



## Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)

By Gabrielle Zevin

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"Every time I think I'm out, they pull me back in." ?Michael Corleone, *The Godfather*

Since her release from Liberty Children's Facility, Anya Balanchine is determined to follow the straight and narrow. Unfortunately, her criminal record is making it hard for her to do that. No high school wants her with a gun possession charge on her rap sheet. Plus, all the people in her life have moved on: Natty has skipped two grades at Holy Trinity, Scarlet and Gable seem closer than ever, and even Win is in a new relationship. But when old friends return demanding that certain debts be paid, Anya is thrown right back into the criminal world that she had been determined to escape. It's a journey that will take her across the ocean and straight into the heart of the birthplace of chocolate where her resolve?and her heart?will be tested as never before.

*Because It Is My Blood* is the second novel in Gabrielle Zevin's Birthright series.

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## Because It Is My Blood (Birthright) By Gabrielle Zevin Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-Anya Balanchine's life was ruined by a bar of chocolate-and the drama's not over yet. This follow-up (2012) to Zevin's *All These Things I've Done* (2011, both Farrar, Straus) finds Anya released from Liberty Correctional Facility, determined to walk the straight and narrow. But her criminal record makes a normal life impossible, and she's soon back behind bars thanks to Charles Delacroix. Following a suspicious poisoning incident, Anya is secretly sent to Mexico-and, hopefully, to safety. She learns the ropes of chocolate production and begins to see the lifeblood of her family's illegal distribution business in an entirely new light. Then someone orders a hit on Anya and her siblings. Her cousin is behind a conspiracy to destroy Balanchine Chocolate-and it looks like the plot might succeed. But a loophole in the chocolate ban that allows for medicinal chocolate dispensaries could be Anya's ticket to salvaging both her family's business and her reputation. Zevin's mob-themed dystopian series continues to be inspired and original. However, this title doesn't quite pack the same punch as its predecessor. The plot tends to drag, making for uneven pacing. Also, the times when Anya breaks narrative to directly address listeners are problematic. On the upside, character development reaches new levels, a quality made all the more evident through Ilyana Kadushin's interpretation of the text. This audiobook nicely supplements the print version, but it's not a necessary purchase.-Alissa Bach, Oxford Public Library, MI(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

## Review

"An engaging heroine, lots of humor . . . in this Godfather for teens. B+" ?*EW.com*

"Readers who enjoy mob stories and visions of future societies will be pleased. As in the first book, Zevin provokes thought about what we make illegal and why." ?*School Library Journal*

"The idea of a world in which chocolate, coffee, and other stimulants have been outlawed is alluring, and Anya is a strong, smart protagonist. Fans will want to find out what happens to her." ?*VOYA*

"Discerning characters' true motives will keep readers guessing, and the conflicting forces within Anya add an extra dimension of drama to this action-packed sequel." ?*Publishers Weekly*

"This sequel to *All These Things I've Done* paints on such a broad canvas that readers will be amazed at Zevin's management abilities. . . . Zevin's strong suit is characterization, and it shines here. Whatever the nefarious plot, no one becomes a cartoon character--like chocolates, each is delicious in his or her own right." ?*Booklist*

"Fans of the first will enjoy the author's inventive combination of chocolate, crime and politics, as well as finding out Anya's post-prison fate." ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"Anya's flaws are what make her a complicated, thoroughly human character, one whom readers will enjoy continuing to try to understand. . . . Readers will love her, flawed as she is." ?*Teenreads.com*

## About the Author

GABRIELLE ZEVIN is the author of *Elsewhere*, *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac*, and *All These Things I've*

*Done.* Of her writing, *The New York Times Book Review* said, "Zevin's touch is marvelously light even as she considers profundities." She lives in New York City.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Thomas Bedwell:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important normally. The book *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* has been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* is not only giving you far more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)*. You never feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

#### **Dolores Wade:**

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* book is readable through you who hate the straight word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer associated with *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* content conveys the thought easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different such as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

#### **Jane Rippeon:**

The actual book *Because It Is My Blood (Birthright)* has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

#### **Clyde King:**

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