



## Tales from the Crib

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Lara Stone is back again, and nine months of being miserably pregnant was nothing compared to what follows. But when Lara's long-estranged dad shows up with a stripper on his arm, her husband begins flirting with a hot twenty-five-year old, and her nanny casts voodoo spells to keep her from losing those last ten pounds, Lara soon finds that sleepless nights, S&M-like pumping bras, and a raging case of the post-baby blues are the least of her problems.

Picking up where the critically acclaimed *Notes from the Underbelly* left off, Lara tries her damnedest to become a "good" mother, while keeping sane among the Gucci-clad Mommunists from her Mommy and Me class. But just when she's certain she'll never figure this nurturing thing out, she finds support in the unlikeliest of places, and comes to understand that-unlike diapering-there's no wrong way to love someone.

## Tales from the Crib Details

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## **From Reader Review Tales from the Crib for online ebook**

### **Candace says**

I literally laughed out loud at several parts in this book. I could totally relate to Lara because I remember having been in very similar situations with my first child when he was a newborn. (For example, the grocery store without a fully stocked diaper bag and your child has explosive diarrhea). I would highly recommend this book to any mothers with young children.

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### **Melanie Link says**

Thank God someone felt the same way I did about my child! I suffered from postpartum depression and was searching for something to let me know that the way I was feeling was normal. Although I didn't go to the extremes as detailed in this book our feelings of frustration, of being overwhelmed by the new and terrifying situation we have just been introduced to and the mourning of our old lives were strikingly similar. Green had me laughing out loud and quoting passages to my husband throughout the book. This is a great book for first time moms who find out that for them having a baby isn't all what it is cracked up to be or doesn't live up to their expectations. As you will find in the book and also what I have learned-give it a few months and you will see that having a baby is much more special than you could ever imagine! Enjoy!

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### **Becca says**

I read this book in 2 days, while I was sick. Quick read. I liked it because I had the EXACT same experiences with my son that she describes in the first newborn weeks. I liked how Lara came around at the end to learn to love herself as a mother and not compare and be happy with her own life. A few things I didn't like: soo much swearing, it got old really fast! I also didn't like anything about her relationship with her nanny, Delores. It was completely unreal, and nobody would really put up with it, let alone continue to pay and provide a room for a nanny like that. I suppose the author was just trying to be funny, but I was annoyed!

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### **Amy says**

I read Notes From the Underbelly a couple years ago, and remember thinking that it was completely hysterical. I was really looking forward to reading the sequel, but I was a little put off by the amount of language in it. I would have rated it higher had there not been the f-bomb on almost every page. It did have some very funny moments, but the main character was a lot whinier than I remember, and the husband seemed to be a bit of an idiot.

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### **Elena says**

This was the follow up to Notes from the Underbelly, which of course I read because I am currently pregnant and want to read such stories, and then since the story ended abruptly I had to move forward. The follow up was okay....it was funny in parts, and Lara redeemed herself a little, but I still never really warmed up to her. I also really think she exhibited signs of post-partum depression (anything past two weeks is not the baby blues) and it's too bad it wasn't addressed in such a way....although she did emerge out of it. No one said motherhood is easy. . .

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### **Bethany says**

This book is the sequel to "Notes From the Underbelly," which I loved, but it pales in comparison. The problem I had with this book was that Lisa, the main character, was so over-the-top selfish, materialistic, and insecure during the first 3/4 of the book that I hated her! I was actually disgusted by her, which is possibly the reason that I kept reading the book and was still entertained. That, and the book was funny. Overall, by the end, Lisa comes around (sort of) and I was left with an "okay" feeling about the book. I did enjoy reading the book though, which almost makes me embarrassed to admit because Lisa is so pathetic!!!

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### **Yoli says**

I don't know what I expected but as I did not read Notes from the Underbelly (but have seen the TV show) this book was a bit... underwhelming (I know... not a word)

I had to force myself to get through the beginning and once i got to the middle I don't know what I wanted to see but it just got to the point I wanted to see where the characters ended up. So it was okay. I liked it but didn't love it... won't rush to read another book by her but will still give this author a chance.

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### **Kate says**

I thought the author did a wonderful job portraying the anxieties of new motherhood. I loved how the book is narrated by an honest womans thoughts...

Although in Tales From the Crib she goes it bit overboard. She whines and cries about how hard everything is, while she has a live-in maid and housekeeper! Come on!

It was still funny but not nearly as good of a read of Notes from the Underbelly.

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### **Julie Hoadley says**

This was a great book about motherhood, whether you are a mother or not. It tells the story of a first time mother and her struggles with adapting to motherhood. It also tells the story of her relationship with her estranged father and what she learns about herself through him. I would recommend this book to any woman who has kids or ever even thought about having kids.

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### **jillian says**

This is one of those books where all the narrator does is whine, whine, whine. I read this book when I was nine months pregnant, the week before I finally got to go into Cedars to have labor induced. And I seriously wanted to slap the narrator every other page. The author says she wrote the book to speak out against the predominant overachieving mom culture among middle-class women in L.A., but never actually shows any positive alternative behavior to the women she refers to as "mommunists". This book made having a baby sound like a major inconvenience that would last until you could hire a nanny to take over while you went to the gym to get your figure back.

Now that I have a two month old baby boy, I can be all smug and say that being a mom is not the nightmare that these sort of books make it out to be. If you want to read a book about retaining your identity while having a child, this is not the fictional account to read. And if you want to demonstrate alternative behavior to the mainstream in L.A., then buy your baby gear secondhand (or from small providers), go for walks in non-upscale neighborhoods, and drive a car with good gas mileage instead of an SUV.

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### **Theresa Wade says**

The book is cute, but you have to have read the first one and KNOW the character. I love the character of Lara and enjoy the way she grows in this book. Great masterpiece of literature it isn't, but it's cute and fun.

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### **Michelle says**

As someone who prides myself on finishing every book that I start, even if I don't really care for it, I have to say that I've met my match. Even though I liked the first book, Notes From The Underbelly, I absolutely cannot force myself to continue with the sequel, Tales From The Crib. I made it to page 110 before I could no longer stand the idiocy of all the characters. I am so appalled by the main character, Lara, that all I can think about is how to NOT be like her....

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### **Kristi says**

Loved it. So funny and relatable. I was laughing out loud while also remembering my experience with a colicky newborn- being unable to leave the house or do anything in it, spending days in a row in my bathrobe with a lump in my throat...wish I read this book beforehand to have a better idea of what I was in for!

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### **Mary says**

Although the book read fairly well I hated it. I hated the whiney self obsessed main character. I hated many of the axioms of the books. The main characters views towards children especially her own infant should

concern all of humanity. And the constant fodder of being selfish is a good thing for a mom so that you can than be a good mom goes against everything I believe about parenting.

The end message was okay, but after reading 80% of the books mindless and worldly drivel about parenting I was sick.

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### **Eva Leger says**

3.5 - I picked this up years ago not knowing it was the sequel to Notes From The Underbelly. I'm not a huge fan of chick-lit so when I read and really liked Notes I noted it in my head and picked this up when I saw it. Unlike most of the sequels coming out today, this is the kind that deserves to come out IMO. I was pleasantly surprised when I learned exactly what it was even though I read Notes so long ago that I couldn't remember much.

My younger sister read this before me, a few weeks ago, and after hearing a little about it I was somewhat worried that I wouldn't like it. I think I'm half mommunist. I've loved Julia from the second I knew I was carrying her. I still watch her, at almost 5 years old, with wonder every day. I loved the entire pregnancy, even the kind of crappy parts and I loved giving birth. Can't wait to do it again matter of fact. So, when my sister told me some of the main characters feelings on being a Mommy I was timid to say the least. I am glad I stuck with it though - although my sister represented it fairly this is a perfect example of how someone can assume something totally different than what it actually is.

Even with all I said above about Julia I can still understand Lara's points. Babies do sit there like lumps - especially if you don't know what to look for. Babies *are* hard work, you *do* miss your old life, etc.

Risa Green did an awesome job of letting her readers form their own opinions while still being able to relate. Andrew was the perfect husband character and I couldn't stand the nanny. I think because of two things, one is that I can't stand when someone refers to themselves in the third person and the second is that if someone tried to compete with me for my daughters love and attention they'd never see her again. But, I'm not one of those readers who hates a book because I hated a character - I think it's awesome that she brought up such strong feelings in me - no matter what way they leaned. The supporting characters were great - everyone knows a Susan - I know I do.

The whole situation with Lara's Dad and Nadine was a fantastic twist - I wasn't expecting it to turn out the way it did somehow. I'm still thinking about Lara and Nadine's relationship actually.

I don't know if Green has any other books but she's one chick-lit author I'll always keep my eye out for.

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