

Pearl Loves Her Name

by Clare McBride

Pearl just hates her boring name! But not to worry, Nanny has a story that may change Pearl's mind. When Pearl hears about Oliver's toothache and what he learns, she discovers that sometimes finding out something new and a little patience are the only requirements to change your outlook.

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BARNES
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About Clare

Clare McBride was born in Northern Ireland, the oldest of three girls. At age nine, Clare immigrated with her family to Canada, where she spent the rest of her childhood on a prairie grain farm. Since college, Clare has worked in the agricultural industry. She writes to honour the memory of her two daughters, Oksana and Quinn.



A Look Inside

"Oh, I hate my name," wailed Pearl.

"Hate your name?" questioned Nanny.

"Yes! All the other girls at school have such elegant names like Elianna or Annabelle or Allegra! My name annoys me!"

"Pearl, your name is very special. Do you know what a pearl is?"

"A pearl is a horribly boring name," declared Pearl.

Nanny tucked Pearl into bed and sat down on the edge of it.

"Have I ever told you the story about my friend Oliver?" asked Nanny.

Pearl shook her head and sighed. She wasn't in the mood for one of Nanny's silly stories.

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"Well, my friend Oliver lives in the sea, along the coast, on a rocky reef. Oliver is an oyster. He has a grey ridged shell and only one foot."

"Only one foot?" said Pearl.

"Yes, one foot. Aren't you lucky to have two?" Nanny responded.

"One day, Oliver woke up with a horrible pain in his mouth. He went to the mirror and opened wide, but he couldn't see anything. Oliver went downstairs for breakfast and told his mum about his toothache. Much to his surprise, she hurried to the phone to call the dentist. Oliver was so confused by her excitement. He was in pain!"

Pearl imagined what a dentist's office in the sea might look like.

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