



Swallowing Stones, Joyce McDonald

Swallowing Stones is a book following two characters, heavily impacted by one event. One fourth of July, Michael MacKenzie, the local cool guy, decides to fire his new winchester into the sky, what he doesn't know is that this bullet will kill a man. Charlie Ward is the father of Jenna Ward, just an average nice girl, and has no idea a bullet will fall from the sky and kill him. The story continues to alternate between Michael's path of coverups and Jenna's journey through forgiveness while you learn to love them both along the way. The entire story you know what will happen to Michael, yet you cheer as he prolongs the inevitable.

Joyce McDonald does a wonderful job conveying exactly what each character is feeling letting you connect with them on a deeper level throughout the story. Its an amazing experience and you know exactly what you are getting into from the beginning. Although the main focus is on two characters, practically every character in the book is affected by the choices of the two for good or for worse. The characters at the end of the book are undoubtedly completely different people from who they were before and you, the reader, are along for this wild ride!

Michael is forced to break away from many people he spent time with, including his girlfriend, but there is one person who he learns to trust completely even though the world tells him otherwise, Amy Ruggerio. Similarly, Jenna connects with Amy, as she too has been through losing her parents. Follow through this book, taking the readers through the lives of these horribly and equally shaken people to learn how it will all end and on what terms.