

Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

Family Planning

By Karan Mahajan

Harper Perennial, \$13.95, 266 pages

Family Planning follows the lives of the Ahuja family over the course of a few months. Rakesh, the Minister of Urban Development, who has resigned 62 times, is struggling with secrets from his past: how to tell his 13 children that his deceased first wife is actually the mother of his eldest son, the truth behind his second marriage, and the fact that he is only attracted to his wife, Sangita, when she is pregnant (and, thus, the reason why there are now 13 children, with another on the way). Sangita, who has only ever wanted to feel



loved (and to have sex), is currently mourning the “death” of a popular soap opera character, along with the rest of the population of middle-aged women in New Delhi. Arjun, the teenage oldest son, is trying to form a rock band to impress a girl he rides the bus with, but barely knows. And, the rest of the children are their usual chaotic selves, desperate to please their respected older brother and father. Along the way, we encounter Arjun’s friends, who only know about half of Arjun’s siblings, and various important but inept political figures.