through many obstacles in life and some may take a while to get over. But as you go on you begin to let yourself overcome the problems you've dealt with for most of your life and move on and never let the same problem get you again. Just like Rhonda in this book! She inspires me to be different and to keep going and reach my goals. Rhonda dealt with the worst problem there is to deal with while in high school and also at such a young age. in the beginning of her freshman year she met a guy, that came from a wealthy background. He was stuck up and only wanted what every other teenage boy would want from a girl. Sooner or later Rhonda fell in love with him and fell for everyone of his lies. They began to be sexually active and eventually began to ditch lunch just for "quickies". Not too much later he broke up with her and it killed her because she was so in love. After the break up, Rhonda found out she was pregnant. So was very afraid and alone. Especially after her father found out. Once she told Christopher (Her Ex) he just went on and let her know he wanted nothing to do with it, and claimed it wasn't even his. So he gave her money to get an abortion. An abortion is not something that Rhonda wanted but her dad told her that it would be the best thing to do because she wasn't responsible enough at the time to take care of a child. So, she did it. After the procedure and now that she's thinking back she realizes that having that procedure done wasn't the right thing to do and she blames her dad for convincing her to get it done. She and her father hadn't had the same relationship as before after she had the abortion. They also don't like to use the "A" Word (Abortion). Three years later Rhonda becomes a totally different person, she gets straight A's and plans to get a scholarship to Georgia Tech University. She's one of the smartest kids in Piedmont High, along with her two bestfriends Xavier and Gail. Rhonda tutors others at a center, but she has this thing where she doesn't tutor high school students! One day A girl named Sarah Gamble comes along for tutoring, Rhonda argues with her boss telling him she doesn't want to tutor a high school student especially a rich stuck up girl. She's hated rich stuck up kids ever since what happened with her and Christopher. Eventually she gave in to tutoring her because her boss told her how Sarah's Mother was Justice Gamble. And she had graduated from Georgia Tech University, so therefore Rhonda would maybe be getting herself into a recommendation letter from her if she does well with Sarah! So It's been weeks since Rhonda has been tutoring Sarah and she's actually improving. They had to move it to a more private place like Sarah's house because of Sarah's mother not wanting anyone to know about her daughter being tutored. Eventually Sarah and Rhonda become friends.

Sarah has a big secret herself, she tells Rhonda she's pregnant. They take a trip to Atlanta because Sarah was wanting to get an abortion. But as the time passed Sarah didn't get it. She decided to keep the baby because she thought getting an abortion was a mistake. So her brother David that protects Sarah finds out and, the next day Sarah tells her Mother. Her Mother flipped out and suggested she'd get an abortion right away. But as strong as Sarah is she refused. When Justice Gamble found out Rhonda knew the whole time she called Rhonda in to her office and they had a talk. She told Rhonda that if she didn't convince Sarah to get an abortion she would no longer write her recommendation letter for her. Rhonda refused and told her it was Sarah's decision on if she wanted to terminate the pregnancy or not. So Rhonda ended up only getting a partial scholarship to Georgia Tech instead of a full one. Rhonda also finally left her past behind and took on a new boyfriend (Sarah's Brother David). He got her through many obstacles and made her realize many things she was too blind to see. Rhonda and her dad Gained their relationship back. Everything began to go in the right direction for Rhonda. She Kept on with her life and just wanted to see where it would take her. And for the rest, well you'll just have to read the book now wouldn't you! :)

-Samantha Luna

---

### **Lesley says**

One of those books about Important Issues that has a gripping enough story to keep you going, but the writing didn't wow me. I found the teen characters' voices somewhat unconvincing, especially when compared to authors like Rita Williams Garcia who really captures them well. I was also unconvinced by some of the characters' motivations, but understand that they needed to do what they did in order to create drama to be resolved.

That said, the Important Issues really are Important, especially the theme of teen girls who are relatively smart and well-off who are torn between the desire to have sex and the fear of getting infected, pregnant, and/or dumped. In Rhonda's case, the fear is based on her experience with the latter two, which resulted in an abortion. This theme was explored very well in Acting by Sherri Winston and in Played by Dana Davidson and it's one of the themes that works well in this book. What I appreciate in all of these books is that the girls aren't being pressured to have sex by guys--they're being affected by their own hormones.

I also appreciate books about African-American characters that aren't "about" race. Teens of any race experience these issues. These characters just happen to be African-American--as well as comfortably middle class and planning to go to good universities.

There were an awful lot of sideplots--popular girl not being as shallow as she seems, best friend being jealous of new friends, adult using college recommendations as blackmail, food/body image, mother's death, father's new girlfriend, another girl's pregnancy and refusal to reveal who father is. They help keep the drama coming, but some are touched on fairly minimally. An important part of the story is the main character's relationship with her father after the abortion, which was relatively believable. There's a satisfying resolution to everything--my only quibble being that it might all be a little too neatly resolved--but who doesn't love a happy ending?

---

### **Anyana says**

I chose this book because i love math and the title had a mathematical name in it, also in the background there was a board with math equations written on it. The plot of the book is that friends don't have to be perfect. In the book, a seventeen year old girl named Rhonda becomes the tutor of a rich, spoiled, and pregnant girl named Sarah Gamble. At first, even the thought of tutoring Sarah was a nightmare for Rhonda, but after they got to know each other, they became the best of friends. My favorite quote was "It's not perfect, but it could be worse." I like this particular quote because it states that bad days come around but once they're gone, the good days will arrive. Just wait. I thought the author's writing style was fabulous because he provided lots of details and used imagery about every event. While i was reading the book, i felt like i was right there next to the characters, feeling what they would feel and fitting in with their conversations. I would recommend this book to anyone that thinks they are ugly, or not good enough for someone. Let me share my opinion. Every one has their own beauty that some people might not see, and if someone doesn't respect another person it simply means that they want to be treated that same way.

---

## **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Jaglvr for TeensReadToo.com

Rhombus: a parallelogram with four equal sides and sometimes one with no right angles. -Merriam-Webster online dictionary

On page one of this story, the reader meets the narrator, Rhonda Lee. Rhonda is a senior at Piedmont and tutors after school at West Columbia Community Center. Upon entering Piedmont, she was popular, but things have changed since she was a freshman. Enter Sarah Gamble - a junior, a cheerleader, popular, and forced by her mom, Justice Gamble, to find a tutor to help her with math.

What starts out as Rhonda's animosity towards Sarah and all of the kids like her at their school soon turns to a mutual understanding between the two girls. After their second tutoring session, Rhonda has deduced that Sarah is pregnant. With a simple "How far along are you?" by Rhonda, the friendship begins.

As Sarah struggles to come to terms with her pregnancy, and her ultimate decision, flashbacks by Rhonda fill the reader in on her history and previous pregnancy. Rhonda has shut herself off from anything but her studies and her goals to get into Georgia Tech on a scholarship. Her friendship and support to Sarah help her realize that past mistakes do not have to limit your future happiness. And so evolves the story, and the eventual outcomes of the choices each girl has to make, ultimately on their own.

Wow, what a great story! From the start, I didn't want to put the book down. And if it weren't for having to get up for work the next morning, I would easily have read the entire book in one sitting. As it was, I had to wait until the following day to complete it.

The most surprising thing is that the author of the book is a male. The story is told in the first person by a female. Mr. Johnson tells the story simply, without preaching, nor without choosing sides between pregnancy and abortion. He makes you think about the choices each girl has had to make with their lives, and how they will have to live with those decisions. Mr. Johnson is able to do that convincingly, even as a male. Reading the questions to the author at the end of the book, it was interesting to find out that the original concept of the story was meant to be written as an adult book, told from Rhonda's father's viewpoint. He has captured the struggles of teen girls perfectly, and the story is quite believable.

A similar story is ANGEL'S CHOICE by Lauren Baratz-Logsted, but Mr. Johnson's book has even more depth and emotion. Because of his uncanny ability to portray teen girls without coming across as knowing the right answers, I bestow a Gold Star Award on this book.

---