



The Family Men

Catherine Harris

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When you're born into a dynasty of champions, any sin will be forgiven so long as you maintain the winning streak. But what if that's not the life you want?

Harry's success as a footballer is predestined, the territory that comes with a superstar father, and all the Club asks in return is loyalty and the occasional code of silence. But when his home-town media scum dredges up an old scandal of his father's, and Harry becomes embroiled in one of his own, he starts to question the reality behind the glittering facade of the trophies he wins and the pretty young things who mob him.

With piercing insight, *The Family Men* subverts the usual choices between winning and losing, guilt and innocence, courage and cowardice. Is true honour to be found in forging your own path or staying loyal to your pack?

‘*The Family Men* is an intense distillation of the darkness that falls after the Friday and Saturday night lights have been turned out. This novel is shocking because it is so believable. Sometimes you hear football insiders mutter about a scandal in the game, ‘It’s worse than you think.’ Catherine Harris has cut right through to that shadowy truth, and come back with horror, yes, but also a sign of hope.’ – Malcolm Knox

‘*The Family Men* unfolds like a slow-motion car crash... [It] is a nuanced indictment of a sporting culture that forgives appalling behavior in our heroes, and it is as ‘true’ as the best journalism.’ – *Bookseller & Publisher*

Catherine Harris’s short story collection, *Like Being A Wife*, was shortlisted for the 2011 Age Fiction Prize, the 2011 Barbara Jefferis award and as a manuscript for the 2009 Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards. She won the 2009 Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize and was shortlisted for the 2013 Fish International Short Story Prize and the 2013 Bridport Prize. She lives in Melbourne.

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