

### Chapter 1 : Editions of A Perfectly Good Family by Lionel Shriver

*A Perfectly Good Family is a perfectly good novel. It's well-written, entertaining, and has memorable characters. The plot isn't as gripping as Kevin and I didn't find the themes as interesting as in some of her other books.*

Comment 20 Share Tweet print email Our family is dysfunctional, just like your family is, and every other family in the world. Since every family is made up of imperfect people then we are not going to find a perfect family, no matter how much they appear to resemble the Huxtable family. In fact, every family can and should have happiness, health, and success. I am learning that families that put into regular practice the following 9 qualities can and will have a Happy and Healthy Family. Choosing to demonstrate a selfless love for each family member, and showing this love through action. Love is a verb. Making a decision to choose joy in any and all situations, not based on feeling or emotion. Parents when your kids act like they were raised by somebody else, and not you, still choose joy. You have the ability to choose. Peace is freedom from conflict, which is almost laughable in a family. At least in ours, as there is always conflict. Yet, it can be achieved. Try holding your tongue in a potentially volatile situation or try sacrificing your wants. When we are patient with one another, when we tolerate pains or trials calmly without complaining, we demonstrate the love mentioned in 1. This almost goes without saying. When family members act in a friendly, generous, and considerate way it encourages everyone to do the same and makes choosing joy and showing love easier. Clearly defining what your family values are and how everyone is expected to live according to them precedes this. When family members practice making right choices and taking right actions everyone benefits. When you commit to something individually or as a family, make sure you do it! There is no greater breaking point than to lose the trust of a family member by not doing what you said you would do or by not following through on family commitments. Another word for gentleness is humility. The bible teaches that pride comes before destruction, and before honor comes humility. When family members put other family members above themselves then honor comes to the entire family. When individuals practice self-control, then acting on the points above is possible. Another word to be used here is discipline, which can be defined as taking actions to improve a skill or something. When families are disciplined in taking the actions above the family unit becomes better. As I look at this list, I realize that our family has plenty of room for improvement. I hope you feel the same about your family, and more importantly I hope you begin to make a regular practice of them all. I encourage you to work on one quality per week as a family and repeat the cycle when done. You will begin to move toward a happier and healthier family when you do this. What would you say is the most important quality in the list?

### Chapter 2 : [PDF/ePub Download] a perfectly good family a novel eBook

*A Perfectly Good Family is a stunning examination of inheritance, literal and psychological: what we take from our parents, what we discard, and what we are stuck with, like it or not. Read more Read less.*

Share via Email Lionel Shriver in striped top with her parents and two brothers My novels are rarely autobiographical, and for years I ring-fenced my family from my fiction. Yet in my fifth novel, I clipped that barbed wire. I paid the price. Anyone considering writing fiction or a memoir that brushes even slightly against real-life family should take heed: Theoretically, there are people who have a sense of humour about themselves and a droll awareness of their flaws. Who, even if they do feel a little twinge on reading something seemingly critical of themselves, are self-confident and forgiving enough not to bear a grudge. Of course, in the mids when I started *A Perfectly Good Family* – a title that to this day my mother tellingly misremembers as *The Perfect Family* – I knew I was venturing into perilous territory. But I convinced myself that by changing the careers and numerous other biographical details of the characters, as well as by conceiving a whole plot that bore no resemblance whatsoever to real events, I had sufficiently fictionalised the source principals in my drama. This was a story about three siblings in their 30s squabbling over who inherits a magnificent if crumbling house in which I was never raised. The parents in the book have died, and my parents were still conspicuously alive. Oh, I was aware that if I wrote about a family with three siblings – by sheer coincidence, born in the same order as my two brothers and I – my relatives were sure to look for themselves in these characters. When the novel came out, my parents were incandescent. Since this was before any of us was online and I shudder to contemplate the flurry of scathing, five-times-a-day tit-for-tat had we been writing emails instead, for weeks I received indignant screeds in the post that ran to six or seven pages – single-spaced. Desperate to inflict some damage in return, my father disparaged not only this book, but also all my books. Once this poisonous correspondence finally seemed to exhaust itself, I thrust all those letters into a pocket file, which I buried in a cardboard carton and shoved into storage: I hope never to. I was very defensive. How do you get your version out? Text trumps truth – and especially in families there are many conflicting versions of "the truth". Writing is an imposition on reality, sometimes a brutal one. Even with the tough-skinned, you can write reams about how accomplished and charming they are, but if you include a single sentence that puts the knife in – that defies what they think of themselves, that hits a point of special sensitivity, if only by accident – that sentence will be all they remember. I should have known: I had always considered my father incredibly handsome. Accustomed to trying to win the approval of my parents, I underappreciated how much parents yearn for the approval of their children, too. For the writer holed up in a study with the illusion of privacy, friends, acquaintances, and relatives are mere "material". Once a novelist gets caught up in the story, with its own narrative demands, these real-life people are like carcasses thrown to a carnivorous pet. The intensity with which I engaged with these characters – and thus with the real people who loosely inspired them – was a tribute of a sort, even if the results of that scrutiny were not always kind; how would my family feel if over a lifetime I never wrote about them at all? The narrator of the novel, Corlis, the obvious stand-in for yours truly, is also portrayed as deeply flawed: Nevertheless, the sheer fact of such a novel speaks volumes. A willingness to risk offence communicates all too clearly: I sold my family downriver for a manuscript. Moreover, my literary motivations may not have been pure: Yet my relationship with my parents has never fully recovered from this rift; a distrust has distanced us ever since. I like my fifth novel; I think it nails some sound if uncomfortable realities not just about my family, but about most families. That may make me a real writer. For free tickets, call or go to bbc.

### Chapter 3 : A Perfectly Good Family by Lionel Shriver

*A Perfectly Good Family didn't generate any belly laughs while I was reading it, but it produced enough knowing nods and soft chuckles to make me recommend it as a better-than-average comedic exploration of a family dynamic.*

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### Chapter 4 : 9 Qualities of a Happy and Healthy Family - Jackie Bledsoe | Bestselling Author & Speaker

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### Chapter 5 : Book Review: A Perfectly Good Family - Cramer Law Center

*A Perfectly Good Family is a stunning examination of inheritance, literal and psychological: what we take from our parents, what we discard, and what we are stuck.*

### Chapter 6 : A Perfectly Good Family - Lionel Shriver - Google Books

*A Perfectly Good Family is a stunning examination of inheritance, literal and psychological: what we take from our parents, what we discard, and what we are stuck with, like it or not"--Page 4 of cover.*

### Chapter 7 : Lionel Shriver: I sold my family for a novel | Life and style | The Guardian

*A Perfectly Good Family is a stunning examination of inheritance, literal and psychological: what we take from our parents, what we discard, and what we are stuck with, like it or not. isOwnedByCollections.*

### Chapter 8 : A Perfectly Good Family | Open Library

*Taking the proverbial busman's holiday, I recently read the novel "A Perfectly Good Family," by Lionel Shriver. The book was about what happens when three siblings inherit the family "mansion" in Raleigh, North Carolina, after the death of their parents.*

### Chapter 9 : 4 Ways to Have a Good Family Life - wikiHow

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