



As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel

By Elizabeth Poliner

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner

An Amazon Best Book of the Year A multigenerational family saga about the long-lasting reverberations of one tragic summer by "a wonderful talent [who] should be read widely" (Edward P. Jones).

In 1948, a small stretch of the Woodmont, Connecticut shoreline, affectionately named "Bagel Beach," has long been a summer destination for Jewish families. Here sisters Ada, Vivie, and Bec assemble at their beloved family cottage, with children in tow and weekend-only husbands who arrive each Friday in time for the Sabbath meal.

During the weekdays, freedom reigns. Ada, the family beauty, relaxes and grows more playful, unimpeded by her rule-driven, religious husband. Vivie, once terribly wronged by her sister, is now the family diplomat and an increasingly inventive chef. Unmarried Bec finds herself forced to choose between the family-centric life she's always known and a passion-filled life with the married man with whom she's had a secret years-long affair.

But when a terrible accident occurs on the sisters' watch, a summer of hope and self-discovery transforms into a lifetime of atonement and loss for members of this close-knit clan. Seen through the eyes of Molly, who was twelve years old when she witnessed the accident, this is the story of a tragedy and its aftermath, of expanding lives painfully collapsed. Can Molly, decades after the event, draw from her aunt Bec's hard-won wisdom and free herself from the burden that destroyed so many others?

Elizabeth Poliner is a masterful storyteller, a brilliant observer of human nature, and in *As Close to Us as Breathing* she has created an unforgettable meditation on grief, guilt, and the boundaries of identity and love.

 [Download As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel ...pdf](#)

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel

By Elizabeth Poliner

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner

An Amazon Best Book of the Year A multigenerational family saga about the long-lasting reverberations of one tragic summer by "a wonderful talent [who] should be read widely" (Edward P. Jones).

In 1948, a small stretch of the Woodmont, Connecticut shoreline, affectionately named "Bagel Beach," has long been a summer destination for Jewish families. Here sisters Ada, Vivie, and Bec assemble at their beloved family cottage, with children in tow and weekend-only husbands who arrive each Friday in time for the Sabbath meal.

During the weekdays, freedom reigns. Ada, the family beauty, relaxes and grows more playful, unimpeded by her rule-driven, religious husband. Vivie, once terribly wronged by her sister, is now the family diplomat and an increasingly inventive chef. Unmarried Bec finds herself forced to choose between the family-centric life she's always known and a passion-filled life with the married man with whom she's had a secret years-long affair.

But when a terrible accident occurs on the sisters' watch, a summer of hope and self-discovery transforms into a lifetime of atonement and loss for members of this close-knit clan. Seen through the eyes of Molly, who was twelve years old when she witnessed the accident, this is the story of a tragedy and its aftermath, of expanding lives painfully collapsed. Can Molly, decades after the event, draw from her aunt Bec's hard-won wisdom and free herself from the burden that destroyed so many others?

Elizabeth Poliner is a masterful storyteller, a brilliant observer of human nature, and in *As Close to Us as Breathing* she has created an unforgettable meditation on grief, guilt, and the boundaries of identity and love.

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #137367 in Books
- Published on: 2016-03-15
- Released on: 2016-03-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 1.25" w x 6.25" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages



[Download As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel ...pdf](#)



[Read Online As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of March 2016: Reviewers of this wonderful, moving novel will surely compare it to the works of Allegra Goodman, whose *Kaaterskill Falls*, in particular, introduced many readers to the world of ultra-observant Jewish families, their traditions and their guarded relationship with the secular, non-Jewish society. And this book does follow some of the same themes. But as I read it (in two obsessive sessions--remember binge-reading?), the book it more readily brought to mind was *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Like the late Harper Lee's masterpiece, *As Close To Us as Breathing*, revolves around the events of one summer, is told from the point of view of a pre-adolescent girl, and shows how a single terrible event forever changes her, her family and her community. "The summer of 1948 my brother Davy was killed in an accident," 12 year old Molly says on page 1-- and so I was hooked. Yes, of course, I wanted to know the hows and whens and wheres of what happened to this little boy, whom we come to know as a beloved annoyance to his siblings--they actually call him "squirt" sometimes. But what held my attention as much as the wondering about Davy was the unfurling of the back story of this matriarchal family. Set on a strip of Connecticut beach that welcomed Jews at a time when most did not--it was affectionately known as Bagel Beach--Davy's mother and her two adult sisters share a cottage with their children for the summer. (The men, involved in a family business in New Haven, only come on weekends.) And what wonderful, proud, competitive, loving and demanding women these sisters are! One of them is married to another's old boyfriend, one is having a love affair with a goy (non-Jew), all are trying to preserve their traditions and still live their lives. Occasionally, readers may be confused about exactly what is happening when--Molly is narrating as a modern adult, the story goes back and forth over several decades-- but that's a minor quibble in a novel this layered and deep. *As Close to Us as Breathing* is full of characters who are at once typical and original and whose story of faith, guilt and family is timeless. --Sara Nelson

Review

"Vivid, complex, and beautifully written, Elizabeth Poliner's novel, *As Close to Us as Breathing*, brims with characters who leave an indelible impression on the mind and heart. This moving story of the way one unforgettable family struggles with love and loss shows an uncommon depth of human understanding. Elizabeth Poliner is a wonderful talent and she should be read widely, and again and again." ?**Edward P. Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Known World***

"What a lovely, *lovely* book." ?**Elizabeth Strout, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge***

"Poliner depicts each character with sensitivity and insight...Beautifully written, stringently unsentimental, and yet tender in its empathy for the perennial human conflict between service and self."?Kirkus (Starred Review)

"Poliner's novel is an exquisitely written investigation of grief and atonement, and an elegy for a Jewish family bound together by tradition and tribe."?Publishers Weekly

"Beautiful.... A nuanced, intricate family drama that explores their tight culture at a turning point.... [It's] the kind of novel you sink into blissfully. It casts a spell.... [Poliner's] characters seem so real, so multi-dimensional, so sympathetic even when they mess up that you have to shake yourself back to the present each time you put down the book.... *As Close to Us As Breathing* is a marvel of artful storytelling."?NPR.org

"Resonant, sensitively observed...Poliner has a keen eye for the awkwardness and sudden leaping insights of adolescents on the brink of adulthood....Poliner also deserves kudos for the warm, particularized light in which she dresses her many characters. *As Close to Us as Breathing* is a big-hearted roundelay of a novel that, among other things, performs the invaluable service of recovering a lost world."?New York Times Book Review

"If summer, for you, recalls days spent by the seashore, Poliner's saga of three Jewish sisters and the beachfront cottage they share with their families--until life-altering tragedy strikes--will enthrall you."

?O, the Oprah Magazine

"An instant classic.... Poliner handles the texture of Jewish family life with brilliance, authenticity, and a touch of wistfulness."

?Jewish Book Council

"Superb...As Close to Us as Breathing is a beautiful, complex, character-driven novel. In the author's capable hands, every one of Poliner's characters feels real. And, just as in reality, some of them succumb to life's challenging circumstances. And, just as in reality, some of them succumb to life's challenging circumstances. And some of them ultimately soar."

?Jerusalem Post

About the Author

Elizabeth Poliner is the author of *Mutual Life & Casualty*, a novel-in-stories, and the forthcoming collection of poems, *What You Know in Your Hands*. Her stories and poems have appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *Colorado Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and many other journals. A recipient of seven individual artist grants from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, she has also been awarded fiction scholarships to the Bread Loaf and Sewanee writers' conferences. She teaches creative writing at Hollins University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Youngblood:

Book is usually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important point to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel will make you to always be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that will open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or acceptable book with you?

Joseph Mattie:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you.

The book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel is not only giving you a lot more new information but also for being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel. You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Deborah Lacey:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new data. When you read a guide you will get new information simply because book is one of several ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fictional book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to others. When you read this As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel, you could tells your family, friends and also soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a guide.

William Kozak:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. That book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel was vibrant and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel has many kinds or type. Start from kids until adolescents. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading this.

**Download and Read Online As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel
By Elizabeth Poliner #YU5IHWBPQE3**

Read As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner for online ebook

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner books to read online.

Online As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner ebook PDF download

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner Doc

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner MobiPocket

As Close to Us as Breathing: A Novel By Elizabeth Poliner EPub