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## ***The Book of Pearl* by Timothée de Fombelle** translated by Sarah Ardizzone and Sam Gordon

**Publisher: Walker Books UK**

**RRP \$24.99**

A teenage boy arrives one stormy night at a Parisian bakery owned by a Jewish husband and wife. The couple give the lost boy shelter, a home, and a name - Joshua Pearl. He's grateful to the pair, yet he's troubled by memories of another place that calls to him from afar.

A young narrator is drawn into the story and reveals that Joshua's real name is Iliån, and he's been banished from the distant Kingdoms because of his love for the beautiful fairy, Oliå. She follows Iliån into exile, but is forbidden to let him see her. The couple become trapped in this earthly world where they're caught up in the turmoil of Europe during World War II.

Incandescent storytelling illuminates this poignant tale of young lovers who voyage through worlds to find each other. Although they are unable to make contact, they never stop searching for their lost love and a way to return home.

The vivid imagery of the writing leads readers on a breath-taking journey into the heart of self-sacrificing love, the depths of evil, and the power of stories.

Perceptive readers will enjoy both the grand sweep of the tale and the parallels drawn between the Kingdoms and our war-torn world. An imaginative and thought-provoking novel for young adults.

**Reviewed by children's book author,  
Jean Bennett**

