BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

*You Could Be Happy Here: A Novel* by Erin Van Rheenen

SHORT

After her mother dies, a California woman travels to Costa Rica to find her estranged father.

NOT SO SHORT

Lucy—single, childless, in her thirties—studies insects and ecosystems, in part to make sense of human behavior. That hard-won insight is shattered when her mother dies prematurely, her sister claims the California family home, and Lucy learns that her biological father is apparently a Costa Rican they knew when the family spent summers in the coastal village of Palmita.

Reeling, Lucy heads south in search of this phantom father. But he is nowhere to be found, and none of the locals seem to remember her. The dreamy, off-grid paradise she recalls from childhood has become a hard-edged town leery of outsiders.

You Could be Happy Here is a story of identity, belonging, and of opening your

heart to a deeper understanding of kinship and home.