



Did You Ever Have a Family

by Bill Clegg

A shocking disaster claims the lives of June Reid's entire family on the eve of her daughter's wedding, razing the existence she knew. Everyone left coping with the horrific tragedy is altered as truths about their histories finally come to light and solace is found in the most unexpected places.

Try these thoughtful works about redemption:

[House of Secrets by Tracie Peterson](#) (Fic Pet). When Bailee Cooper's father orchestrates a surprise trip to the summer house of her childhood, what is intended to be a happy reunion for Bailee and her sisters, Geena and Piper, quickly becomes shrouded by memories from the past. One thing is certain: their family will never be the same again.

[A Thing of Beauty by Lisa Sampson](#) (New Large Type Sam). Fiona Hume's Baltimore old mansion is stuffed with junk and thrift store finds that she intends to use to turn her house into a masterpiece. An ex-screen phenomenon (an Oscar is lost somewhere in her house), she divorced her parents at 16 for mishandling her finances, and left the film world after a stint in rehab. Running out of money, Fiona takes in Josiah, a gifted blacksmith who transforms her home by repurposing the clutter into artwork, bringing both the mansion and Fiona back to life.

[Blue Water by A. Manette Ansay](#) (Fic Ans). Meg and Rex Van Dorn's lives are irrevocably altered when a drunk driver—Meg's onetime best friend, Cindy Ann Kreisler—slams into their car, killing their six-year-old son, Evan. Shocked, when Cindy Ann receives only a mere slap on the wrist, they buy a boat to sail around the world, hoping to put as much distance as possible between themselves and Cindy Ann. But when a family wedding forces Meg to return, she's forced to face the complex ties that bind her to the woman who has destroyed her peace.

Overcoming grief:

[When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi](#) (616.99 Kal). When a neurosurgeon is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he reflects on his life and career in a search for meaning. As his illness progresses, he gains new understanding and strength as a patient and a human being. This new perspective allows him to live his last days to the fullest.

[H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald](#) (921 Macdo, H). Helen Macdonald tells her unique story of recovery after her father's sudden death. Inspired by a childhood book, Macdonald decided to train a hawk to help her overcome her pain and loss. As she connects with the hawk and nature, she finds comfort and strength in her new purpose.

[Night of the Radishes by Sandra Benitez](#) (Fic Ben). After her twin sister died in a tragic accident as a child, Annie's father committed suicide and her older brother disappeared. Years later, Annie's mother makes a dying wish for her daughter to reunite

with her long-lost brother. Annie then embarks on a revealing journey that leads her to self-discovery, forgiveness, and acceptance.

[A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman](#) (New Fic Bac). A misanthropic old man on the surface, Ove secretly struggles with the loss of his late wife and has lost the will to live. When a new young family moves in next door, their frequent conflicts and misadventures lead Ove to find new meaning in a life he was ready to give up.

Family stories told from multiple perspectives:

[The Year We Left Home by Jean Thompson](#) (Fic Tho). The Erickson's, a family of Norwegian descent from the town of Grenada, Iowa have struggled for several decades beginning with the Vietnam War. Marital problems, alcoholism, post-traumatic stress syndrome and a horrific car accident all leave their mark on this family. For all the setbacks that they endure, the Erickson's are lifted above circumstance by their strong ties to each other, enduring values, and their geographical roots.

[Inside the O'Briens by Lisa Genova](#) (New Fic Gen). Joe O'Brien, a long-time Boston cop, discovers he has Huntington's disease, which is both hereditary and incurable. As Joe worries about his own health and the fate of his four children, his family is confronted with the gut-wrenching realities of this cruel and debilitating disease.

[Between a Mother and Her Child by Elizabeth Noble](#) (Fic Nob). The Barrett family seems to have it all—until the day their world stops turning. Jake, their oldest son, is killed in a tsunami while travelling in Asia before he begins college. While the members of the Barrett family try to cope with the sudden tragedy in different but isolated ways, they discover that family love can take many unexpected shapes.

[I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson](#) (Teen Nel). Twins Noah and Jude are inseparable. Both teens are talented artists, struggling with growing up, until their mother dies in a tragic car accident. This loss, combined with misunderstandings and jealousies fractures their relationship. Alternating between Noah's firstperson narrative in the years before the accident and Jude's in the years following, the secrets the siblings hide from each other are revealed as well as the deeply loving relationship they share.