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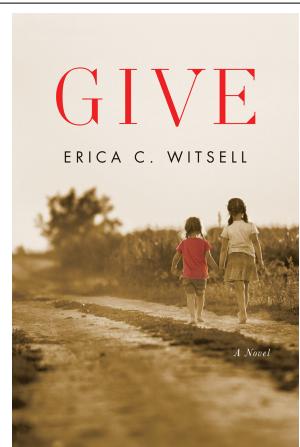
GIVE

by Erica C. Witsell

"A very unusual family saga written with unusual intelligence and compassion.

Erica Witsell has a gift for depicting complex relationships."

—Phyllis Rose, literary critic, educator, and author of *The Shelf*



Give
by Erica C. Witsell
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Erica Witsell

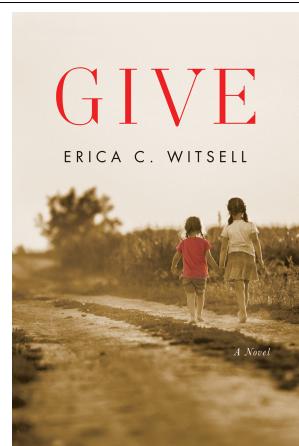
From the misty coast and dry ranch country of rural California to San Francisco's lively streets and Oregon's protective woods, Jessie and Emma are followed by the fumbles, failures, and multifaceted love of their family. The sisters are left behind by Laurel, a mother who never takes to mothering, then raised by their father and a stepmother who loves them as her own. When Laurel reappears to rekindle a relationship, they have disparate responses, but, in their love for one another, allow each other to follow their own paths. As their lives settle into adulthood along with their own questions of belonging, Laurel, desperate for another chance at family and happiness, asks for a stunning gift. The reverberations from the request and its answer will continue to transform the lives of the family.

In *Give*, debut novelist Erica Witsell wades through issues of motherhood, sisterhood, queer identity, polyamory, infertility, and infidelity while never losing sight of the important central question: how do we choose to give love? As Amy Willoughby-Burle, author of *The Lemonade Year*, says *Give* asks: "What will you give for your family—love, forgiveness, second chances? Everything you are? What if they don't give back?" Ultimately, she says, the novel "pulls no punches, delivering an honest look into the lengths we will go for family."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Maine but raised in Florida, Erica Witsell lived in Connecticut, California, Ecuador, and Italy before settling in the mountains of western North Carolina fifteen years ago. A graduate of Wesleyan University and University of California, Berkeley, she taught high school for over ten years and now teaches English as a new language in Asheville. Her writing has appeared in *The Sun* and *Brain, Child*. More information about Witsell and her blog on living and mothering her three children is available at ericawitsell.com.

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"A very unusual family saga written with unusual intelligence and compassion. Erica Witsell has a gift for depicting complex relationships."

—Phyllis Rose, literary critic, educator, and author of *The Shelf*

"Give is a striking, often unflinching, depiction of a doomed marriage and its enduring consequences. Erica Witsell is a very talented writer and her debut should garner a wide and appreciative audience."

—Ron Rash, author of *Serena*

"This is an engrossing novel about family and forgiveness. Tracing the lives of five characters over the span of thirty years, Erica C. Witsell shows us that family is about choice as much as it is about blood and that sacrifice and selfishness both play a role in how we parent and love."

—Sarah Viren, author of *Mine*

"This is a gripping narrative about family, identity, and loyalty. The themes are both uniquely modern and timeless. I fell in love with the characters as they struggled to understand themselves and reconcile with one another. Beautifully written!"

—Kate Rademacher, author of *Following the Red Bird*

"What will you give for your family—love, forgiveness, second chances? Everything you are? What if they don't give back? *Give* shines a light across the best and worst of us all, asking what will you give? At times subtle and at times cutting to the quick, *Give* digs deep into the heart and soul of a family as connected as it is torn apart. *Give* pulls no punches, delivering an honest look into the lengths we will go for family. What we will give and what we won't."

—Amy Willoughby-Burle, author of *The Lemonade Year*

"[A] lovely coming of age story that shows an honest portrait of a family that loves each other but may not always know the best ways to show it."

—Andrea, Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

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