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Praise for *Close*

“Raskin easily balances humor and drama in this *Close: A Novel* novel about parenting, reality TV, and family. Erika Raskin’s *Close* is a welcoming and nuanced novel that offers a window into the life of the Marcheson family—with ultimately much of America peering through that window as well.”

—*Foreword Reviews*

“Wow. Erika Raskin’s right-on-the-money observations and incisive prose pull you directly into the heart of this messy, endearing family. It’s an accelerating story of entwined love and dread, and it left *Close: A Novel* me breathless.”

—Janis Jaquith, public radio commentator,  
newspaper columnist

“Crisply written . . . this wise *Close: A Novel* debut novel *Close*, slices into 21st century motherhood . . . Erika Raskin captures . . . the perils of making the *Close: A Novel* private public, and the vulnerability that comes with loving a child. Her ability to portray a mother’s love for three very different children is uncanny.”

—Alice Randall, *New York Times*

bestselling author,

*The Wind Close: A Novel Done Gone*

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“. Close: A Novel . . a poignant and edgy story of a divorced-family dynamic through complex characters and the real life struggles of parenting and adolescence . . .”

— *LitPick Student Book Reviews*

5 Star Rating [www.litpick.com](http://www.litpick.com)

“Raskin’s debut novel delivers witty, insightful prose, flesh and blood characters and a compelling plot with a twist that keeps you on the edge of your seat. A terrific read!”

— Deborah M. Prum, author, *Fatty in the*

*Back Seat*, a Shelf Unbound Annual

Top Twelve Notable Indie Book

for Young Adults

“When Erika Raskin writes that the father ‘downshifted into the somnolent whisper of the Permanently Disappointed’ she forcefully *Close: A Novel* sets the tone of her well-paced novel. *Close* paints an astute yet funny portrait of three daughters and a mother trying to cope with their fractured family. Her vivid characters remind me of many families I’ve treated over the years.”

—Justin A. Frank, M.D., Psychoanalyst and

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best-selling author of *Obama on the Couch*

“Raskin’s debut novel will keep you turning the pages in this turbulent family drama . . .”

— Jenny Gardiner, author of *the Kindle*

#1 Bestseller, *Slim to None*

**close**

**erika raskin**

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*Close* is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, places, events and *Close: A Novel* incidents are either the products of the author's imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

## Chapter One

Sometimes the dread was just a light tapping on the edge of awareness. Other *Close: A Novel* times it was a howl in that dark space between anxiety and terror. Kik was lying in bed listening to the roar, waiting for her sixteen-year-old daughter to sneak in.

*Again.*

The strange maternal emotion of heartache-slash-outrage wasn't helping anything either.

*Doone knows Close: A Novel Close: A Novel Thursday is my worst day at work!*

Kik was looking at grueling back-to-back sections of *Creative Close: A Novel Writing*. In the best of circumstances, teaching the class of fragile-shelled freshmen took lots of careful tiptoeing. Doing it on no sleep was going to be a crapshoot. There could be casualties all over the place.

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A sudden scream pierced the quiet.

“Mother! Help me!” Tess wailed. “Hurry, Close: A Novel hurry!”

Kik leapt up and ran into the hallway, heart charging her ribs. She almost plowed into fourteen-year-old Close: A Novel Casey, Close: A Novel who was also racing towards the kindergartner’s room.

“What is it?” Kik panted, as she groped for the Close: A Novel light. “What’s wrong, Tess?”

“Someone is trying to get in the window!”

“Oh, honey, no, no!” Kik soothed, scooping the child into her arms. “It was only a bad dream. We’re all the way up on Close: A Novel the second floor! No one can reach Close: A Novel up here!”

Right then there was an angry rap on the glass and the three of them jumped.

“See!” Tess cried, two parts misery, one part triumph.

“It’s a branch, sweetie. It’s really windy out.”

“Well, I do not like it!” the five-year-old announced, pink-flannelled chest still heaving. “I would prefer if you could make the tree stop. Please and thank you.”

## **Close A Novel**

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