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■ **FAMILIES AT HOME**
(HarperCollins, Rs 295) by
Reeti Gadekar melds crime
fiction with family drama in an
engrossing thriller. ACP Nikhil
Juneja, a foul-mouthed and

brash Delhi cop, is asked to
look into the suicide of one of
the daughters of the capital's
most respectable industrialist
families. Investigations reveal
that the suicide was in fact a
deviously plotted murder and
a trail of dirty family secrets is
uncovered. Family ties be-
come an important concern in
the novel, with the protagonist
struggling to reconcile himself
to his own uneasy relation-
ship with his father, as he ob-
serves the differing impor-
tance and role of the family in
the lives of the people he
comes in contact with. Gade-
kar's incisive wit invests the
narrative with an endearing
bonhomie. This lightens the
tone of murder, intrigue, and
corruption in the police force
that runs through the novel,
without ever making light of
these compelling issues.