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*She befriended the one woman she was never supposed to meet.  
Now she's the key suspect in her disappearance.*

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# ***HER DAUGHTER'S MOTHER***

By

**DANIELA PETROVA**

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Daniela Petrova's gripping debut novel, **HER DAUGHTER'S MOTHER** (G.P. Putnam's Sons; Publication Date: June 18, 2019), is both a twist-filled domestic suspense and an exploration into the emotional and ethical complexities of advanced fertility treatments and motherhood. When a newly pregnant woman crosses the line and befriends her anonymous egg donor, she is surprised by the unlikely friendship they form—and is blindsided when her new friend disappears. As one of the last people to have seen her, she becomes a key suspect in a possible crime. But the truth is even more complicated than she could have imagined.

In her late thirties, Lana has nearly everything she ever wanted, including a plum job at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a long-term, live-in relationship with Tyler, a professor at Columbia. The one missing piece is a child, and after years of trying, Lana and Tyler have made the difficult and expensive decision to use an egg donor. They have chosen a young Bulgarian woman from the donor agency's catalogue to ensure a meaningful connection to Lana's own genetic roots. But, three days before the transfer, Tyler announces that he needs a break and moves out of the apartment. Stunned, Lana decides to go through with the embryo transfer without Tyler's consent. It's her last chance and she'll have the baby on her own if she needs to.

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Six weeks later, Lana, now pregnant, is startled to look up from her seat on the subway and recognize the beautiful face of her egg donor across the aisle. When she exits the train, Lana follows her, curious to know more about this woman whose genes her baby will inherit. Planning only to observe from a distance, she nonetheless finds herself coming to the young woman's rescue when she falls on the pavement. When the disarmingly friendly Katya asks Lana to join her for a meal, Lana accepts against her better judgment. They become fast friends, despite the differences in their ages and personalities. Katya, a student at Columbia, is the yin to Lana's yang, an impulsive risk-taker and free spirit who lives life at the edge. And for pragmatic, cautious Lana, she's a breath of fresh air and a welcome distraction from her painful breakup with Tyler. Then, just as suddenly as Katya entered Lana's life, she disappears—and Lana begins to discover truths that could upend much of what she has believed.

Entangled in the ensuing police investigation, Lana is determined to find out what happened to the woman who made motherhood possible for her—even when she becomes a suspect in the disappearance herself. But as she digs into Katya's past, Lana will unearth shocking secrets that hit close to home—secrets with the power to change everything she thought she knew about those she loves best.

**HER DAUGHTER'S MOTHER** is told from the point of view of three characters: the pregnant woman, the young egg donor and the father of the baby, each harboring secrets that threaten to unravel their lives and complicate their relationships. Drawing on her own experiences with infertility treatments, which she has written about for *Marie Claire*, Petrova brings a highly personal perspective to some thought-provoking and timely issues as she crafts a compulsively readable work of domestic suspense. A striking first novel from an accomplished writer, **HER DAUGHTER'S MOTHER** introduces a vibrant new literary voice.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Daniela Petrova** is a recipient of an Artist Fellowship in Writing from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and a scholarship for the Tin House Summer Workshop. Her short stories, poems and essays have been published in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, and *Marie Claire*, among many others. Born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, Petrova currently lives in New York City. **HER DAUGHTER'S MOTHER** is her first novel.

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