Clare Menges is the twenty-nine-year-old suburban mother of three, but her comfortable world is disrupted when her best friend’s lover appears in her life. Anyway Clare’s perfect life was never what it seemed; the world of her family is a complicated and fraught web of marriages and divorces, half-siblings and stepchildren, broken homes and homes reassembled. As Clare’s relationships begin to unravel, she notices her life repeating the patterns of those around her. Tessa Hadley constructs a beautifully fashioned and intimate portrait of family life in our times.

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My Personal Review:
Accidents in the Home is an interesting and well-written novel—an examination of human relationships and the various "accidents" made in these relationships. Clare Verey a 29 year old married woman is the focal point of the novel, with chapters alternating between her story and those of the various members of her extended family--half brother, stepmother, father, etc. Each character has his or her faults and foibles exposed to us. May of the characters seem to naturally gravitate to the wrong type of person, the wrong type of relationship. When I read back the words I have just written, I realize that I have painted a rather bleak picture of a definitely unbleak novel. Accidents in the Home is quite an enjoyable read, well-told and engaging. The characters are likeable, their flaws, forgivable. Enjoy.

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