

Percy Janes First Novel Award

Willow Kean, St. John's

Our Impossible Forever (an excerpt)

Cleo had the urge to hide the box in her purse, realized that would get her arrested, and swung by produce to grab some bananas so she wouldn't seem so conspicuous at the checkout. She felt like throwing up on the way home and hoped it was only nerves. After she peed on the stick she went downstairs to boil the kettle. She sat on the counter and swung her feet against the cupboard door over and over again, banging it with the back of her heels like a petulant 4-year-old. She waited for two minutes and the two pink lines, and went back upstairs. The stick was sitting on the edge of the tub and Cleo saw the one line staring at her before she had cleared the bathroom door.

She leaned over the sink, put her face in her hands, and wept.