

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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## **Risking It All.**

Darnton, Nina (Author)

Sep 2017. 400 p. St. Martin's/Griffin, paperback, \$16.99. (9781250075253).

Marcia and Jeff had a happy marriage, but Marcia felt their family would never be complete without a child. She and Jeff researched a multitude of options after IVF failed, finally landing on surrogacy. After weighing their moral, ethical, and financial opinions on family planning, Marcia and Jeff met Eve. A kind woman, Eve is clear-eyed and pragmatic about the responsibilities of surrogacy. Though Eve had a relatively easy pregnancy, unexpected complications arise during the delivery, and Marcia and Jeff are forced to make choices they never expected. Weighing a sudden tragedy against the gift of new life, the couple is thrown into an entirely new family dynamic. They work together to make the most of it, but they soon feel their foundation cracking. Darnton doesn't shy away from the toughest parts of parenting, using one family's unusual circumstances to explore universal questions: what does it mean to be a wife and a mother, a husband and a father? Fans of Jodi Picoult and Janelle Brown will enjoy this poignant and thought-provoking novel.

— *Stephanie Turza*