

"Lincoln Park", manuscript review by Publishers Weekly

This sophisticated, engrossing novel about sex and success among the smart set in mid-1990s Chicago revolves around the ostensibly enviable but quietly troubled marriage of 39-year-old architect Philip Hamner and magazine book review editor Sarah Anders. After returning from Paris, where he received the coveted Pritzker Prize, Philip embarks on a project to build the world's tallest building in his hometown of Chicago with the world (and a tempting array of women) suddenly at his feet. His change in demeanor makes the equally beautiful and talented Sarah suspect a Parisian infidelity and question her own relatively limited success in the publishing world. Meanwhile, raising three children in their stylish home in Lincoln Park with the between-nanny help of Philip's dependable if intrusive mother, the couple remain a focal point for a circle of wealthy, restless, ruthless and clever made-its and a circle of younger aspiring, naïve and invariably good-looking want-to's. Among the former group is Philip's older brother, Marty, a famous writer and sports-loving hedonist who offers a further challenge to Philip and Sarah's happiness with his semi-secret crush on his brother's wife. A smart and knowing Windy City version of a certain genre of sex-in-the-city portraits (there's a telling reference to "Bridget Jones's Diary"), the plot peaks interest early and sustains it on well-defined characters; refined, well-honed prose and gracefully authentic, class-specific detail.