



Losing Isaiah

By Seth Margolis

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Losing Isaiah By Seth Margolis

A NATIONAL BESTSELLER AND FEATURE FILM STARRING HALLE BERRY AND JESSICA LANGE

"Riveting...impossible to turn away from." ?THE BOSTON GLOBE

"Losing Isaiah pushes all the current cultural buttons...[Margolis] gets inside the head of every character." ?THE WASHINGTON POST

"[E]ngrossing and, to its credit, offers no pat answers to complicated issues." ?PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

Three-year-old Isaiah has two mothers: and they both want him.

Margaret Lewin adopted Isaiah as a newborn?and she and her husband, Charles, give the boy all the love a child could want and everything that money can buy. But can even the most loving, caring white family be responsible for raising a black child?

Selma Richards is the boy's birth mother. When Isaiah was born she was illiterate, unemployed, and a crack addict. Giving up her son was the best thing for both of them?at the time. Now Selma has weaned herself off drugs, has a responsible job caring for another couple's child, and is learning to read. She's not rich and she doesn't live in the best neighborhood, but she's healed herself.

LOSING ISAIAH raises one of the most complex and emotional moral questions of our times, and keeps you rooting for both women until the inevitable and heartrending conclusion in which one mother ends up losing her son.

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Losing Isaiah By Seth Margolis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Recent headline-making custody cases are echoed in this contrived, yet provocative book. Selma Richards, black, illiterate and drug-addicted, sold her premature baby boy Isaiah to Margaret and Charles Lewin, an affluent white couple, for \$25,000. Two and a half years later, Selma has turned her life around: she is drug-free, employed, learning to read--and she wants her son back. But Isaiah is now a cherished part of the Lewin family and they will not give him up easily. Using the connections of her sympathetic reading tutor, Selma hires a powerful attorney, and a bitter custody case begins. What is in Isaiah's best interests? A strong cultural identity? Emotional and material security? Mystery writer Margolis (*Disappearing Acts*) turns a sharp eye on the legal system, the media and the less savory side of family life. Selma's pompous and self-serving attorney has his own reasons for taking her case. Charles unwisely begins an affair with a seductive co-worker. And Selma is pressured into adopting a deceptive life style. The message of the book is manipulatively delivered, some passages seem extraneous and the frequent switches in point of view are a blow to cohesion. Nonetheless, the story is generally engrossing and, to its credit, offers no pat answers to complicated issues. Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club selection.

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From School Library Journal

YA-Selma Richards is single, black, illiterate, and living in Brooklyn. Margaret Lewin is married, white, educated, and has an Upper West Side Manhattan address. The common thread? Selma sold her child to Margaret in infancy for \$25,000. Now she has turned her life around and wants to make a home for her son. She's kicked drugs, gotten a job, saved some money, and joined a literacy program. But most important, she's black, like Isaiah, and she is his birth mother. Margaret has seen the boy through a difficult infancy, provided him with what appears to be a stable home for two-and-a-half years, nurtured and loved him, and made him an indispensable part of her family. And what is best for Isaiah? That is the question in this thought-provoking, nonjudgmental book.

Pamela B. Rearden, Centreville Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA

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From Library Journal

Using his major combatants in this novel that explores the complexities of interracial adoption, Margolis tries to manipulate the reader's emotional and ethical responses to this difficult issue. Charles and Margaret Lewin are the well-intentioned, loving, artistic couple who are raising the child that Selma Richards gave up two-and-a-half years earlier. Now, Richards has turned her life around; employed, drug-free, and learning to read, she wants her son back. The flaws and strengths of both sides are stretched through some lamentably stereotypical characterizations in which none of the people fare very well. The tie-in to the recent motion picture may draw new interest to this recording, but any insights from the exploration into the cultural and moral debate may be limited or lost to the characters herein rather than the society they might have served. Most libraries can pass on this one. ?Joyce Kessel, Villa Maria Coll., Buffalo, N.Y.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Greg Wilson:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will need this Losing Isaiah.

Gina Dana:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed Losing Isaiah? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

May Chapa:

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Thomas Towne:

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