



Black Pearl

What would you give for the one thing you can never have?

In a childhood dominated by the emotional manipulation of her invalid mother, Maya has a secret. Charged to protect her father's most treasured possession, a rare black pearl, Maya sees this trust as a symbol of the bond between them and their shared struggle against repression.

So when her father dies unexpectedly and his estate passes to Maya's mother, Maya is driven to honor his last wish. Her decision to steal the pearl alters the course of her life in unexpected ways, plunging her into a world of glitter and greed. Then her crime is uncovered and the pearl sold to a wealthy jeweler – a man who offers Maya the chance to recover what she has lost, but seeks in return to control Maya's life.

Maya's obsession to earn back the pearl and regain her independence takes her on a journey to the darkest reaches of the past, where the secrets she uncovers about her father challenge everything she knows to be true. As Maya's choices threaten to tear apart her relationship with her own daughter, Maya realizes the cost of her quest has become too great. But will she be able to release her grip on the past before it consumes her?

Karen Schravemade *lives and writes in Australia. Her short stories have been published in Idiom 23 and Relief: A Christian Literary Expression. Black Pearl is a finalist in the 2011 ACFW Genesis Contest, Women's Fiction.*

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