When a DNA database links two strangers hundreds of miles apart as having the same father, for one of them it's an answered prayer, a lifeline in every sense of the word. But for the other, it will dismantle everything she knows to be true about the people she loves most—and force her to decide how much she'd put on the line for someone she's starting to wish she'd never met.

In A MILLION REASONS WHY, Jessica Strawser takes the it-could-happen-to-you sense of drama and suspense that readers loved in NOT THAT I COULD TELL—and takes them to a whole new level.

Sela is dying. That is, she will be, if she doesn't get help soon. After being diagnosed with kidney disease during her pregnancy, a series of complications endangered the likelihood of ever finding a living organ donor match. In some ways, Sela is already a ghost in her house, fading into grief over both her mother's recent death and her marriage, which hasn't survived her illness. It's Sela's young son whose presence pulls her through the worst days—he needs her—until a long-shot DNA test reveals new hope for both a donor and some semblance of family: A half-sister, born to the father Sela never knew.

When Caroline gets the email from a woman claiming to share her father, she's sure it's a mistake. Her parents are deeply involved in raising her three young children, and their strong marriage has always been a model for her own. But when she confronts them with the results, his infidelity comes to light—throwing the family into a tailspin. As Caroline reconciles with the ripple effect of long-buried secrets, she can't help but imagine how differently things might have turned out—for everyone—had certain truths been revealed sooner.

Sela, knowing her life may depend on winning over her sister, paints a careful, if not entirely accurate, self-portrait, knowing she can't hide her reasons for reaching out forever. Soon, Caroline must decide what she'd sacrifice for a virtual stranger—and which version of her own life she's most afraid to risk. But for Sela, a second chance might come too late. She's been unraveling, too fast and for too long. Her son hangs in the balance. And she can't go on like this much longer.

One sister's dream come true could very well be the other's waking nightmare. The question is, which is which?

Book Club Fiction Jessica Strawser and Taking a Pause

Book Club Fiction Jessica Strawser joins Queries, Qualms, & Quirks this week to discuss not believing in her own writing, being inspired by the authors she interviewed, realizing successful authors are regular people, the difference between knowing what a good query letter is and writing your own, the overlap in publishing schedules, worrying you've wasted so much time, advice from Debbie Maccomber, and not being afraid to take a pause.

Jessica Strawser is editor-at-large for Writer's Digest, contributing editor at Career Authors, and author of five popular book club novels, including the Book of the Month selection NOT THAT I COULD TELL. Most recently, A MILLION REASONS WHY released in a new paperback edition, and her latest, THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, hit shelves March 22 from St. Martin's Press.

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