



## An Origin Story, Tour Dates, and OMG IT'S HERE!

February 21, 2023

Vol. 252

Dear ones,

**[IT'S ONE OF US](#)** is here at last!

The germs of this story have been floating around in my brain for over a decade, sparked by one of those tragic-comedic life moments: my husband and I were in the middle of some rather grueling fertility treatments. One fateful day, he was locked alone in a room in the clinic with a magazine and Sweet Home Alabama blasting out of the speakers (not his first choice). That evening, as we laughed at the absurdity of our situation, he told me this had the makings of a novel...but I'm a thriller writer, and fertility is more of a women's fiction story. I didn't know how to marry the two until recently. Enter the complicated forensics of sibling DNA, the moral ambiguity of the sperm donation industry, and a killer on the loose, and poof, the story came together.

My protagonist, Olivia Bender, was such a dream character to write. She came to my mind fully formed one day: a sad, lonely woman with sable hair in a cream cable knit sweater and rolled-up chinos, walking barefoot down a chilly beach, having just suffered a miscarriage. I had to know who she was. It turns out, she's a dynamic architectural designer who owns her own firm, shares her gifts with the community, and is struggling with the same fertility issues my husband and I went through.

And then... twist. That's what I do. I take the story and turn it into a pretzel.

Olivia is placed in an absolutely untenable position by the circumstances of the novel, and all I could think was: What would *I* do in this situation? How would I react? I think this book has a great philosophical core of uncertainty that I hope many, many readers will connect with. What would YOU do? How would YOU react? What would be YOUR path forward? Do you agree with how Olivia handles the situation, especially as it spins out of control? And what about the rest of the characters? We hear from all the people affected: The Husband. The Mother. The Daughter. The Brother. The Cops. The Murderer. I love books

that force you to examine your own motivations and morality, while exploring the same in the characters, and this one will, for sure.

This story is certainly identifiable as one of mine, from the creepy opening to the high-stakes life and death struggle, the push and pull of a police investigation against the domestic backdrop, characters you want to root for, and characters you'll love to hate. And of course, the Nashville setting. But I think this story has a different kind of nuance and tackles questions that are much closer to our realities than the more fantastical world of some of my other psychological thrillers. I think readers will see themselves reflected more in these characters than anything I've done previously. It's not a scary, leave the lights on kind of thriller. It's scary in a different kind of way. It's quiet and insidious and morally complicated. And, if I've done my job correctly, completely addictive.

And there's no denying this is, at its heart, a story of loss, specifically, the kind of loss that comes from infertility and miscarriage. When you're in the throes of trying, and not succeeding, to have children, it feels like the world is caving in around your ears. I couldn't write a book about what it's like to have children, but I can write with some authenticity about what it's like to lose them. And even more importantly, to survive those losses. Survive, and thrive. I am hoping to normalize the conversation around infertility and send a clear message that there is life on the other side of these tragedies. A joyful, wonderful, complete life.

I hope you love [IT'S ONE OF US](#)! It's available now wherever you like to buy books, and the audio is read magnificently by the one and only Julia Whelan.

If you'd like a personalized copy, please check in with Parnassus books, where there are goodies to go along with your order!

**GET YOURS TODAY!**

✈ **Tour News**

# IT'S ONE OF US

meet  
J. T. ELLISON



## AUTHOR TOUR

**NASHVILLE, TN**  
FEBRUARY 20, 6:30PM CT  
Parnassus Books  
In conversation with Rea Frey

**GREENVILLE, SC\***  
MARCH 2, 7:30PM ET  
M. Judson Booksellers

**SCOTTSDALE, AZ**  
FEBRUARY 28, 7:00PM MT  
Poisoned Pen  
In conversation with Barbara Peters  
& Nick Petrie

**PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC\***  
MARCH 3, 11:30AM ET  
Litchfield Books

**HOUSTON, TX**  
MARCH 1, 6:30PM CT  
Murder by the Book  
In conversation with Kristen Bird

**WINTER PARK, FL**  
MARCH 6, 6:00PM ET  
Writer's Block Bookstore

\*TICKETED EVENT

And please come see me [on tour!](#) In addition to many virtual dates (see a couple of biggies below) I am so excited to be doing several in person! I'd love to see you on the road. And you can order signed copies of IT'S ONE OF US from any of the stores I'm visiting.

## ORDER SIGNED BOOKS:

[PARNASSUS BOOKS](#)

[MURDER BY THE BOOK](#)

[THE POISONED PEN](#)

[M. JUDSON BOOKSELLERS](#)

[LITCHFIELD BOOKS](#)

[WRITER'S BLOCK BOOKSTORE](#)





I had such a fun time chatting about IT'S ONE OF US with my amazing friends at [Friends and Fiction](#)! Check out the episode on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)!

The promotional banner is titled 'MYSTERY AND THRILLER MAVENS' in a bold, black, serif font. Below the title, it says 'HOSTED BY MURDER BY THE BOOKS' in a smaller, black, serif font. In the center is the book cover for 'IT'S ONE OF US' by J.T. Ellison, which features a green and blue color scheme with a butterfly. On either side of the book cover are circular portraits of Sara DiVello (left) and J.T. Ellison (right). The background of the banner is white with a faint, colorful DNA double helix graphic. At the bottom, it reads 'Special Launch Day Event: Surprise Guests + Signed Books!' in a bold, gold, sans-serif font, followed by 'J.T. Ellison Hosted by Sara DiVello' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, there are icons for Facebook and YouTube, followed by the text 'FEB 21st at 5pm PT | 7pm CT | 8pm ET' in a gold, sans-serif font.

I'm so excited for this very special launch evening party with my dear friend Sara DiVello. Watch on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)!

## □ Contest

We have winners! Your \$25 Parnassus gift cards should be in your email!

**Suzie K.**  
**mliberty**  
**Debra S.**  
**Sheri A.**  
**Peggy F.**

This moment has been years in the making, and I am so thrilled that I can share it with you. Thank you for being a part of my universe. I hope you love IT'S ONE OF US!

Peace and hugs,



### Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



Did you like this newsletter? Share it with a friend!



### J.T. Ellison

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