

DROP CITY

by T.C. Boyle

Penguin ISBN-0-14-200380-8\

The book takes us back to the 1970s. It alternates between Drop City, a hippie commune in northern California near the Russian River, and Boynton Hot Springs a very small town in Alaska and then combines the two groups up in Alaska.

Two years ago Norm Sender used the property his parents left him to create a commune called Drop City. It is a typical hippie commune. Everyone and anyone is welcome. No holds are bared on sex, drugs, or alcohol. They believe in peace and the simple life. The women pitch in to cook; the men to do the odd chores. Unfortunately, there isn't a lot done about hygiene and government officials have warned Sender about that and other situations. He doesn't want to spend money on lawyers to fight the government. When Drop City is threatened to be leveled after being warned, Norm buys a school bus so they can move to Alaska and create Drop City North. Some of the members have cars so they can create a caravan to go to Alaska. There are a number of people living together including kids, but the story focuses on a few people.

Meanwhile in Boynton Hot Springs, women are scarce and men and alcohol plentiful. Cecil, Sess, Harder-is going into Fairbanks, the largest city around, to get and bring back Pamela to his little piece of happiness. She is going to spend several days with him and then another man to decide which she will marry. She has no intension of having sex until she gets married.

How Drop City North tries to mesh their lives with the inhabitants of Boynton is quite interesting. They discover neither northern California nor Boynton are really thrilled to have them living near-by. The experience opens up some of the hippies to think of what it is they really want in life and who they want to spend their lives with.

The book does a ton of dental tidbits. The RDH mention comes in with Sess meeting Pamela in the restaurant to bring her back. "Sit down," she said showing off her perfect white teeth, the teeth of a dental hygienist or a stripper, teeth that said hello and watch out at the same time." Some highlights are 1. "There were times, hefting his pack, sticking out his thumb, waking in a strange bed or in some nameless place that was exactly like every other place, when it infected him with a dull ache, like a tooth starting to go bad, but mostly now his parents were compacted in his thoughts till they were little more than strangers."

2. "You got to feel safe here, don't you?" "Sure, as long as I don't have to perform any emergency appendectomies. On myself, that is, Or you." "The auto-appendectomy," she said, and they both laughed. "Or dental work, Imagine trying to pull your own tooth?" They were silent a minute, contemplating the horror of that particular image, and then she said, "I'll pull yours if you pull mine," and they were laughing again.

3. "Norm's breathy was stale, or worse than stale—rotten. The teeth were rotting in his head and his head was rotting on his body. He didn't believe in dentists—only shamans—because it wasn't caries that caused your teeth to fall out, but the evil spirits of dentists gone down, and he had the gold in his mouth to prove it,"

4. And toothpaste, never forget toothpaste. He'd spent one whole winter brushing his teeth with his forefinger and another using a mixture of baking soda and salt that ate the bristles out of the brush.”

5. In desperation, he wrapped his arms round his shoulders, shivering so hard he thought his fillings were going to come loose.”

6. -“It was clear now to the teeth of the stars.”

7. “Until two weeks ago, she'd never even seen a goat---or if she had, it might have been at a petting zoo or pumpkin patch when she was ten and her jaws were clamped tight over her braces because she wouldn't dare smile with all that ugly metal flashing like a lightbulb in her mouth---and here she was milking the two of them like an expert, like a milkmaid in a Thomas Hardy novel, *Star of the D'Urbervilles*, and the whole community dependent on her,”

CERTAIN GIRLS

by Jennifer Weiner

Atria ISBN 13-978-07432-9425-6

This non-mystery-is the sequel to *GOOD IN BED*, which I read. The book chapters alternate between *Cannie Shapiro Krushelenansky* who is married to *Dr. Peter Krushelenansky* & her thirteen year old daughter *Joy Krushelenansky*. Peter is not Joy's father. *Cannie* was never married to *Bruce*, Joy's father, who split when he found out *Cannie* was pregnant. He is married and back in the picture. -

Before *Cannie* married *Peter*, she wrote *BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY*, a partial fictionalized book about her & her family. It was an instant best seller. Now she is a successful sci fi author writing under an AKA. No one knows this, & she wants it to stay that way. At one point she is approached to write another novel & to promote it, & she is petrified.

The story deals with *Joy* who soon will have her Bat Mitzvah, & has just secretly read *BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY*. The problem is *Joy* believes the written word & doesn't discuss this with *Cannie*. How she handles it is another story. Due to her premature birth, *Joy* has a hearing loss & has to wear hearing aids. She wants to be a normal teenager, fit in, & being a typical teenager, is there such a thing, she deals with this in her own way. *Cannie* being a very protective mother, attempts to shield her daughter from the world. The two clash over these situations. *Cannie's* sister *Elle* tries to help but she is not your normal individual either.

Peter wants to have a baby with *Cannie*. The problem is she had to have a hysterectomy after having *Joy*. They hunt for a surrogate mother but fail to inform *Joy* of their intentions. Big mistake.

The dental tidbits: 1. *Cannie* & her friend *Samantha (SAM)* are discussing *Sam's* love life or lack of. They are talking about internet dating & older & married men signing on which bring up the subject of *Cannie's* father. She mentions she hasn't seen him more than twice in fourteen years. She figures he is still married to the much “younger dental hygienist with whom he had two

kids.” She is brought in again when Joy, as a very small child, & Cannie are discussing family. Cannie mentally states, “My father had left when I was a teenager, married a much younger woman and had two kids. “After their discussion, Cannie turns the light off in Joy's room: “I stood there in the darkness, looking down at her, wondering whether she'd think that people-no, not people, parents-could just drop out of your life like loose teeth.” The RDH appears as a real person on 3 pages when Joy talks to her. In *BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY*, Cannie described Allie's, the protagonist, father's new wife as slender. Joy thinks, “maybe this woman had been once, but as some point she'd crossed the line from slender to skinny & looked pretty close to emaciated, like one of those actresses whose pictures they show under the words *EATING DISORDER???* On the covers of supermarket magazines. The ex-Mrs. Shapiro had a corded neck and scrawny arms. The short-sleeved V-necked pink scrubs revealed the cracked shin of her elbows, the bony plate of her chest.” 2. In one of Cannie sci fi stories, she has protagonist Lyla wearing a necklace of teeth. In another one, Lyla has blood on her teeth. 3. Cannie is talking with her mother when her mother brings up Elle running off with a man who had no teeth. Cannie reminds her he was a hockey player who “didn't have no teeth, he just had fake teeth.” 4. Her mother also remembers Cannie's brother didn't speak to her for a year claiming “his braces hurt too much for him to talk.” 5. Toothpaste, mouthwash, breath mints, flossing., brushing also have roles. 6. Because there are teenagers in the novel, braces and retainers pop in and out. “Amber gross has chestnut-brown hair, straight & shiny as a satin curtain, & a twinkly smile that would make you think her braces are jewelry she had commissioned for her teeth.” 7. Talking about the school kids-“Next to the misfits are the boy jocks, the soccer & lacrosse players, then the girl jocks, the ones who tie their colored rubber mouth guards to shoelaces & wear them like necklaces around their necks.

They went to the I-Hop to make ends meet, she was studying to become a dental hygienist at night. Nina informs Marty, “I'm ditching Bobbie-Sue. I can't take any more of those wing-nut color consultants. Those courses I was taking as a hygienist are kinda cool, and I can move in with my grandmother until I'm done. Then I can find another job.” Six months down the line, “I swear, Nina I can't believe you'd rather go digging around in someone's mouth than sell Bobbie-Sue.” Marty chuckle, leaning back into the warmth of Keegan's embrace. ---Nina threw her head back and laughed. ‘I really think I'm doing the right thing. I have a job lined up already, and it's a regular paycheck with benefits. Beats the shirt out of those crazy color freaks.’---Marty stepped between them (Wanda & Nina) wiggling a warning finger. ‘Quit. Both of you. We're here to celebrate Nina's graduation from dental hygienist school---.’”

Jennifer Weiner includes dentistry in *LITTLE EARTHQUAKES* when one family finds out their baby has a hole in his heart. The doctor tells the parents one scenario the child might have is that “He'll have to take antibiotics before he goes to the dentist.”

DECOY

by Jasmine Cresswell

Mira ISBN 0-7783-2012-X

Art gallery owner Melody Beecham mother Rosalind has been divorced from her father millionaire Wallis Beecham for a long time, but she got alimony and child support for Melody till she was eighteen. Melody was not on friendly terms with Wallis, his wife or her step-brother.

Not everyone is sure Rosalind committed suicide was she was on a yacht. At the reading of her will, she leaves an important message. Wallis was not Melody's father; however, she did not say who is. Wallis is a very revengeful man. Melody has to watch out.

When she is recruited by UNIT ONE in an unorthodox way, she thinks she won't need much training.. What one thinks and what someone else thinks is usually a different story. This is the case with Melody and Unit One's beliefs. One of the problems is that recruiter Nikolai, Nick, Anwar and Melody are both trying to hide the fact that they have a mutual attraction. Unit One and Melody do have a goal in common- to bring down Wall is who is not a nice person and is into nasty business.

Cresswell includes this when Nick thinks Melody is close to finally committing to being a Unit One member: "Nick had several unexplored tar pits of his own, and he firmly believed that adults who wanted to retain their mental health would be smart to avoid contemplating the roots of their hang-ups. Accept them and move on was his motto. ----Life was too short to waste time poking at the past like a dental hygienist probing teeth in search of cavities

ACCIDENTALLY DEAD

by Dakota Cassidy

Berkley ISBN 978-0-425-22159-4)

The book is a paranormal romance. I usually don't read these but couldn't resist when I saw that it said: It's a lousy first day on the job for dental assistant Nina Blackman when a patient, loopy from the anesthesia, bits her." So seeing the dental connection, what could I do? It was a fun romp dealing with vampires and werewolves. It turns out Nina became a dental hygienist. Nina appeared in Cassidy's 1st book THE ACCIDENTAL WEREWOLF, before she became a RDH, which explains some of Cassidy's answers.

The story's evolution started with Marty in the first book. Marty sells cosmetics & is involved with my fictional version of Mary Kay, called Bobbie-Sue. I'm all about clothes and makeup & when a convention I attended in 2004 also included women who were attending a Mary Kay convention, & as I got to talking to some of the women, an idea formed. Again, the "what if" factor that plays such a huge role in my writing made me decide to do a little parody on cosmetics sold door-to-door. That's where it all initially began, but as I said, I had to have a foil for Marty and how rabid she was about selling makeup—Nina was her recruit and a bad one at that. She also hated trying to sell cosmetics because quite frankly, she sucks at it, but out of desperation after losing her first job as a stenographer-she joins forces with Marty.]

Nina was created as a RDH because [the series is based on being accidentally bitten by one paranormal species or another, I (Cassidy) absolutely had to find a way for Nina to be bitten in an accidental way. I knew I wanted the second in the series to include a vampire—now I had to set out to find how she might accidentally run into one. My writing almost always includes a "what if" factor, so that's where the idea of a vampire going to a dentist to have his tooth filed cracked me up and I nabbed it. In the first book, Nina leaves the world of cosmetics and goes into a job re-training program—so hygienist worked out well. Plus, she didn't need to have years

and years of schooling to train for it—thus, it freed her right up for book two in the series which takes place just a few months later.

Nina's personality evolved for me. I needed a character in the first book to really poke holes in Marty's theories, mock her love of selling cosmetics etc J Nina's brash assessments and bold, colorful pottymouth definitely made a good foil for Marty's very rabid personality. Nina has no filter from brain to mouth—she's a straight shooter. She was the naysayer of the three women. Nina's the one who goes around and bursts everyone's bubbles. If you put the three women together, they're like almost the perfect person.]

Nina had a difficult childhood growing up living with her father, who was a trucker & a way a lot, & her wonderful grandmother. Her mother was a drug addict. Nina is called a potty mouth quite a bit & is not afraid to voice her opinion. She is a nice person.

Nina was helping Dr. Berkenstein with a patient (Gregori Statleon /Greg) who had a chipped tooth, when he accidentally bites her. It turns out he had to travel a bit to get to Dr. Berkenstein's, but he was the only DDS who could take him as an emergency patient. After Greg bites Nina, Dr. Berkenstein insists she go home. Good thing she does because she gets big, white fangs. It turns out Greg is a hunky vampire. Her mirror was cracked but she “hadn't graduated dental hygienist school for nuthn, and those incisors were definitely not in any textbook she'd ever had been exposed to.” She calls her friends Marty Flaherty, who had accidentally become a werewolf, & Wanda, who is normal. They are into selling Bobbie Sue cosmetics & color charts. Nina wasn't into all that and sucked at selling it. She got into dental hygiene through an unemployment program to school & retrain a person for a more marketable field. Becoming a vampire is what it got her.

[I told Cassidy that Dr. Berkenstein seemed like a nice person. Her reply: Hoo boy, I screwed up then, huh? J I never bring Dr. Berkenstein into the story as an onscreen character. He's just mentioned as Nina's boss, and he's not based on anyone in particular, just another minor means to justify my end J] Dr. Berkenstein's receptionist Belinda , the Belinda-nator” as Nina calls her, is not a nice person. “She guards patients' files like they're part of a CSI investigation instead of just a bunch of pictures of teeth. She's a fucking terrorist when it comes to those damned things. You'd think she was guarding Fort Knox.” Belinda also shows up at work early to make everyone else look bad ‘according to Joanne, another hygienist in the office.’—[Just another means to an end. Joanne just made sense .] (Belinda puts in other appearances.) Nina has no idea the name of the guy who bit her but knows she has to try to find him. Marty, Wanda, and Nina devise a plan where Nina came sneak in & get the patient's information. She needs to get a hold of “Dracula” & try to find a solution to her problem. They also use the internet to get vampire information. Marty does tell her to look at the bright side. She'll never have bad breath so she'll save a ton of money on mouthwash. Nina figures she's going to need that extra big toothbrush for her new incisors. There are a couple of pages with Nina dealing with Belinda getting “Dracula's” chart whose name is Gregori Statleon and lives on Staten Island,. She lives and works in Hackensack, N.J.

[Belinda was just a momentary blip for me, a means to an end. I know patient files are confidential, so Nina getting them wasn't as much the problem as finding a funny way to get her

hands on them—so I created Belinda. I once worked for a chiropractor as a receptionist, and the receptionist who trained me was pretty durned rabid about the files. So I guess, unconsciously, she was a spoof on a past experience.]

Nina, Marty, and Wanda go to Gregori's house which turns out to be a castle. Nina wants him to do something about the situation since he caused it. Accident or no accident.. She doesn't want to be a vampire and is sure there is a way to turn her human again.

Needless to say fangs & teeth pop up throughout. Marty's gasp was crisp, hurting Nina's sensitive ears. It sounded like a thousand dentist drills screeching in her head.—[Cassidy's humor- I use analogies like the screeching drills all the time, and not just in books that feature dental hygienists J Truthfully, until ya pointed it out, I didn't even remember writing that!] Even though he looks like he is in his 20's, Gregori has been around for centuries. He has invested well and lives well. He is also in business with Svetlana his adopted “vampire mother. It is a fashion business called FANGO [kind of a play on “fangs”]. He tells her maybe he had the anesthesia reaction due to a difference between human and vampire chemistry. (Something else to ask patients.) She is told she needs to feed, meaning drink blood, to keep her fangs in line. Svetlana tells Nina she can join their clan & work with them. She begins to wonder if maybe Greg biting her wasn't an accident. “Yeah, because dental hygienists are soooo valuable when taking over the world. They can remind all of their new vampire friends to brush and floss.”--[Cassidy's humor] At one point Nina is happy that so far Dr. Berkenstein hadn't called & fired her. Nina and Greg go to her grandmother Lou's for dinner. Lou mentions a few times that she didn't expect Nina to bring a guest & that she doesn't have her teeth in. At one point Nina is having a reaction to probably the blood she just drank. Wanda goes after her with an epi pen (Wanda is allergic to bee stings) trying to help her. “The hell she (Nina) that kind of help. No help involving needles, thank you. She didn't mind administering them, but she didn't at all like being poked with one.” Nina is telling Wanda & Marty what it was like to drink the blood. “Bet you didn't think you'd get this kind of update from me, did you? I thought by now I'd have horror stories about my new job. You know, crappy kids with rotted teeth from too many Gummi Bears. Patients with gum disease...In the scheme of things, this must sound way more adventurous than my dental hygienist gig I suppose, but...?” Nina & Greg are having another heated discussion. He says, “Wasn't it you who said I'd ruined your life?? Prevented you from working because your qualifications require a day job?” PS Nina calls Belinda the Belinda-nator.

[Cassidy- who knew I made that many references. I swear, it wasn't intentional.]

THE ACCIDENTAL WEREWOLF

by Dakota Cassidy

Berkley IABN 978-0-425-21930-0)

This is the story of how Marty Andrews, when walking her dog, got bitten by a dog AKA Keegan Flaherty. It was her scent that drove him to it, & it was an accident. This has not been a good week for Marty. She really doesn't believe Keegan, who happens to have an apartment in her building, when he tries to explain what is going on with her, even with her noticing the changes in her body. He has a hard time convincing her to move to his house in upstate N. Y. Before he gets her there, she is kidnapped, but is able to escape. Keegan is ready to kill whoever

was behind the kidnapping. She had her cell phone & tried to call both Wanda & Nina but had to leave them messages on their voicemail. She doesn't want to call 911 because she is spotting a tail. Explain that. She calls Keegan who comes to her rescue.

When she finally gets Wanda & Nina, they are relieved to know she is ok. At this point they have no idea about her werewolf status. The only ones accepting Marty up at Keegan's house is his sister, brother, & housekeeper. She also learns, & not through Keegan, something about the pack. She is the only half-human; it has been decided since he was a pup, that he is to mate with Alana, a beautiful woman whom he has no desire to mate with; & he also owns the beauty company that is the rival to Bobbie-Sue the one she works for. She is always worried about all her accounts. Who is watching over them?

Keegan flies Nina & Wanda up in his private plane to see Marty. She isn't happy with the news of what is happening at her job at Bobbie-Sue cosmetics.

Dental bites: 1. Marty's incisors come in & out quite a bit. 2. Marty has been given some dirty jobs at Keegan's company at first he didn't know about. She does ask him, "So, what's my job today? Maybe buffing the upper floors with my toothbrush?" She did them. Nina needing more money than she is making at trying to sell Bonnie Sue cosmetics comes in a few times. They are helping Marty with her accounts. Marty reads her emails & realizes Wanda will be fine; Nina is another story, "and it seemed Nina was still trying to slap lip gloss on unsuspecting women at the I-Hop to make ends meet, she was studying to become a dental hygienist at night." 3. Without Keegan knowing, Marty was made to clean things at the cosmetic company that she shouldn't have had to do. She did it, & when Keegan finds out, she asks, So, what is my job today? Maybe buffing the upper floors with my toothbrush?" 4. Nina tells Marty, "I'm all good. I'm ditching Bobbie-Sue. I can't take anymore of those wing-nut color consultants. Those courses I was taking as a hygienist are kinda cool, and I can move in with my grandmother until I'm done. Then I can find another job." 5. Six months later Marty says to Nina, "I can't believe you'd rather go digging around in someone's mouth than sell Bobbie-Sue. Nina replies, "I really think I'm doing the right thing. I have a job lined up already, and it's a regular paycheck with benefits. Beats the shit out of those crazy color freaks." Marty steps between Nina & Wanda who are who are discussing what had happened with Marty. "Quit. Both of you. We're here to celebrate Nina' graduation from dental hygienist school...

PAPER-THIN ALIBI

by Mary Ellen Hughes

Berkley-ISBN978-0-425- 2255-3

" This is the third in the Craft Corner Series which includes craft tips, and this one includes recipes. I've read all of them set in a small town. I enjoy the characters. Throw in a little romance, and include a customer who is a hygienist whose husband is a dentist and I am a happy camper. I used to be a craft person years ago. Enjoy, Lois Hirt

Young, widowed Jo McAllister owns Jo's Craft Corner. She has different classes going on all the time, and she also creates jewelry pieces. She has the opportunity to attend the well-known Michicomi Craft Festival. The downside to the festival is that Linda Weeks, whom she knew

from New York, has a booth opposite Jo's. Linda is not a nice person. Jo was never very friendly with her and has words with her that everyone hears at the festival. Linda does all she can to draw people away from Jo's booth to her booth. On one festival day someone left a box of candy at Jo's booth with Linda's name on it. She hands it over, and Linda happily proclaims it was be from the festival's organizer. She eats one piece. That is the last thing she will ever do. Evidentially with her last breath she mentions Jo's name.

Jo is not charged with anything, but this is a small town. People are either avoiding her shop or coming in, but not buying, out of curiosity because of rumors of what happened at the festival. Jo's needs her business to thrive like was starting to do in order to survive. Since the festival wasn't in town, she has no one to ask questions. Russ Morgan, whom she is seeing, has been shot and is in the hospital on top of everything. She doesn't want to ask his police friends anything. They are treating her fine. They called her when he was shot, and make sure she sees him. It is her true friends who help her seek out clues why Linda died. It wasn't an accidentally allergic reaction. Someone knew Linda has allergies.

Dentally: 1. Javonne Barnett is a hygienist who frequents Jo's shop and participates in her classes. She appears in the other 2 series STRING OF LIES & WREATH OF DECEPTION. Jo needs someone with a camera to go clue hunting with her. Javonne offers up her husband Harry, who is a dentist, on his day off. Harry is thrilled to death & doesn't mind missing golf. Most of the situations with Javonne & Harry take place out of the dental office. 2. Javonne, in her white uniform, comes to Jo's store & tells her she is hearing people in Harry's waiting room & in his chair, talking about what happened at the festival. 3. Jo is with Harry on their expedition, & he burst into laughter of what they were talking about. She (Jo) had spent enough time with Harry not to be startled by the sound (his explosive laughter) but she sometimes wondered how his patients, mouths stuffed with cotton and aspirator, handled having to face Harry's whining drill coupled with his often manic-sounding laughter. 4. They are talking about 1 of the women in Jo's origami class who isn't enjoying it as much as Jo would like her to. Jo says, "...some things begin on trust. The understanding comes later." Harry, "Like pulling a sore tooth, huh? Just reach in and yank, You'll most likely get the right one. If not, there's plenty more to try." At Jo's dismayed look, Harry burst into laughter again. "A little dentist humor, Jo. " he said, punching her shoulder lightly. Jo shook her head. "You guys must be a riot at your conventions." Harry, ""As much fun as morticians." 5. Harry & Jo are discussing how tobacco isn't the money crop it used to be. "You should see the stained teeth of some of my smoker patients. Not to mention the problems that arise from the chewers." 6. Harry is told he can watch another man using a special camera & he is thrilled. Jo wonders if "a comparable superstar celebrity dentist existed who would have made Harry as excited, but expected not." 7. Meg Boyer, 1 of Jo's class attending women, tells Jo that she was at Harry's office yesterday for a small tooth emergency. "Nothing bad, jut an old filling that fell out. Dr. Barnett was nice enough to come in on his day off to fix it for me. His wife came in too. She told me about what happened when you and dr. Barnett went to talk to that photographer from the craft festival." Megs dental visit story reminds Jo she didn't return Javonne's call. She can picture Javonne ranting about what happened with the photographer while poor Meg "sat in the dentist's chair, a captive audience of one with her mouth stuffed with cotton and an aspirator." 8. Javonne, wearing her white uniform that makes little swishing noises, rushes into Jo's store, wanting to know how 1 man got sick. She heard about it when Sara Killian came in to get her teeth cleaned." Javonne went back to the dental office after getting the information.

BELONG TO ME

by Marisa de los Santos.

Wm Morrow ISBN -978-0-06-124027

There are some references to the previous book LOVE WALKED IN. The story stays in a Philadelphia suburb but goes back and forth between the Browns and the Tremains with the story of a young mother dying and her best friend coping and doing things for her included in each chapter. The mystery in the book is who is Dev's father and will he ever find him? Make sure you have a box of tissues handy when reading this. Enjoy, Lois Hirt

Cornelia Brown and her husband Teo, whom she has known and loved since she was four, followed her desire to leave New York City and move to the peaceful suburbs. He has no trouble getting a job as an oncologist. She dropped her PhD studies but hopes to pick them up again. She has had a miscarriage but now can't get pregnant. She isn't fully welcomed into the neighborhood especially by her next door neighbor Piper Truitt who lets her know they were hoping people with children would move in and throws hints that she has to do something with her lawn and empty flower boxes. She gets to meet the neighbors when another doctor's wife has a dinner party in their honor.

She finds solace and a friend in Lake Tremain, a waitress whom she meets in a grocery store when buying ingredients for her favorite meal she can't find in town. Lake informs her Vincente's, the restaurant she works in, has it, but only for its employees. She might be able to get invited to lunch. She is relatively new to town and has moved there with her teenage son, Dev, who is a "genius genius". They left California because his system had no idea of how to teach him. Thanks to a California psychologist, Dev into a special public school that caters to kids like him and blossoms there. Why did Lake pick this suburb to move to? She isn't the only one with secrets.

Piper has two young kids and is busy helping her best friend and neighbor Elizabeth Donahue and her family. Elizabeth is dying, and Piper is trying to cope with that idea. Piper is there to take care of the kids and run things for Elizabeth and her husband Tom. Meanwhile Piper's husband tries to let her know he isn't happy. She doesn't have time to deal with his problems.

These are some dental tidbits: The main dental comes in with the mention of how Lake and Dev had spent some Thanksgivings. Lake turns down Cornelia's Thanksgiving invitation explaining that Dev looked forward to being just with her. When Dev hears his mother tell that lie, he feels that it makes him "sound like the world's whiniest mama's boy. Back home in California, holiday dinners tended to be pretty informal, but usually there was a crowd: Lake's restaurant friends; Principal Levy and her husband Brewster: wayward neighbors: some guy Lake was dating, even people like their mail carrier or the oral hygienist who cleaned Dev's teeth. Anyone who didn't have a lot of family nearby or any family at all. #2. Tom is explaining to Piper that he had to use Abby Lau instead of her sister Lauren because Lauren broke a tooth while playing tennis. Tom contemplates how one could break a tooth playing tennis, and Piper answers, "I cannot imagine." 3. Piper hands over some "healthy" snacks for her kids to Cornelia. Piper tells her "After two, kids can get plaques." Cornelia asks, "Really. On their teeth?" "Arteries," said Piper. 4. Piper

notices Elizabeth is angry. “Usually the anger spattered out like grease from a pan and could be directed toward anyone” One of the people was Tom when he bought “the wrong fruit (tangerines instead of clementines), the wrong sheets (carded percale instead of mercerized sateen), the wrong small bottled waters (plain instead of fluoridated).” 5. Piper feels lust when Tom touches her. “Still, as she turned off her bedroom light, her last thought was that it could have been anyone who set her off. For what seemed like forever, she had been touched by men, Kyle, her hairdresser, her dentist—in entirely predictable ways.” 6. Piper's son Carter grinned “up at her with his tiny, square tile white, symmetrical teeth. Ever ahead of the pack, Emma, Elizabeth's daughter, had lost her first tooth a week ago and refused to put it under her pillow. Instead, she tucked it into the very back of her ballerina jewelry box “to keep for Mommy.” 7. “When asked a direct question, Piper was fundamentally incapable of lying to her children. It was not that she believed in a strict adherence to the truth—she played the Santa Claus/tooth fairy/Easter bunny game like everybody else—it was that when caught in the clear blue beam of their gaze and asked, lying felt so utterly counterintuitive that she never managed to eke one out.” 8. Although I am not a waxer myself (when I told Piper this, she gave me the sort of look you'd give someone who claimed not to brush her teeth), I could imagine that even a hotshot cell phone used like Piper would prefer not to have a conversation while hair was being systematically ripped from her body.”