**Small Great Things**

**By Jodi Picoult**

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child.

The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime.

Ruth is a strong woman who has always believed that she could achieve everything with dedication and hard work. Of course, she is aware that she has to do more than a white woman because of her skin color, but all her self-confidence is shaken with the charge of murder.

It is easy to understand the grief and anger for a lost child. For the parents, a culprit was needed. But this doesn’t justify their actions.

This is a thought provoking book that is easy to read but not easy to digest. It prompts us to look at our own biases and preconceptions. The fear of the different and the foreign may be somewhere within all of us, but how we deal with it is a test of our own character.