“Of Sound Mind”
By: Jean Ferris
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Jean Ferris

Jean Ferris’s childhood was different then some kids her age. She refers to it as a “perfect childhood for a writer”. Ferris was born January 24th, 1939 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Ferris attended 3 different high schools since her family moved around a lot. She didn’t let being the “new girl” in school hinder her. She kept a diary for inspiration which evolved into her loving to write.
Jean Ferris part II

Jean went to Stanford University and received a B.A. and M.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She became a clinical audiologist in a doctor's office in San Diego. Jean liked writing books for young adults since she was fascinated with the teenage years. Her first novel was inspired by her daughters and there friend when they were in high school called AMEN, MOSES GARDENIA,. Ferris now lives in San Diego with her husband.
Work Cited


• Commire, Anne, ed. Something about the author. volume 56. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Inc., 1989. Print

Character Description

Theo: The main character; Theo’s mother father and brother are all deaf he is the only one who can hear. He struggles with having to be the translator for his family.

Ivy: The girl that Theo meets whose father is also deaf and she must be the translator for her father.

Palma: Theo's mother and also the one who he constantly bumps heads with. She is all about her art shows.
Character Description part II

- Thomas: Theo’s father. He is very close to Theo but Theo often has to get on him about his health
- Protagonist: Theo
- Antagonist: Palma
Exposition

Thomas becomes sick and it is up to Theo and Palma to decide what is to happen to him.
Conflict

Theo and his mom have an argument about the well being of Thomas since Thomas' father has become sick with a pelvic disease. Palma believes that he should be put in a home but Theo believes that they can handle taking care of him at home.
Rising Action

Theo goes over his girlfriend Ivy’s house thinking that he going to get some comfort and support about the incident that happened with him and his mom. Instead Ivy agrees with Theo’s mom. Theo and Ivy begin to argue. Theo explaining to Ivy that she simple doesn’t understand what his father and family is going through.
Climax

Theo’s father is on his way to the hospital to have surgery to see if he can be cured. Theo, Palma and Jeremy are all waiting in the hospitals waiting room. While there a nurse rushes out to tell Palma and Theo that Thomas is losing a lot of blood......
Falling Action

Thomas makes a full recovery. Thomas stayed in the hospital for a few weeks just so the doctors could keep and eye on him. Theo and Ivy decided to meet up and talk about everything that had happen. Seeing how his father had a near death experience he decided to make things clean with Ivy.
Resolution

Ivy and Theo never got back together, they decided that they just couldn’t see eye to eye also Ivy was planning on moving to pursue her cooking career. Thomas is back home and Palma is actually becoming more of a mother and a wife. She has created a closer bond with her children and no longer uses Theo as an interpreter. Theo decides to make the best of the deaf school that he’s at.
Jean has written a variety of other books including “Bad”, “Across the Grain”, “Invincible summer” and “Amen, Moses, Gardenia”.

One main issue that was in the novel was parents that are deaf with hearing children. Deffeness.about.com states that children that are born into deaf families tend to scream and yell. Parents who may be struggling with raising their hearing children can visit the About.com Deafness forum for help. There is also a yahoo group called “Deaf parent”.
Recommendation

This book was an interesting book. At first it was hard for me to get into the book but then there was suspenseful things that began to happen. I would recommend this book to all young adults and especially teens who may have deaf family members. It helps them feel like they are not alone. There are a lot of people who are born into deaf family’s. In this novel Theo’s mother was a successful sculptor but it became tiring when Theo had to tag along with her to
Recommendation part II

Different art shows to help translate.
Summary

“Of Sound Mind” is a novel about a teenager named Theo who is the only hearing person in his family. Theo’s mom Palma, dad Thomas, and brother Jeremy are all deaf and Theo also being the oldest has always had to be the interpreter for his family. Theo ends up attending a school for the deaf but becomes close friends and even ends up in a relationship with a girl name Ivy. Ivy is very into cooking knows everything about cooking and different chefs.
Summary part II

All of a sudden Theo’s father becomes sick and Theo’s mom Palma wants to put him in a rest home. Theo and his mom then find themselves in a rocky situation no longer wanting to talk to each other.