

Sing You Home

by Jodi Picoult

Atria Books

This is an extraordinary novel about the conflicts between fundamentalist religion and personal freedom.

“Sing You Home” has 40 year old music therapist Zoe Baxter trying to survive multiple in-vitro fertilizations, the loss of her husband, and serious illness to move on with her life alone. Her husband Max – who feels that Zoe’s efforts to have a child have destroyed their marriage – first degrades into alcoholism, and then becomes involved in a fundamentalist religion through his brother’s influence.

After a while, Zoe finds a new love – a fellow school employee, Vanessa Shaw. Although they live in Rhode Island, they get married in Massachusetts. While on their honeymoon, Zoe is regretting that she can never bear children – and that there are three embryos still in storage at the IVF clinic. Vanessa responds, “I can.” But they need biological father Max’s permission to use the embryos.

When Max brings his brother Reid and his pastor Cliff into the decision, a bitter legal battle ensues, filled with all the accusations and misstatements one would expect in any such conflict. High powered attorneys for both sides fight it out in court, with an end result no one would expect.