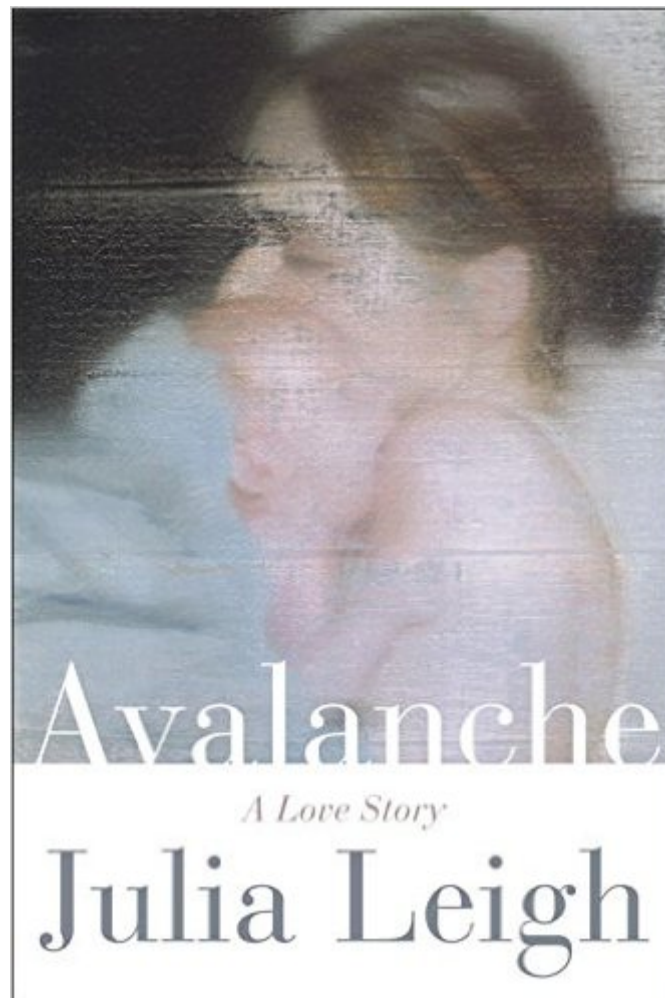


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# Avalanche: A Love Story



## Synopsis

An intensely personal narrative of loss, hope, and longing for a child. In this brave and lucid account, Julia Leigh broaches a challenging life event often left undiscussed: how the struggle to have a child can take an agonizing toll. Leigh's experience at the vanguard of medical science is acutely rendered, physically and emotionally, transmitting what it feels like to so desperately wish for a child while knowing that the odds are stacked against you. From the daily shots she puts herself through at home, to hopes raised and dashed, and finally to the decision to stop treatment, *Avalanche* bears witness to Leigh's raw desire, suffering, strength, and, in the end, transformation—a shift to a different kind of love. The reader looks behind the scenes of a clinic and discovers how things really work: reality is a far cry from the slick marketing of the billion-dollar infertility industry. As for so many women, Leigh's treatment failed, but her ghost child lingers in memory.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Avalanche* is not only the tale of one woman's journey, but the tale of hardships faced by all women undergoing fertility treatment. Penned from the writer's own experiences of trying to have a child, *Avalanche* sheds a very bright light on the very dark realities of fertility treatment. A reality which most books, and most clinics, don't want us to see. Instead of selling dreams, Julia gives a poignant 'reality check' on the fertility journey; its impact on our bodies, our emotions and our relationships. Her storytelling is insightful, moving and totally engrossing, and I simply couldn't put the book down! This book is an absolute must for anyone undergoing fertility treatment and/or

wanting some insight and comfort at the end of the Journey.

In this spare, poetic book, Julia Leigh weaves a powerful tale of love, marriage, and the quest for motherhood. It's a very contemporary story of a woman juggling a relationship, career, and a longing for a child, forced to make difficult choices at every turn. Leigh ultimately decides to pursue motherhood alone and quickly finds herself on the slippery slope of fertility treatments. Here she gives a vivid account of the grueling realities of IVF, the many unknowns of reproductive medicine, and the lucrative business of baby-making. She also writes frankly about the emotional and physical toll of treatments, all of which is dismissed by her clinic doctor, who asks, "But how are you financially?" This compelling story is an important book for anyone considering treatments, and also for friends and family members looking to gain insight, understand, and most of all, compassion.

It takes great courage for women to share profoundly personal stories of suffering and loss particularly when they concern the trauma that accompanies failed IVF. *Avalanche* was written in Julia Leigh's early raw state and, accordingly, the power of the experience leaps from the pages. There is no question it will help others to understand the contradictions that accompany the fertility treatment experience. Her story will be familiar to anyone who has ever entered into an uneasy and circular discussion with a team of "fertility" specialists. Side effects to medications are glossed over. Statistics are generalized. Paperwork and legal release forms pour forth. Buried in the fine print -- Leigh discovered -- were statements that the doctor managing her care might have a financial interest in the clinic. This memoir is both an important testimony and a call to more deeply scrutinize the growing for-profit fertility industry. Patients have a right to know that the fertility industry in many counties is not regulated and that there are financial incentives for clinics to sell untested 'add-ons' or non-medically indicated procedures. Finally, beyond the complex bioethics, this book offers a great starting point to begin discussions on cultural issues. Since the dawn of birth control followed by IVF and related fertility treatments the societal response to childless women -- particularly those who tried and failed with fertility treatment -- has, by and large, been a collective shrug. It has been acceptable to tune out, dismiss or, in the worst cases, shame or blame those who dared to speak up about the trauma that accompanies IVF. For those of us who have felt the heartbreak and grief that Leigh writes about this is an opportunity to help the uninitiated understand reproductive medicine from the complete bio-psycho-social and financial perspective.

This story was very boring .I would personally not recommend this book. Did not really have a story. All about a women and her own ambition.

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