**Review of Diamond and Pearls by Julien Ayotte.**

Drew Diamond met a jewelry burglar. How did this happen?

Several cases of home burglaries were reported in Providence. The residents and area police were not able to identify and arrest the intruders. Sydney Malone was a widow and a real estate agent living in Rhode Island in Providence. She had a side hustle that brought her more income that enabled her to maintain her lifestyle, when her real estate job was slow or not doing well. She intruded into several apartments in the area and collected any valuable items she found. She typically picked money and expensive pieces of jewelry. From the items she stole, there was a set of pearl necklace and a matching ring that belonged to a lady who received the set from her grandmother. The set (necklace and matching ring) was worth $100,000. The lady sought help from the authorities, who did their best to help her retrieve the necklace.

As a real estate agent, Sydney met with a client by the name Drew Diamond (retired police who worked at an Assurance Property and Casualty), who wanted to buy an apartment. With the help of Sydney, Diamond was able to procure an apartment that was convenient for him. From then on, they became close friends. Moreover, Diamond was involved in the case of the lost set of jewelry. During the investigation, all clues suggested that Sydney Malone could be the culprit. What did Diamond do? What happened to Sydney?

Diamond and Pearls by Julien Ayotte is a fascinating fictional tale. It contains 274 pages (PDF format) with 28 chapters. The book sheds light on various business ideas and ways in which one can avoid getting into trouble with the mobsters (if applicable). It also points out that practical wisdom can positively affect the future of an individual. For instance, some mobsters’ members displayed a sense of remorse for the wrongs they did to people. They realized that the life they were living wasn’t going to bring them a bright future. So they decided to turn around and do things the right way.

I’ve acquired more knowledge about pearls from the story. For instance, I didn’t know the color, texture, and the size of the pearl affected its price. Additionally, I now know that a pearl originates from a living creature, and to get it is a hustle. Moreover, there are different types of pearls (a pure pearl and a cultured pearl) in the market. I always thought a pearl is a pearl. Furthermore, the way the pearls are obtained, as described in the book, sounds interesting.

The characters were well-developed. I liked how their lives crossed each other. And though some had parted ways many years ago, circumstances or coincidences brought them back together. These events filled the story with ecstasy. Moreover, the author introduced somewhat numerous characters at the beginning of the story to develop the plot. Once the plot was fully developed, he dropped some characters and focused on the main characters. I like this style because it isn’t exhausting and confusing.

I rate the book at 4 out of 4 stars. The story is voiced from the first-person and third-person perspectives in a conversational tone. The writing style is remarkable. I didn’t find typos/errors from the material. The author observed grammar rules, which is commendable. There were plenty of twists and turns in the story. The suspense was intense. I have nothing against the book. Unfortunately, the story contains instances of sexual content and a few obscene terms. I wouldn’t recommend the book to children or readers who hate such traits in their stories.

If you fancy reading stories that feature business ideas, you can check this book. Additionally, readers who enjoy reading attention-grabbing crime and mystery stories will find the book worth reading. If you are looking for an action-packed crime story, forget this book.

**Summary of the book.**

A mind-blowing crime and mystery story that will keep your eyes glued on the pages of the book.

Sydney Malone was married to Brian Malone, a military operative who died in Afghanistan as a result of a landmine explosion. After the death of her husband, life wasn’t easy. The bills were a bit too expensive for her to take care of with the income she received from her real estate job. What did she do to boost her income?

High cases of home burglaries were reported in Providence. It turns out Sydney was one of the perpetrators. She made a deal with a “serviceman” named Tom, who repaired home furnaces, to leave the “cellar windows” unlocked in each home he’s called to repair a furnace. That’s how she got into the apartments and stole money and expensive jewelry. One of the jewelry she stole was a set of pearl necklace and a matching ring that belonged to a woman named Joyce. The set was passed on to her by her grandmother, and it was worth $100,000. Joyce and her husband Ray sought help from the authorities, who exerted earnest effort to catch the perpetrator and retrieve the necklace.

As a real estate agent, Sydney met with a client who later became her closest friend and husband. His name was Drew Diamond (a retired police officer working at an Assurance Property and Casualty). Drew was a widower. His wife died in a car accident. Sydney assisted Drew to get a suitable apartment that will be convenient for him. She successfully helped him to procure an apartment, and during the visit to the apartment, Drew introduced Sydney to his kids, Drew Junior and Alicia, who were in attendance.

The lost set of jewelry had an insurance benefit at the Assurance Property and Casualty where Drew worked. So Drew was involved in the investigation. The police had sent photos of the necklace to all jewelry stores in Providence and made an offer of $10,000 to whoever will alert the police once they identify someone trying to sell the necklace at their shops.

Garrett Hunter owned a Jewelry store at Rhodes Island in Providence. To protect his store, he had to pay weekly extortion money worth $200, else “his weekly protection payment would surely rise”. The money was collected by an errand boy called Richie, who worked for a famous mob known as the Santucci family. Sydney visited Garrett’s store one Monday morning with the necklace and its matching ring. Not knowing how much the set was worth, Sydney accepted the $5,000 Garrett offered her.

During the investigation, Drew came to realize that Sydney, his newfound love, was the intruder. He got distressed a little bit, but he didn’t let his new finding affect his relationship with Sydney. He applied his police/detective skills and had Sydney confess where she sold the set of jewelry indirectly. Drew was able to retrieve the set from Garrett. The successful redemption of the necklace positively impacted the Assurance Property and Casualty. Drew made Sydney promise that she will shun from the wrong dealings. They even destroyed the clothes and the wig she wore when committing the crime. That was quite a transition.

Sydney had a childhood friend called Gloria, whose father accidentally shot her dad. Ever since the accident, the two haven’t seen each other. Gloria was afraid to face her friend because of what her dad did. Drew had a condo near Gloria’s parents’ home. That's where Sydney learned about Gloria’s whereabouts and the death of her husband, Jesse. It turns out their husbands were friends, and they both died on the same date in Afghanistan.

The interesting part of the story was that Richie, the mob errand boy, ended up marrying Gloria. He made lots of adjustments in his life that made his mother proud of him.

The pure pearl is extracted directly from the oyster and the cultured one is made up of a shell or soil put into an oyster that secrets silky coating around the foreign body, layer by layer until a pearl is formed.

**Profanity.**

Page 9, par 2, line 3 [bastards]

Page 81, par 2 [hell]