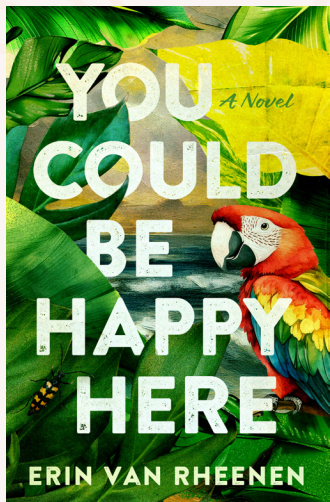


# You Could Be Happy Here: A Novel



## *You Could Be Happy Here:* A Novel

BY ERIN VAN RHEENEN

FICTION

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## How far would you go to find your true home?

Lucy Gale—single, childless, in her thirties—teaches grade school science and is obsessed with insects, an unlikely source of insight in her quest to solve the mysteries of human behavior. But any progress she’s made on that front is lost when her mother dies prematurely, her sister claims the California family home, and Lucy learns that her biological father may be a Costa Rican they knew when the family spent summers in the coastal village of Palmita.

Reeling, Lucy heads south, mourning her mother and seeking the phantom father who may have land for her in Palmita. But the man is nowhere to be found, and none of the locals seem to remember Lucy. The dreamy, off-grid paradise she recalls from childhood has become a hard-edged town leery of hotel-building, forest-razing outsiders. Is Lucy an interloper, too? Or can she rise to the challenge: rethink her place in the world, open her heart, and expand her notion of kinship and home?

“A brilliant debut and a beautiful tale of personal discovery, with traveler’s insights and natural history tidbits that made me laugh out loud.”

—Pat Murphy, Nebula Award winner and author of *The Adventures of Mary Darling*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Erin Van Rheenen** is a science, travel, and fiction writer with work in publications like *BBC Travel*, *The Sun*, and *Best Women’s Travel Writing*. After earning a BA from UC Santa Cruz and a master’s from City University of New York, she left the US to see the world. She ended up in Costa Rica, where she lived for several years, soaking up the green and researching a relocation guide, *Living Abroad in Costa Rica*, and a children’s book, *The Manatee’s Big Day*. Since returning to the US, she has worked as a teacher and a writer, including ten years as Senior Writer at the Exploratorium, a science museum. Erin is now based in San Francisco.



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