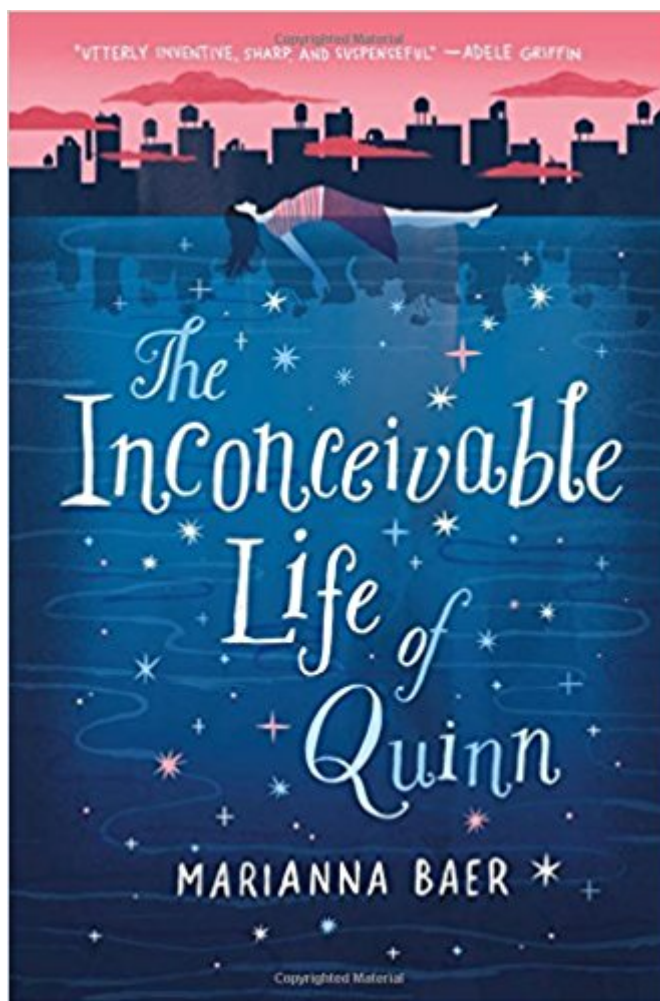




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The Inconceivable Life Of Quinn



Synopsis

Quinn Cutler is sixteen and the daughter of a high-profile Brooklyn politician. She's also pregnant, a crisis made infinitely more shocking by the fact that she has no memory of ever having sex. Before Quinn can solve this deeply troubling mystery, her story becomes public. Rumors spread, jeopardizing her reputation, her relationship with a boyfriend she adores, and her father's campaign for Congress. Religious fanatics gather at the Cutlers' home, believing Quinn is a virgin, pregnant with the next messiah. Quinn's desperate search for answers uncovers lies and family secrets—strange, possibly supernatural ones. Might she, in fact, be a virgin?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Quinn's determined struggle to piece together the puzzle compellingly drives the narrative onward, and readers on board for something thought-provoking will be hooked."

(Booklist)**STARRED REVIEW** "In a suspenseful and thought-provoking novel, Baer (Frost) tackles the illusiveness of memory (especially in regard to trauma), media firestorms, fear of the unknown, and the complexities of faith, without ever turning didactic or allowing Quinn's story to fall into melodrama... It's a delicate, complicated, and engrossing exploration of the collision between real life and the inexplicable." (Publishers Weekly)"Quinn's voice is real and believable, and the characters are multifaceted and sympathetic." (Kirkus)"The confusion Quinn deals with is well crafted, and the secondary characters offer rich insight into the story...those who

are looking for a story focusing on blending real life and the unexplained will enjoy this title." (School Library Connection)

Marianna Baer has an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the author of the young adult novel *Frost*. According to Kirkus Reviews, "Baer has a knack for dialogue and creating creepy situations that will intrigue teens." She lives in Brooklyn and works as a freelance editor.

I thought I would just read a few pages or chapters, but silly me! Nope: this story engaged me right from the start and kept me reading to the end. Meet Quinn: lovable, popular, daughter of the current candidate in the congressional race. Quinn has a dilemma--an unexplainable pregnancy. Even more so, since she doesn't remember having sex. Unexplainable for sure, but divine? God only knows. Every time Quinn comes to term with her troubles, her troubles get worse. The story is suspenseful, authentic, and intriguing, with believable characters and realistic dialogue. I couldn't help feeling empathy for each of the characters (well, almost) for the many facets of this dilemma. The author weaves this wonderful mystery and sprinkles it with magical realism, keeping us rooting for Quinn all the way through.

It's like a twisted mixed up modern day virgin Mary.

Started this book on a recommendation from family, and was not disappointed. The story kept me guessing from start to finish (and crying intermittently on the airplane). Great summer, or anytime, read. It'll be hard to find my next good book after this!!

I adored this book! Baer's writing is beautiful and the story kept me reading; I finished it in two days. I will definitely look for the author's next book.

Addictively readable! I couldn't put it down!

THE INCONCEIVABLE LIFE OF QUINN was a fascinating, readable story. Quinn finds herself unexpectedly pregnant at age sixteen. She has never had sex with her boyfriend Jesse. In fact, she doesn't remember ever having sex at all. As she tries to solve the mystery of how she became pregnant, things around her change. Her father is running for Congress in a district where he should

be a shoe-in until Quinn's pregnancy raises questions about the family. She finds herself distanced from her friends because she can't tell them that she has no idea how she became pregnant. Quinn's insistence to her doctor that she's never had sex and is a virgin is spread to the internet by someone in the lab at her doctor's which leads religious fanatics of all kinds to gather outside her home and trash her reputation on social media. In order to protect her, her parents take away all her access to her friends and social media which just leaves her feeling even more isolated. Quinn dwells on the two weeks in May that she spent in Maine at a home once owned by the grandmother her father hates for abandoning him and who committed suicide by walking into the sea. Quinn remembers some strange things from her childhood from the time she nearly drowned to times when the sea seemed to welcome her. She remembers bits and pieces of an old children's story about the Deeps who live in the ocean. A big theme in this one is the role that social media plays in our lives. The social media storm about Quinn's pregnancy causes her father to end his campaign for Congress. Rumors of sexual abuse spread rapidly but without any evidence. The role of social media in spreading rumors about Quinn makes her an internet sensation and destroys any sense of privacy. It doesn't help that Quinn is herself struggling to put together what really happened in May. This was an engaging and thought-provoking story told from a variety of viewpoints - Quinn's, her boyfriend Jesse's, a woman who believes that Quinn might be carrying the new messiah, and others.

The Inconceivable Life of Quinn by Marianna Baer is a science fiction, mystery, and romance novel all rolled into one. In the beginning of the novel, Quinn Cutler is a happy sixteen-year-old with a great academic record, successful parents, a whimsical personality, and even a charming boyfriend. When Quinn discovers that she is pregnant, her entire world turns on end, but even more flooring is the fact that Quinn has absolutely no memory of sexual intercourse. As virulent rumors spread, people across the nation develop their own versions of Quinn's story, from rape to religion to mere shame. To discover the truth for herself, Quinn searches for the solution to the mystery of her pregnancy in every place imaginable. In the process, however, she accidentally uncovers the shocking secrets and lies that have infected her family for generations. Will Quinn ever discover the truth about her pregnancy, or will viscous rumors destroy her life forever? The Inconceivable Life of Quinn is an absolutely brilliant novel. The plot line is thoroughly planned and carefully revealed, producing a page-turning book brimming with suspense and excellent twists. For example, when Quinn is forced to wait weeks for the results of a medical exam, the reader is also forced to endure the wait, reading several more chapters before the results are finally revealed. In addition, Baer

weaves flawless dialogue throughout her novel, producing an effect that makes the purely fictional book seem exquisitely realistic. Further, the novel is structured on important modern themes—the destructiveness of rumors, the feebleness of self-confidence, and the question of religion, for example—that provide Baer's masterpiece with a meaning that extends far beyond the words on the page. Thus, *The Inconceivable Life of Quinn* is a spectacular novel, but the book contains extensive mature content, from relationships to profanity. I passionately recommend the novel to mature readers interested in a unique and innovative mystery. You will certainly not be disappointed!

Isabella T., age 15, Memphis Mensa

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