



**Perfidia: A Novel (A Scorching Portrait of Attachment and Loss, the Record of a Young Life so Stunted By Betrayal That Afterward Nothing Feels Safe)**

*Judith Rossner*

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# Perfidia: A Novel (A Scorching Portrait of Attachment and Loss, the Record of a Young Life so Stunted By Betrayal That Afterward Nothing Feels Safe)

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## **Perfidia: A Novel (A Scorching Portrait of Attachment and Loss, the Record of a Young Life so Stunted By Betrayal That Afterward Nothing Feels Safe) Judith Rossner**

Madeleine Stern wants more than anything to feel loved by her divorced mother, Anita, who lavishes attention on lovers and on Madeleine's half brother while alternately abusing and ignoring her daughter. Sexually voracious and dangerously self-absorbed, Anita Stern competes with the teenage Madeleine in everything - achievements, looks, even young men. Madeleine's planned departure for college as she continues her affair with the powerful Geraldo, combined with Anita's threatened loss of control over her Santa Fe gallery complex, turn their home into a battleground that explodes into violence - and death. "Readers of Rossner's previous novels might anticipate a story that chronicles what the kindly psychoanalyst in "August" would classify as merely a troubled separation process. Or a "true-crime novel," because, like "Looking for Mr. Goodbar," this new book was inspired by a case in the newspapers. But in "Perfidia," Rossner moves beyond easy labels and psychoanalytic palliatives to create a scorching portrait of attachment and loss, the record of a young life so stunted by betrayal that afterward nothing feels safe."--New York Times

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#### **Russell Howell:**

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