



**Goldhagen writes vividly about the complex bonds of brothers.**

## Family and Other Accidents

by Shari Goldhagen

REVIEWED BY VICK BOUGHTON

### FICTION

Imagine a close pal giving you the scoop on two brothers you knew well but haven't seen in ages: Jack, a 50-year-old lawyer, and Connor, 10 years his junior. So conversational in tone is Goldhagen's engrossing, beautifully written debut that you come to feel you've watched both men navigate their messy lives according to the dictates of their distinct, precisely drawn

personalities. Jack is a workaholic with intimacy issues; Connor can be childish and overly idealistic. Both, though, are decent human beings who, after their parents' untimely deaths, see each other through strained relationships, car crashes, illicit affairs and serious illness. Their devotion to each other over 25 years is what makes this such a wistful, moving book. By the end you're sorry you won't be hearing more about Jack and Connor, two of your oldest friends. ★★☆☆

