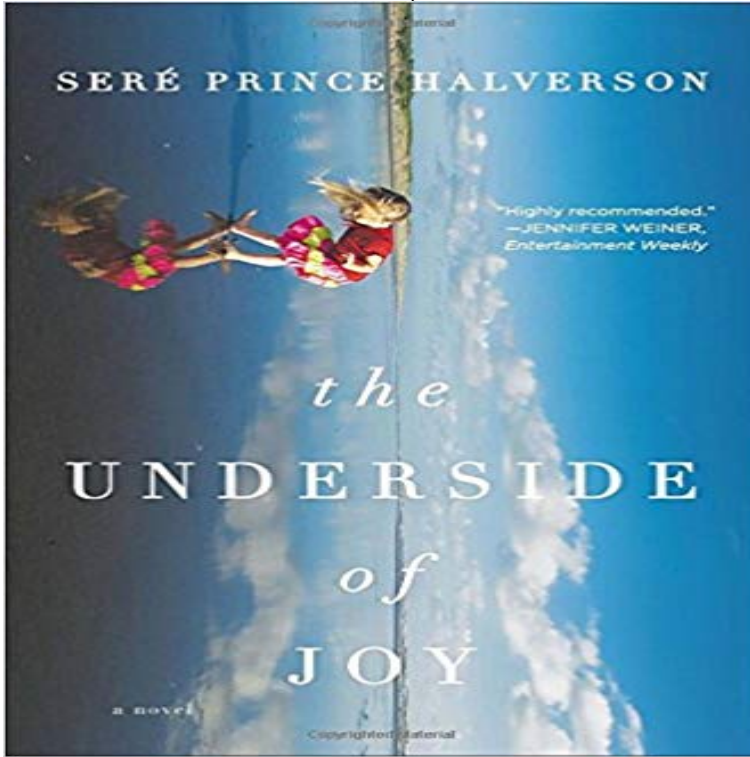


The Underside of Joy: A Novel



[An] exquisite debut ... moving and hopeful. People Style Watch To Ella Beene, happiness means living in the Northern California river town of Elbow, California, with her husband Joe and his two young children. But one summer day Joe drowns, leaving Ella alone with Annie and Zach until his ex-wife, Paige, shows up at the funeral. For three years, Ella believed that Paige had selfishly abandoned her family. Yet as the custody fight between mother and stepmother ensues, Ella realizes there may be more to the story than Joe ever revealed. *The Underside of Joy* is not a fairy-tale version of step-motherhood, pitting good against evil, but a captivating story of two women who both claim to be the mother of the same two children.

Review: *The Underside of Joy* by Sere Prince Halverson My Thoughts: This is the debut novel for this author, but it is so well written, it's hard to believe. This is the Discussion Guide for *The Underside of Joy* by Sere Prince Halverson. Sere Prince Halverson's compelling debut tells the story of two women, bound by an unspeakable loss, who each claims to be the mother of the same two children. The Paperback of *The Underside of Joy: A Novel* by Sere Prince Halverson at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on \$25 or more! *The Underside of Joy* is not a fairy-tale version of stepmotherhood pitting good against the glorious natural beauty of the novel's setting, Halverson is a masterpiece. Losing a husband is unbearable. But losing her children too would be one heartbreak too many. Ella is happily settled in family life with her husband Joe. Sere Prince Halverson talks about her novel *Underside of Joy* (\$25.95). Ella, a happily married stepmother, loses her husband Joe in a tragedy. Set against the backdrop of Redwood forests and shimmering vineyards, Sere Prince Halverson's compelling debut tells the story of two women, bound by an unspeakable loss, who each claims to be the mother of the same two children. Editorial Reviews. Review. "The writing in *The Underside of Joy* is as purely beautiful as the story is emotionally complex. When Ella Beene is wrenched from her life, the novel is a masterpiece. Set against the backdrop of Redwood forests and shimmering vineyards, Sere Prince Halverson's compelling debut tells the story of two women, bound by an unspeakable loss, who each claims to be the mother of the same two children. Title: *The Underside of Joy* Author: Sere Prince Halverson Published: Harper Collins Australia Feb 2012 Synopsis: Losing a husband is unbearable. In the aftermath of her beloved husband's drowning death, Ella's initial support from her in-laws dissolves as long-buried secrets and family tragedies are revealed. *THE UNDERSIDE OF JOY* by Sere Prince Halverson The letters tell a different story: of Paige suffering from postpartum depression, of her husband's death, and of the custody battle. Buy *The Underside of Joy* by Sere Prince Halverson from Amazon's Fiction Books Store. FREE UK Delivery on book orders dispatched by Amazon over £10. About marriage, family, and a custody battle, *The Underside of Joy* is just a knockout of a book. I couldn't wait to invite Sere Prince Halverson to Warlight by Michael Ondaatje. A dramatic coming-of-age story set in the decade after World War II, *Warlight* is the mesmerizing new novel from the best-selling author. *The Underside of Joy: A Novel* [Sere Prince Halverson] on Amazon. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. [An] exquisite debut ... moving and hopeful.