

Books

I Couldn't Love You More

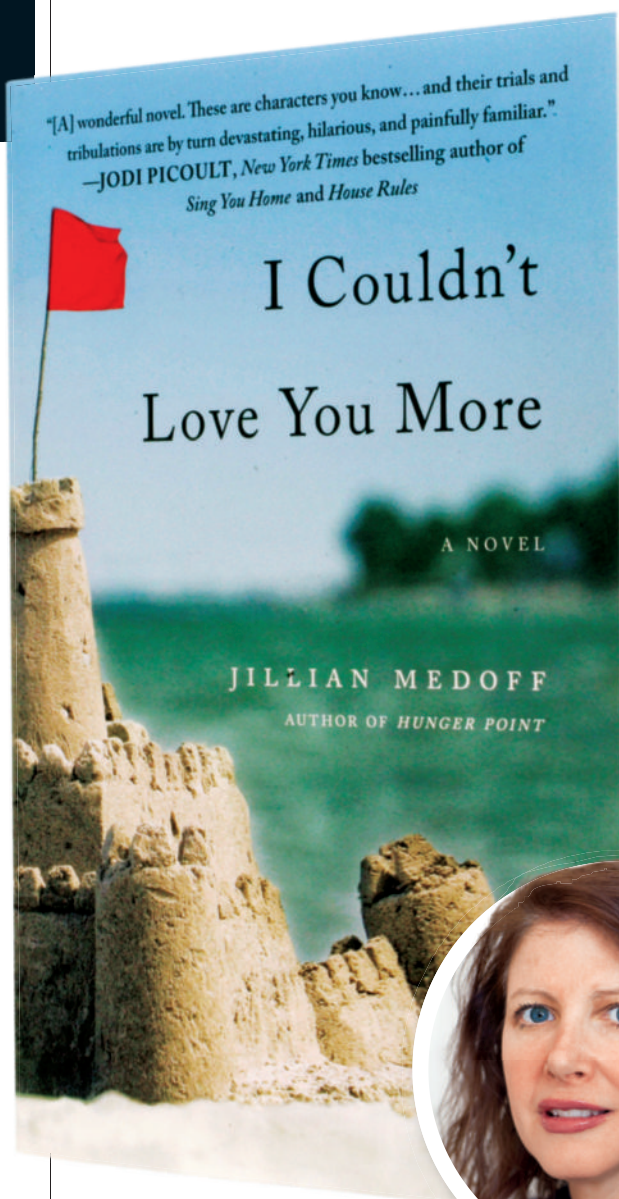
by Jillian Medoff |★★★★

REVIEWED BY LISA KAY GREISSINGER

FICTION

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-steven. 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.