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

“...Van Rheenen’s debut novel...never goes where you think it’s going, but always takes you someplace wonderful.” —Karen Joy Fowler, national bestselling author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* and *Booth*

“Populated by a cast of colorful characters, and buoyed by the customs and culture of Costa Rica, *You Could Be Happy Here* is a wonderfully insightful story of one woman’s journey of discovery...an auspicious debut novel!” ​—Gail Tsukiyama, national bestselling author of *The Samurai’s Garden*, *The Color of Air*, and *The Brightest Star*​

“A surprising novel about family and what it means to belong. ​I found myself rooting for Lucy every step of the way.” —Julia Scheeres, NYT bestselling author of *Jesus Land*

“A brilliant debut novel that only a traveler could have written—a beautiful blend of travelers’ insights, natural history, and heartfelt truths about what it means to belong to a place—or have a place belong to you.” ​—Pat Murphy, Nebula-winning author of *The Adventures of Mary Darling*

“Sexy, tragic, at turns hilarious, always keenly observed, Erin Van Rheenen’s exquisite debut novel is an absolute page-turner whose mysteries run deep. You Could Be Happy Here is…an epic tale of the search for meaning, family and belonging in the swarming and buzzing soap opera of human relationships. The novel [follows] one woman’s archetypal journey to retrieve her inheritance – seems simple enough – that mirrors our quest to find a place for ourselves as aliens in the “natural” world. In Van Rheenen’s capable hands, we see ourselves, as if looking from above, as the insects her main character so meticulously describes – bugs pinned to the corkboard of culture, class and history. A rare gem of a book.”

—Gabrielle Glancy, poet, teacher, and author of *Vera: A Novel*

“A young woman, a tropical paradise, and a past not quite become history—Erin Van Rheenen’s new novel is a pleasure to read, full of satisfying complexities.” ​—Mary Ellen Hannibal, award-winning science writer and author of *Citizen Scientist* and *Spine of the Continent*

“Books take you on a journey and this one flies you directly to Costa Rica and into the heart and mind of Lucy, someone you feel you already know—either yourself or a good friend—about to deep dive into an exploration of her past, her present, and her future. *You Could Be Happy Here* vividly captures the tension of being a privileged foreigner in another country, as well as the profound understanding that we are all in this messy life together—that it’s all about forgiving each other for being human. Beautifully written and soul-searching.” ​—Sharman Apt Russell, author of *An Obsession with Butterflies* and *What Walks This Way: Discovering the Wildlife Around Us Through Their Tracks and Signs ​*

“With familial layers and a richness of place, *You Could Be Happy Here* encompasses the universal appeal of looking for home while stepping into the unknown. ​I was blown away by the beauty of the prose, as well as the wonder and pathos of the story.” ​—Nikki Nash, author of *Collateral Stardust: Chasing Warren Beatty and Other Foolish Things*

“...this novel bridges the geographic, emotional and cultural gaps the complex characters encounter as they strive to find themselves and examine the new and historic connections that will either sustain or destroy them.” ​—Polly Dugan, author of *The House of Cavanaugh* and *The Sweetheart Deal*