Jodi Picoult

HOUSE RULES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
The Oconomowoc Arts Center
7:00 pm
Tickets $25 (includes House Rules book)

Contact Books & Company For Tickets. Call 262.567.0106

Oconomowoc, WI – Books & Company and the Oconomowoc Arts Center welcome the #1 New York Times best-selling author, Jodi Picoult, on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now at Books & Company – 1039 Summit Avenue (Whitman Park Shopping Center) Oconomowoc. The $25 ticket price includes a copy of Picoult’s new book, House Rules.

“You men out there who think Ms. Picoult is a chick thing need to get with the program. Her books are an everyone thing....Picoult writes with unassuming brilliance.”

~ Stephen King (writing in Entertainment Weekly, 5/22/09)
In today’s world, 1 out of every 100 children is diagnosed on the autism spectrum. That’s a lot of children and a lot of families who are coping with a developmental disability for which there is no cure.

Now in her brilliant new novel, HOUSE RULES (Atria; March 2, 2010; $28.00), Jodi Picoult brings us Jacob Hunt, an eighteen-year-old with Asperger’s Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism, and offers a glimpse inside an isolated and only marginally understood world.

Jacob Hunt is extremely verbal and smart with a steel-trap mind for facts and figures. And his specialty? He can accurately analyze a crime scene in lightning speed and tests himself with each new episode of the television program, “Crime Busters.” What he can’t do is keep eye contact, make friends, read between the lines, go-with-the-flow, or say “I love you.” Even to his mother.

In Jacob’s world everything is planned out and closely monitored. He cannot handle any variations from the routine, and his mother, Emma, rarely strays from it. He also absolutely will not break a rule and wishes everyone else would follow the rules as well as he does. Rules, he says, are what keep him sane. However, when Jacob’s social skills tutor, Jess, a co-ed grad student, is found dead, Jacob is arrested for her murder and his precisely-ordered world spins wildly out of control.

Told through multiple viewpoints- including Emma, Jacob’s brother, a local detective, the young lawyer who takes on Jacob’s case, and, of course, Jacob’s unique voice- HOUSE RULES is a riveting look at a kid who cannot fit in no matter how hard he tries and whose symptoms make him seem guiltier with each passing day. Picoult examines how a family copes with autism, how our society treats misfits, and how our legal system fails those who can’t communicate in a certain way. Most poignantly, she evokes the day-to-day struggle of a single mom to keep it together in the face of overwhelming demands – a mom who has built a world around her oldest son only to see it crumble down around her.

Picoult’s extensive research for HOUSE RULES included interviewing kids with autism and their families. She had a teenage girl with Asperger’s read the manuscript to make sure Jacob’s voice rang true. Vivid and emotionally powerful, the perspectives of these characters and the pitch-perfect voice of a young man with Asperger’s are unforgettable. Picoult once again provokes and entertains and reminds us why she is one of this country’s best novelists.
Jodi will be signing books after the presentation.

**Jodi Picoult** is the bestselling author of sixteen novels. She lives in Hanover, NH with her husband and three teenage children. See attached biography for more information.

[www.jodipicoult.com](http://www.jodipicoult.com)

**The Oconomowoc Arts Center is located at:** 641 East Forest Street, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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**Biography**


Picoult studied creative writing with Mary Morris at Princeton, and had two short stories published in *Seventeen Magazine* while still a student. Realism - and a profound desire to be able to pay the rent - led Picoult to a series of different jobs following her graduation: as a technical writer for a Wall Street brokerage firm, as a copywriter at an ad agency, as an editor at a textbook publisher, and as an 8th grade English teacher - before entering Harvard to pursue a master’s in education. She married Tim Van Leer, whom she had known at Princeton, and it was while she was pregnant with her first child that she wrote her first novel, *Songs of the Humpback Whale.*
In 2003 she was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for Fiction. She has also been the recipient of an Alex Award from the Young Adult Library Services Association, sponsored by the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust and Booklist, one of ten books written for adults that have special appeal for young adults; the Book Browse Diamond Award for novel of the year; a lifetime achievement award for mainstream fiction from the Romance Writers of America; Cosmopolitan magazine’s ‘Fearless Fiction’ Award 2007; Waterstone’s Author of the Year in the UK, a Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, a Virginia Reader’s Choice Award, the Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award, and a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award. She wrote five issues of the Wonder Woman comic book series for DC Comics. Her books are translated into thirty four languages in thirty five countries. Three – The Pact, Plain Truth, and The Tenth Circle, have been made into television movies. My Sister’s Keeper was a big-screen released from New Line Cinema, with Nick Cassavetes directing and Cameron Diaz starring, which is now available in DVD.

She and Tim and their three children live in Hanover, New Hampshire with three Springer spaniels, two donkeys, two geese, eight ducks, five chickens, and the occasional Holstein.