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# Perfect Match



## Synopsis

In the course of her everyday work, career-driven assistant district attorney Nina Frost prosecutes child molesters and works determinedly to ensure that a legal system with too many loopholes keeps these criminals behind bars. But when her own five-year-old son, Nathaniel, is traumatized by a sexual assault, Nina and her husband, Caleb, a quiet and methodical stone mason, are shattered, ripped apart by an enraging sense of helplessness in the face of a futile justice system that Nina knows all too well. In a heartbeat, Nina's absolute truths and convictions are turned upside down, and she hurtles toward a plan to exact her own justice for her son - no matter the consequence, whatever the sacrifice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To be a good writer means you either have to know a lot about a lot of things, have great resources, or a combination of the two. A good attorney is a lot like a good writer, except they learn about the information that pertains to facts of their cases. Having been a juror on a serial murder case involving DNA evidence in 1996, my world was opened up to a fairly new (at that time) way of proving guilt or innocence. It wasn't dry and clinical information; it was fascinating. What was fascinating was the fact that DNA proved that a person, and no other, did an illegal thing, and their DNA proved it. When Prosecutor Nina Frost believes, because of DNA evidence, that someone sexually abused her little son, she does what most mothers would do. In the process, the courtroom drama that unfolds will hold you spellbound. The story that is wrapped around Nina, her son

Nathaniel, her husband Caleb, and the other man in Nina's life, Patrick Ducharme, will tug at your emotions and have you realizing things you never thought you would.

How far would you go if your five-year-old son were sexually molested? Jodi Picoult takes on this question in *PERFECT MATCH*, a story that kept me reading all night. Nina Frost, a dedicated prosecutor specializing in child sexual abuse cases, Caleb, a stonemason, and their young son, Nathaniel, are a happy Maine family until Nathaniel suddenly stops talking. What has happened to their gregarious child, Nina and Caleb frantically wonder. The answer becomes clear as Nathaniel exhibits signs of having been molested, but only he knows the identity of his abuser. Using American Sign Language, which he learned from his therapist, he eventually leads Nina to a shocking answer. Nina, who has spent her career attempting to protect children from abusers, flies into a rage so intense that she barely recognizes herself. A mesmerizing courtroom drama then plays out. This is not an ordinary book about a run-of-the-mill trial. It is filled with twists and turns, and all the while, the Frost family is tested. Will Nina, Caleb and Nathaniel exist as a family after the long emotional ordeal comes to an end? And what will that end look like? As she always does, Jodi Picoult makes me think. In *PERFECT MATCH*, she tackles an uncomfortable subject head-on and in a well-written, thoroughly researched book, she makes me wonder to what lengths I would go to protect my child.

Well written and perfectly paced. I expect nothing less than awesome from Jodi Picoult and she never disappoints. I have never had one regret when I buy her books. She is a great author. Definitely one of my top 5 all time picks.

Jodi Picoult is an extraordinary writer. Once I get started I can hardly put her books down. However it is critical to me personally to like, respect and trust my main character. About 25% into the book, the main character of "Perfect Match" Nina, a state prosecutor specializing in child molestation cases, did something after which I had trouble accepting and continuing to truly trust and care about her. So I was less interested in picking up the book at every opportunity, however when I did I still could hardly put it down. In a truly amazing twist of actions, events, and behavior (the surprising little twists for which Picoult is well known) Nina earned back my respect. An intense and surprisingly twisted plot!

Jodi Picoult is one of my favorite writers but I was very disappointed with this book. The writing just

didn't wring true with me concerning the topic of a molested 5 year old. The mother, a litigation attorney just felt false in her going so "off the reservation" accusing one suspect after another. It became one chaotic situation after another that she kept creating. Picoult usually brings her characters so thoroughly into your world that you feel you know them, but this character made me glad I didn't know anyone like her. Yes, a mother would do anything for her child but her irrationality (over and over) didn't seem to fit. Found myself wanting the book to end so I could give it a C-.

After reading and falling in love with *My Sister's Keeper*, I was excited to read more of Jodi Picoult's work. Like most people have already stated, the book started off with great potential and I didn't wanna put it down. But about halfway through, way too much was going on and it took a turn for the worst. Nina turned from a trophy wife and picture perfect mom to a psychotic and overobsessive woman. I wanted so bad to root for her and sympathize with her actions, but Picoult made to where this character couldn't be called a heroin or even the protagonist, for that matter. She was flat out insane, and I got to the point where I would skip over the parts where Nina would constantly (and creepily) talk about her obsessions with her son. As much as I wanted to hope that she got off for what she did, I just couldn't. **\*SPOILER ALERT\*** If the priest she murdered actually was the one who raped her son, I would've been more on her side. But the fact that by taking the law into her own hands and killed a good and innocent man, well, there's no way around it -- she should've been locked up. Her getting away with it was a true scenario of obstruction of justice. The message sent was that anger can justify the mistaken but blatant murder of someone innocent. It was just too overdone. On top of that, her best friend's obsessive love interest in Nina was just plain annoying, and her husband was pathetic. Nathaniel's thoughts were too thorough and advanced for a five year old, and what was the point of Quentin's relationship with his teenage son? It was nothing more than an unnecessary side story to make the story drag on. But the last twenty pages or so, I wasn't even interested anymore, just ready to finally know the ending. The novel was worded phenomenally -- but too bad the substance didn't match it. Oh well, it kept my attention for most part, but I don't think I'd recommend it, let alone read it again.

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