I Couldn’t Love You More

by Jillian Medoff

REVIEWED BY LISA KAY GREISSINGER

Families—even the best ones—are complicated. In her dazzling third novel, Medoff (Hunger Point) explores the myriad ways in which they both sustain and hinder us. Eliot Harmon is a business writer living in suburban Atlanta with her partner Grant, their daughter Hailey and his two girls from a previous marriage. Both parents work long hours in demanding jobs, yet it is Eliot who, along with handling the daily minutiae, helps the older girls cope with their artistic, irresponsible mother. Then Eliot’s first (and only) college love shows up, and she begins to disengage in ways that ultimately call into question her fitness as a mother to Hailey and Grant’s daughters. Hilarious and heart-wrenching, I Couldn’t Love You More points up how our half-conscious choices often have long-lasting repercussions and how, when it comes to love among family members, “there is no even-stein. There are only acts of grace, large and small, through which we reveal who we are.”

“If you don’t know your place in the family, how can you know your place in the world?”

GREAT READS NEW IN NONFICTION

RESTAURANT MAN
by Joe Bastianich
A fascinating, brutally candid look at the realities of operating your own eatery. There goes that dream.

THIS IS HOW
by Augusten Burroughs
“How to Ride an Elevator,” “How to Be Fat,” and other quirky tips from the author of Running with Scissors.

MAKING BABIES
by Anne Enright
The rose-colored glasses are off in this award-winning Irish novelist’s witty take on what to expect from motherhood.
**Minnie Mouse**

**BY OPI**

**WHY WE LOVE SHOES**

Sure, great kicks make an outfit pop. But their appeal goes deeper than that, says Rachelle Bergstein, author of *Women from the Ankle Down: The Story of Shoes and How They Define Us*.

**THEY CAN TRANSFORM**

Cinderella’s slippers and Dorothy’s ruby pumps enchanted us as little girls—and it stuck.

**THEY CAN EMPower**

A woman’s footwear “sends subtle clues about her,” Carrie’s Manolos, for instance, spoke to her financial independence.

**AND THE CHOICES!**

“Every woman should have a sexy pump, a comfortable wedge, and a great flat,” says Bergstein. “Nothing feels like more of a betrayal than a pair of flats that hurt—it’s like eating salad and getting fat!” —KrisTEN MasCia

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**The Stonecutter**

*by Camilla Läckberg* ★★★★

**REVIEWED BY RICHARD EISENBERG**

**THRILLER**

Something’s rotten in Fjällbacka, Sweden: Seven-year-old Sara Klinga’s drowning turns out to be a murder, and mysterious woes soon befall other children. An eerie subplot about a local stonecutter’s family secrets provides clues in this dark novel of revenge, estrangement and loveless marriages. It will keep you guessing.

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**I Am Forbidden**

*by AnouK Markovits* ★★★★

**NOVEL**

After surviving World War II, friends Atara and Mila, born into Europe’s fundamentalist Satmar sect of Hasidic Jews, end up in New York City, where they seek solace in very different worlds. Atara, “shaping a new self,” breaks free of the ultra-Orthodox community; Mila embraces it. Yet their devotion to each other transcends disagreements and touches four generations. Author Markovits, who left her own Satmar family at 19, has written a captivating tale.