

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

BY JAMIE ALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY YVONNE BOYD



OH, BABY! *Atlanta author Emily Giffin's new novel puts the T on taboo*

When author Emily Giffin entertains guests at her Brookhaven home, it's easy to see that the writing life is treating her well. With looks straight out of a J.Crew catalog, Giffin, 34, wears a striped top, loose jeans and no shoes as she settles into a plush sofa to talk about her third book, *Baby Proof* (St. Martin's Press), which hits bookstores this June. The story of a married New York City woman who doesn't want children, even though her husband (and society) want her to, Giffin's introspective and moving love story is an ode to those who take the road less traveled.

"One of the last taboos for women is choosing not to have children," says Giffin, who also wrote the bestsellers *Something Borrowed* (St. Martin's

Press, 2004) and *Something Blue* (St. Martin's Press, 2005), and moved here two years ago from London with her husband and twin 2-year-old sons.

"I wanted to take a look at that. You can work and have children or you can be a stay-at-home mom and give up your career, and society accepts that as a completely valid decision."

Although her stories often get the "chick lit" label, Giffin says she aims for something more. "You put your character in a lounge sipping a martini and a nice pair of shoes and suddenly it's chick lit," she says. "Ultimately, you have to have good characters, no matter what genre you're in. People want to read a good story about real characters." **A**

HOTS: James McMurtry; Horseradish Grill's biscuits; Geoffrey Johnson cityscapes; sundresses from Sandpiper; Limoncello martinis at MidCity Cuisine; hostess gifts from Limetree; retractable Sharpies; breakfast with family; vintage watches; MARTA; navy blue. **NOTS:** obsessing over your child's school; designer dogs; competitive friendships; over-accessorizing; no time to read; sorbet instead of ice cream; not having a passion.