

## Heart of the Matter: A Novel

By Emily Giffin



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"Giffin excels at creating complex characters and stories that ask us to explore what we really want from our lives."--*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*


Tessa Russo is the mother of two young children and the wife of a renowned pediatric surgeon. Despite her own mother's warnings, Tessa has recently given up her career to focus on her family and the pursuit of domestic happiness. From the outside, she seems destined to live a charmed life.

Valerie Anderson is an attorney and single mother to six-year-old Charlie--a boy who has never known his father. After too many disappointments, she has given up on romance--and even to some degree, friendships--believing that it is always safer not to expect too much.

Although both women live in the same Boston suburb, the two have relatively little in common aside from a fierce love for their children. But one night, a tragic accident causes their lives to converge in ways no one could have imagined.

In alternating, pitch-perfect points of view, Emily Giffin creates a moving, luminous story of good people caught in untenable circumstances. In *Heart of the Matter*, each is tested in ways they never thought possible. Each questions everything they once believed. And each ultimately discovers what truly matters most.

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## Heart of the Matter: A Novel By Emily Giffin Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

### Product Description

*A powerful, provocative novel about marriage and motherhood, love and forgiveness.*

Tessa Russo is a stay-at-home mother of two young children and the wife of a renowned pediatric surgeon. Valerie Anderson is an attorney and single mother to six-year-old Charlie—a boy who has never known his father. Although both women live in the same Boston suburb, they are strangers to one another and have little in common, aside from a fierce love for their children. But one night, a tragic accident causes their lives to converge in ways no one could have imagined.

This is the moving, luminous story of good people caught in untenable circumstances. Each being tested in ways they never thought possible. Each questioning everything they once believed. And each ultimately discovering what truly matters most.

From Publishers Weekly

In the popular Giffin's latest, Nick Russo is a pediatric plastic surgeon; his wife, Tessa (sister of Dex, from *Something Borrowed*), is a professor turned stay-at-home mom living a cushy life in Boston. Nick is called in to care for a six-year-old burn victim, and Nick's devotion to his work is soon tangled up in his attraction to the boy's mother, Valerie, a single attorney. Narrated in turn by Tessa and Valerie, the action centers around—will they or won't they, and, if they do, will Tessa forgive him? While unclear what Nick finds so unsatisfying in his marriage, adultery is always tempting and Tessa and Valerie both have their charms. Longtime fans will enjoy the cameos, but for the best of Giffin, don't miss her earlier works. *(May)*  
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From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** The author of *Love the One You're With* (2008) once again tackles the subject of infidelity in a novel told in alternating chapters by the wronged wife and the other woman. Tessa Russo is celebrating her wedding anniversary with her handsome husband, Nick, a pediatric plastic surgeon, when his pager goes off. At the hospital, he meets his new patient, six-year-old Charlie, who has been badly burned while roasting s'mores. Charlie's mother, Valerie, a high-powered lawyer who has raised Charlie on her own, is wracked with guilt. As Charlie goes through various grafts and surgeries to repair the damage done to his face and hand, Nick and Valerie become close. Tessa, a stay-at-home mom who has misgivings about leaving her professorship, recognizes the distance growing between her and Nick but isn't sure what to attribute it to or what to do about it. The premise is a familiar one, but Giffin injects freshness by getting inside both Tessa's and Valerie's heads and by making both sympathetic, fleshed-out characters. Giffin's talent lies in making her characters believable and relatable, and readers will be enthralled by this layered, absorbing novel. --Kristine Huntley

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Robert Jenkins:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Heart of the Matter: A Novel. Try to the actual book Heart of the Matter: A Novel as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let me make new experience and knowledge with this book.

**Lester Magno:**

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**Marylou Beauregard:**

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