

Why Americans share the pain of Kennedy tragedies

Maeve Kennedy McKean's body was recovered while her 8-year-old son, Gideon, is presumed dead after going missing Thursday night in the Chesapeake Bay. McKean and her son were isolating from coronavirus with their family and playing kickball in the yard when the ball went into the water. The pair took a **canoe** to **retrieve** it and never came back.

canoe 独木舟

retrieve 检索; 取回; 恢复

It is the latest tragedy to **afflict** the Kennedy family. The notion of a "Kennedy **curse**" dates back to 1969, when the late US Senator Ted Kennedy, drove his car off a bridge on Martha's Vineyard, killing passenger Mary Jo Kopechne along with Ted's hope for a presidential run. In the half century since, the family has lost members to drug overdoses, plane crashes, and **freak** accidents.

afflict 折磨; 使痛苦

curse 诅咒

The news of yet another family Kennedy tragedy always strikes a **chord**. Their misfortune ignites in us a sense of compassion, one that's often missing in the context of rich and famous families, and reminds us that, despite class differences, we are all very much the same.

freak 奇怪的; 反常的

chord 弦

Their lives were far from perfect, and the irony of the imagined "Kennedy curse" has long **gripped** the American **psyche**. In life, the Kennedys embodied the American Dream — proof that hard work and love of family can bring success, even for an immigrant, but that with success can come **complications**, too: affairs, addictions, **avarice**, and, far too often, **tragic** death. They are proof that privilege doesn't shield anyone from catastrophe.

grip 紧握; 支配

psyche 灵魂; 心智

complication 并发症

avarice 贪婪

tragic 悲惨的; 不幸的

Their losses make them relatable and offer undeniable proof that terrible things can happen even to the most seemingly blessed among us; that most of us really can't have it all.