

QUERCUS



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WELCOME TO QUERCUS' WORD OF MOUTH BESTSELLERS EVENING 2020!

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
FOR A JAM-PACKED BOOKISH
EVENING WHERE WE ARE
SHOWCASING SOME OF THE
TITLES WE ARE EXCITED TO BE
PUBLISHING IN 2021.**

**DO SHARE ALL THE EXCITEMENT
ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM
WITH THE HASHTAG
#QUERCUS2021 AND MAKE SURE
TO TAG US (@QUERCUSBOOKS).**



SISTA SISTER

BY CANDICE BRATHWAITE

**IN CONVERSATION
WITH REMI SADÉ
08/07/2021**



Sista Sister is Candice Brathwaite's much-anticipated second book. *I Am Not Your Baby Mother* was a landmark publication in 2020, quickly becoming a *Sunday Times* top-five bestseller. A thought-provoking, urgent and inspirational guide to life as a Black British mum, it was an important call-to-arms allowing mothers to take control and scrap the parenting rulebook to do it their own way.

Along the way, Candice won over a legion of high-profile fans including, Bernardine Evaristo, Dolly Alderton, Pandora Sykes, Sophie Ellis-Bextor and many more.

Sista Sister is a compilation of essays about all the things Candice wishes someone had talked to her about when she was a young Black girl growing up in London. From family and money to Black hair and fashion, as well as sex and friendships between people of different races, this will be a fascinating read that will have another profound impact on conversations about Black Lives Matter.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Candice Brathwaite is the hugely popular influencer and founder of Make Motherhood Diverse - an online initiative that aims to encourage a more accurately representative and diverse depiction of motherhood in the media. She has worked with brands such as Pampers, Ella's Kitchen and Specsavers, and has appeared on countless panels to discuss modern motherhood. Her writing has appeared in *Stylist*, the *Metro* and the *Huffington Post*.



THE FINAL REVIVAL OF OPAL & NEV

BY DAWNIE WALTON

IN CONVERSATION WITH
SARAH SHAFFI

20/04/2021

An idol of Afro-punk. A duo on the brink of stardom. A night that will define their story for ever.

Opal is a fiercely independent young woman pushing against the grain in her style and attitude, Afro-punk before that term existed. Despite her unconventional looks, Opal believes she can be a star. So when the aspiring British singer/songwriter Neville Charles discovers her one night, she takes him up on his offer to make rock music together.

In early seventies New York City, just as she's finding her niche as part of a flamboyant and funky creative scene, a rival band signed to her label brandishes a Confederate flag at a promotional concert. Opal's bold protest and the violence that ensues set off a chain of events that not only changes the lives of those she loves,

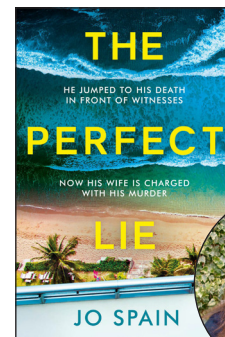
but also acts as a deadly reminder that repercussions are always harsher for women, especially Black women, who dare to speak their truth.

Decades later, as Opal considers a 2016 reunion with Nev, music journalist S. Sunny Shelton seizes the chance to curate an oral history about her idols. Sunny thought she knew most of the stories leading up to the cult duo's most politicized chapter, but as her interviews dig deeper, a nasty new allegation from an unexpected source threatens everything.

Provocative and haunting, *The Final Revival of Opal & Nev* introduces a bold new name in contemporary fiction and a heroine the likes of which we've not seen in storytelling.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dawnie Walton was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. She earned her from the Iowa Writers' Workshop (2018) and holds a journalism degree from Florida A&M University (1997). Formerly an editor at *Essence* and *Entertainment Weekly*, she has received fellowships in fiction writing from MacDowell and the Tin House Summer Workshop. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband.



THE PERFECT LIE

BY JO SPAIN

IN CONVERSATION WITH
LISA HOWELLS

13/05/2021

He jumped to his death in front of witnesses. Now his wife is charged with his murder.

Five years ago, Erin Kennedy moved to New York following a family tragedy. She now lives happily with her detective husband in the scenic seaside town of Newport, Long Island. When Erin answers the door to Danny's police colleagues one morning, it's the start of an ordinary day. But behind her, Danny walks to the window of their fourth-floor apartment and jumps to his death.

Eighteen months later, Erin is in court, charged with her husband's murder. Over that year and a half, Erin has learned things about Danny she could never have imagined. She thought he was perfect. She thought their life was perfect.

But it was all built on the perfect lie.

'Jo Spain is a brilliant, compelling storyteller. The Perfect Lie will pin you to your seat until you reach the last page' JANE CASEY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jo Spain is a full-time writer and screenwriter. Her first novel, *With Our Blessing*, was one of seven books shortlisted in the Richard and Judy Search for a Bestseller competition and her first psychological thriller, *The Confession*, was a number one bestseller in Ireland. Jo co-wrote the ground-breaking television series *Taken Down*, which first broadcast in Ireland in 2018. She's now working on multiple European television projects. Jo lives in Dublin with her husband and their four young children.



THE FEAR FIGHTER MANUAL: LESSONS FROM A PROFESSIONAL TROUBLEMAKER

BY LUVVIE AJAYI
JONES

02/03/2021

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *I'm Judging You*, a hilarious and powerful book that talks about how to tackle fear – that everlasting hater – and live boldly and audaciously in spite of all the reasons we have to cower.

Luvvie Ajayi Jones is known for her trademark wit, warm voice, and exceptional integrity. But even she's been challenged by the enemy of progress known as fear. She was once afraid to call herself a writer because she was afraid of the title. She nearly skipped out on doing a TED talk that changed her life because of imposter syndrome. Also, she's deathly afraid of bugs. And, as she shares in *Professional Troublemaker*, she's not alone.

We're all afraid of asking for what we want because we're afraid of hearing 'no.' We're afraid of being different, of being too much or not enough. We're afraid of leaving behind the known for the unknown. But in order to do the things that will truly, meaningfully change our lives, we have to become professional troublemakers: people who are

committed to not letting fear talk them out of the things they need to do or say.

With humour and honesty, and guided by the influence of her inspiring and professional troublemaking grandmother, Funmilayo Faloyin, Luvvie walks us through what we must get right within ourselves before we can do the things that scare us; how to use our voice for a greater good; and how to put movement to the voice we've been silencing – because truth-telling is a muscle.

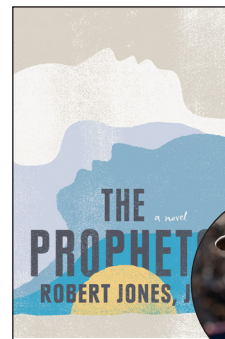
The point is not to be fearless. It is to know we are afraid and to charge forward regardless, to recognize the things we must do are more significant than the things we are afraid to do. This book shows you how she's done it, and how you can, too.

'You could spend a lifetime and fortune finding the perfect therapist, mentor, minister, career coach, and girlfriend - or you could just spend a day reading PROFESSIONAL TROUBLEMAKER.' Glennon Doyle, author of #1 NYT Bestseller *Untamed*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Luvvie Ajayi Jones is an award-winning author, podcast host, and sought-after speaker who thrives at the intersection of comedy, justice, and professional troublemaking. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *I'm Judging You: The Do-Better Manual*, and her site, *AwesomelyLuvvie*, is where she covers all things culture with a critical yet humorous lens. She runs her own social platform, *LuvvNation*, which is a safe space in a dumpster fire world.

@luvvie @luvvie



THE PROPHETS BY ROBERT JONES JR.

IN CONVERSATION WITH
SIMON SAVIDGE

05/01/2021



In this blinding debut, Robert Jones Jr. blends the lyricism of Toni Morrison with the vivid prose of Zora Neale Hurston to characterise the forceful, enduring bond of love, and what happens when brutality threatens the purest form of serenity.

The Halifax plantation is known as Empty by the slaves who work it under the pitiless gaze of its overseers and its owner, Massa Paul. Two young enslaved men, Samuel and Isaiah, dwell among the animals they keep in the barn, helping out in the fields when their day is done. But the barn is their haven, a space of radiance and love – away from the blistering sun and the cruelty of the toubabs – where they can be alone together.

But, Amos – a fellow slave – has begun to direct suspicion towards the two men and their refusal to bend. Their flickering glances, unspoken words and wilful intention revealing a truth that threatens to rock the stability of the plantation. And preaching the words of Massa Paul's gospel, he betrays them.

The culminating pages of *The Prophets* summon a choral voice of those who have suffered in silence, with blistering humanity, as the day of reckoning arrives at the Halifax plantation. Love, in all its permutations, is the discovery at the heart of Robert Jones Jr's breathtaking debut, *The Prophets*.

'Rarely is a book this finely wrought, the lives and histories it holds so tenderly felt, and rendered unforgettably true' Ocean Vuong, author of *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

"How devastating and glorious this is. Epic in its scale, intimate in its force, and lyrical in its beauty. THE PROPHETS shakes right down to the bone what the American novel is, should do, and can be. That shuffling sound you hear is Morrison, Baldwin, and Angelou whooping and hollering both in pride, and wonder." Marlon James, author of *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Jones, Jr. is a writer from Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned both his BFA in creative writing and MFA in fiction from Brooklyn College. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Essence*, *Gawker*, and *The Grio*. He is the creator of the social justice social media community, *Son of Baldwin*, which can be found on Facebook, Google Plus, Instagram, Medium, Tumblr, and Twitter. He is also currently working on his second novel.

@thesonofbaldwin @SonofBaldwin



I KNEW THIS WAS A BAD IDEA

BY SARAH KNIGHT

IN CONVERSATION WITH CLEMMIE TELFORD

06/10/2022

The debut essay collection from multi-million copy bestselling author Sarah Knight in which she opens up more candidly and hilariously than ever about her own mental health, and in doing so exposes her many eccentricities, vulnerabilities, and foibles.

You already know Sarah as the 'anti-guru' behind the No Fucks Given Guides – a series of witty, profane self-help manuals that includes the global phenomenon The Life-Changing Magic of Not Giving a Fuck – but with *I Knew This Was A Bad Idea*, Sarah turns her sharp eye and sharper tongue inward.

On topics ranging from anxiety and aging to female friendships and asshole cats, Sarah blends straight talk and naughty language to deliver keen

observations and honest assessments about things that matter deeply to her, but also, she hopes, to her readers. And she keeps those readers on their toes, mixing heartfelt stories about her struggles with eating disorders and addiction with laugh-out-loud treatises to some of her most uproariously unpopular opinions as well as recounting some of the mistakes she's made along the way. Like the time she took acid, declared herself 'a leopard,' and then answered the phone after her roommate specifically and repeatedly told her not to. It was the roommate's mom calling.

Ultimately, *I Knew This Was A Bad Idea* is everything you've come to expect from Sarah Knight – and plenty more that you never saw coming.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sarah Knight's first book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Not Giving a Fuck*, has been published in more than twenty languages, and her TEDx talk, "The Magic of Not Giving a Fuck," has more than four million views. All of the books in her No Fucks Given Guides series have been international bestsellers, including *Get Your Shit Together*, which was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for sixteen weeks. Her writing has also appeared in *Glamour*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire*, *Red*, *Refinery29*, and elsewhere. After quitting her corporate job to pursue a freelance life, she moved from Brooklyn, New York, to the Dominican Republic, where she currently resides with her husband, two feral rescue cats, and a shitload of lizards. You can learn more and sign up for her newsletter at nofucksgivenguides.com and follow the books @NoFucksGivenGuides (Facebook and Instagram) and @NoFucksGiven (Twitter).



WOMEN ON TOP OF THE WORLD

BY LUCY-ANNE HOLMES

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISSIE HYNDE, JENNY ECLAIR AND MANY OTHERS

25/02/2021

A timely book about what women really think about during sex, to fulfil the obvious need for narratives by women about their journeys of sexual self-discovery.

Fifty-one women, from all walks of life and from all over the world, share their most intimate thoughts and emotions. The result is an understanding of the female experience – consisting of testimonials from heterosexual, gay, pansexual and transgender women, as well as non-binary people – that will contribute to the changing way we recognise sex to be something that is more inclusive, nuanced and representative than it is currently in society.

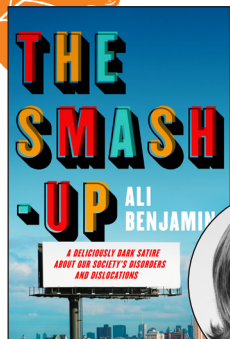
At the same time, these testimonials delve deep into issues such as self-esteem, racism, sexual abuse, body positivity, pleasure and taboos.

Thirty-one artists took part in this incredible project so that each story has a visual dimension to it. With huge names such as Chrissie Hynde and Jenny Eclair (who are painters in their spare time), sex-positive artists and cutting-edge illustrators who are exploring female sexuality in new and exciting ways, the book will push boundaries and look stunning at the same time.

Lucy-Anne Holmes talked to these women and collated their stories. As she says, 'So often women have experienced such pain and shame around sexuality, with little to no healthy education on the subject, and yet against these odds they find ways to overcome this and experience the pleasure that is their birth right.'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucy-Anne Holmes is the feminist activist who spearheaded the successful campaign to abolish the *Sun's* Page 3 photos of topless girls. She is also the author of *Don't Hold My Head Down*. Lucy-Anne is training to become a sacred sexual priestess.



THE SMASH-UP BY ALI BENJAMIN

23/02/2021

After years spent in the city, working with his business partner Randy on Bränd media, Ethan finds himself in the quiet, closed-off town of Starkfield. His wife Zenobia is perpetually distracted by the swirling #MeToo politics, the Kavanaugh hearings, and her duties to the feminist activism group she formed: All Them Witches. Ethan finds himself caught between their regular meetings at his home and the battle to get his livewire daughter Alex to sleep.

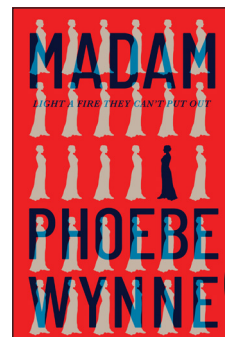
But the new, stilted rhythm of his life is interrupted when he receives a panicked message. Accusations. Against Randy. A slew of them. And Ethan is abruptly forced to question

everything: his past, his future, his marriage, and what he values most.

Unrelenting in its satire, *The Smash-up* jolts you into the twisted psyche of successful brand advertising, where historic exploitation is only ever a panicked phone-call away. With magnetic energy and doses of comic wit, Benjamin creates a world of social media algorithms, extreme polarization, the collapsing of identity into tweet-sized spaces, and the spectre of violence that can be found even in the quietest places.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ali Benjamin is the author of the young adult novel *The Thing About Jellyfish*, an international bestseller and a National Book Award finalist. *The Next Great Paulie Fink* was named a top children's book of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, the New York Public Library, and the Los Angeles Public Library. Her work has been published in more than twenty-five languages in more than thirty countries. Originally from the New York City area, she now lives in Massachusetts. This is her first adult novel.



MADAM BY PHOEBE WYNNE

18/02/2021

Light a fire they can't put out . . .

For 150 years, above the Scottish cliffs, Caldonbrae Hall has sat as a beacon of excellence in the ancestral castle of Lord William Hope. A boarding school for girls, it promises a future where its pupils will emerge 'resilient and ready to serve society'.

Rose Christie, a 26-year-old Classics teacher, is the first new hire for the school in over a decade. At first, Rose feels overwhelmed in the face of this elite establishment, but soon after her arrival she begins to understand that she may have more to fear than her own ineptitude.

When Rose stumbles across the secret circumstances surrounding the abrupt departure of her predecessor – a woman whose ghost lingers over everything and who no one will discuss – she realises that there is much more to this institution than she has been led to believe.

As she uncovers the darkness that beats at the heart of Caldonbrae, Rose becomes embroiled in a battle that will threaten her sanity as well as her safety . . .

A contemporary gothic debut with a feminist edge, for fans of Naomi Alderman and Madeline Miller.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phoebe Wynne worked in education for eight years, teaching Classics in the UK and English Language and Literature in Paris. She left the classroom to focus on her writing, and went on to hone her craft in Los Angeles and in London. *Madam* is her first novel. She is both British and French, and currently spends her time between France and England.



BLACK GIRL FINANCE BY SELINA FLAVIUS IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS 21/01/2021

A guide to personal finance by Selina Flavius, the founder of the coaching platform Black Girl Finance.

We don't like thinking about money, do we? We think maths, we think spreadsheets, we think boring. But Selina Flavius, founder of Black Girl Finance, wants to show that there can be another, better way. A way to start making our hard-earned money work even harder for us.

Selina Flavius created Black Girl Finance to address the unique difficulties Black women and women of colour face due to the gender and ethnicity pay gaps. Since we literally can't afford to wait for change, we need to start changing things up for ourselves. From challenging money

mindsets to teaching key skills, such as how to set up an emergency fund and where to start with budgeting, investing and saving, *Black Girl Finance* provides a safe space for a community of unapologetic, ambitious, money-minded women to get real about their finances.

Black Girl Finance is the guide every woman needs to kick-start their financial journey. Packed with tips, tricks and tools, as well as statistics, personal stories, goal-setting exercises and straight-talking advice, this will be your go-to helping hand when it comes to making your financial goals a reality.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Selina Flavius is a London-based Senior Account Executive who created and runs the coaching platform Black Girl Finance. A conversation with a colleague about investing and financial goals prompted Selina to research how BAME women fare when it comes to their money and finances - and, after reading the ethnicity pay gap statistics, was determined to help women start thriving financially. After carrying out a mini survey about how best women respond to information about finances and doing a web-design course, she put her thoughts into action and launched her website and Instagram account in April 2019 to create a safe space for women to talk all things money. *Black Girl Finance* is Selina's first book.



ALONEMENT BY FRANCESCA SPECTER 04/03/2021

How to be alone and absolutely own it, by the founder of the Alonement blog and podcast, Francesca Specter.

Being alone has a serious branding issue. We've only ever had negative language to talk about flying solo - but what about when time spent alone is restorative and joyful? What if it's something you crave? What if it's just an hour you've carved out for yourself in the middle of a hectic week?

Enter: Alonement, Francesca Specter's empowering new word to express valuing your own company and dedicating quality time to yourself, whoever you are and whatever your relationship status.

Between open-plan offices, two-for-one vouchers and co-habiting with partners and friends, most of us don't know how to be alone - yet our

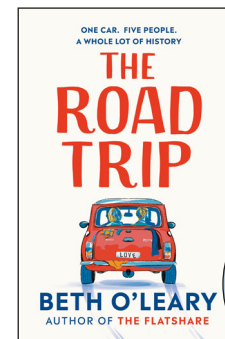
life-long relationship with ourselves is the most important one we'll ever have. A reformed 'extreme extrovert' who struggled to spend even an hour alone, Francesca made the resolution in January 2019 to improve her solitude skills. Having spent two months of lockdown by herself, Francesca knows better than most how to optimise the quality of time spent alone.

Packed with practical tips, insights from key experts and lessons from guests of the Alonement podcast - including Alain de Botton, Florence Given, Konnie Huq and Camilla Thurlow - Francesca reveals how we can all thrive alone, whatever our circumstances, and harness the untapped power of some meaningful time with me, myself and I.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Francesca Specter is a London-based journalist and founder of the platform and podcast, Alonement. Prior to launching Alonement in 2019, Francesca was the deputy editor of Yahoo! Lifestyle. She has formerly worked as a reporter at the *Daily Express*, and her work has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph* and *Grazia*. She holds an M.A. degree in Magazine Journalism from City University, London, and she has been nominated for several awards for her work, including the PPA Digital Rising Star award. *Alonement* is Francesca's first book.

SOME MORE BOOKS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT...



THE ROAD TRIP BY BETH O'LEARY

29/04/2021



The hilarious new novel from international bestselling author of *The Flatshare* and *The Switch*, Beth O'Leary

Addie and her sister are about to embark on an epic road trip to a friend's wedding in rural Scotland. The playlist is all planned and the snacks are packed.

But, not long after setting off, a car slams into the back of theirs. The driver is none other than Addie's ex, Dylan, who she's avoided since their traumatic break-up two years earlier.

Dylan and his best mate are heading to the wedding too, and they've totalled their car, so Addie has no choice but to offer them a ride. The car is soon jam-packed full of luggage and secrets, and with four hundred miles ahead of them, Dylan and Addie can't avoid confronting the very messy history of their relationship . . .

Will they make it to the wedding on time? And, more importantly, . . . is this really the end of the road for Addie and Dylan?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beth O'Leary is a *Sunday Times* bestselling author whose novels have been translated into more than thirty languages. Her debut, *The Flatshare*, sold over half a million copies and changed her life completely. Her second novel, *The Switch*, has been optioned for film by Amblin Partners, Steven Spielberg's production company. Beth writes her books in the Hampshire countryside with a very badly behaved Golden Retriever for company. If she's not at her desk, you'll usually find her curled up somewhere with a book, a cup of tea and several woolly jumpers (whatever the weather).



WIDOWLAND BY C. J. CAREY

10/06/2021

An alternative history with a strong feminist twist. For fans of Robert Harris' *Fatherland*, Christina Dalcher's *Vox* and Margaret Atwood's *Dystopian* novels.

To control the past they edited history. To control the future they edited literature.

London, 1953, Coronation year – but not the Coronation of Elizabeth II.

Thirteen years have passed since a Grand Alliance between Great Britain and Germany was formalized. George VI and his family have been murdered and Edward VIII rules as King. Yet, in practice, all power is vested in Alfred Rosenberg, Britain's Protector. The role and status of women is Rosenberg's particular interest.

Rose Ransom belongs to the elite caste of women and works at the Ministry of Culture, rewriting literature to correct the views of the past. But now she has been

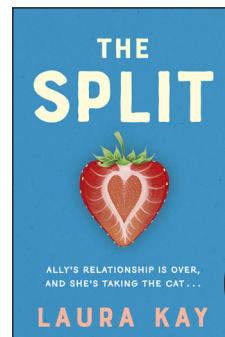
given a special task.

Outbreaks of insurgency have been seen across the country; graffiti daubed on public buildings. Disturbingly, the graffiti is made up of lines from forbidden works, subversive words from the voices of women. Suspicion has fallen on *Widowland*, the run-down slums where childless women over fifty have been banished. These women are known to be mutinous, for they have nothing to lose.

Before the Leader arrives for the Coronation ceremony of King Edward and Queen Wallis, Rose must infiltrate *Widowland* to find the source of this rebellion and ensure that it is quashed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

C. J. Carey is a pseudonym for an already established author writing in a different genre.



THE SPLIT BY LAURA KAY

18/03/2021



A brilliant, heart-warming and intensely funny story of love, heartache, friendship and family. Perfect for fans of Marian Keyes and Beth O'Leary.

Brutally dumped by her girlfriend, Ally is homeless, friendless and jobless . . . but at least she has Malcolm. Wounded and betrayed, Ally has made off with the one thing she thinks might soothe the pain: Emily's cat.

After a long train journey she arrives home to her dad in Sheffield, ready to fold herself up in her duvet and remain on the sofa for the foreseeable. Her dad has other ideas. A phone call later, and Ally is reunited with her first ever beard and friend of old, Jeremy. He too is broken-hearted and living at home again.

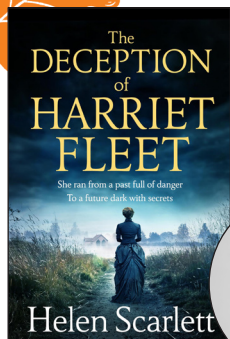
In an inspired effort to hold each other up, the pair decide to sign up for the local half marathon in a bid to impress their exes with their commitment and athleticism.

Given neither of them can run, they enlist the support of athletic, not to mention beautiful, Jo. But will she have them running for the hills . . . or will their ridiculous plan pay off . . . ?

'The Split has everything I love in a novel. It's hilariously funny, it's so uplifting and its characters are irresistibly loveable' Beth O'Leary

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Kay is a writer and editor. She has an MA in American History from the University of Sheffield, and now lives in London with her wife and cat. In 2018 Laura was selected as one of the ten PRH WriteNow mentees. This is her first novel.



THE DECEPTION OF HARRIET FLEET BY HELEN SCARLETT

01/04/2021

Dark and brimming with suspense, an atmospheric Victorian chiller set in brooding County Durham for fans of Stacey Halls and Laura Purcell.

1871. An age of discovery and progress. But for the Wainwright family, residents of the gloomy Teesbank Hall in County Durham, secrets of the past continue to overshadow their lives.

Harriet would not have taken the job of governess in such a remote place unless she wanted to hide from something or someone. Her charge is Eleanor, the daughter of the house, a fiercely bright eighteen-year-old, tortured by demons and feared by relations

and staff alike. But it soon becomes apparent that Harriet is not there to teach Eleanor, but rather to monitor her erratic and dangerous behaviour - to spy on her.

Worn down by Eleanor's unpredictable hostility, Harriet soon finds herself embroiled in Eleanor's obsession - the Wainwright's dark, tragic history. As family secrets are unearthed, Harriet's own begin to haunt her and she becomes convinced that ghosts from the past are determined to reveal her shameful story.

For Harriet, like Eleanor, is plagued by deception and untruths.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Helen Scarlett is a writer and English teacher based in the north east of England. Her debut historical novel, *The Deception of Harriet Fleet*, is a chilling take on nineteenth-century classics such as *Jane Eyre* seen through modern eyes. It is set in County Durham, close to where Helen lives with her husband and two daughters.



LOVE IN FIVE ACTS BY DANIELA KRIEN,

TRANSLATED BY JAMIE BULLOCH

29/04/2021

Five women attempt the impossible - to love, to be strong, and to stay true to themselves.

Bookseller Paula has lost a child, and a husband. Where will she find her happiness? Fiercely independent Judith thinks more of horses than men, but that doesn't stop her looking for love online. Brida is a writer with no time to write, until she faces a choice between her work and her family. Abandoned by the "perfect" man, Malika struggles for recognition from her parents. Her sister Jorinde, an actor, is pregnant for a third time, but how can she provide for her family alone?

Love in Five Acts explores what is left to five women when they have fulfilled their roles as wives, mothers, friends, lovers, sisters and daughters. As teenagers they experienced the fall of the Berlin Wall, but freedom brings with it another form of pressure: the pressure of choice.

Punchy and entirely of the moment, *Love in Five Acts* engages head-on with what it is to be a woman in the twenty-first century.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniela Krien was born in 1975 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, then in the G.D.R. Her first novel, *Someday We'll Tell Each Other Everything*, was published in English in 2013 (MacLehose Press) and in fourteen other languages. For a subsequent volume of short stories, *Muldental*, she was awarded the Nicolaus Born Prize. *Love in Five Acts* has been sold for translation into twenty languages. She lives in Leipzig with her two daughters.



A STRANGE AND BRILLIANT LIGHT

BY ELI LEE

22/07/2021

A riveting, thought-provoking speculative literary novel exploring the impact of the AI revolution through the eyes of three very different young women.

Lal, Janetta and Rose are living in a time of flux. Technological advance has brought huge financial rewards to those with power, but large swathes of the population are losing their jobs to artificial intelligence - or Auts, as they're called. Unemployment is high, discontent is rife and rumours are swirling. Many feel robbed - not just of their livelihoods, but of their hopes for the future.

Lal is languishing in her role at in a coffee shop and feeling overshadowed by her quietly

brilliant sister, Janetta, whose Ph.D. is focused on making Auts empathetic. Even Rose, Lal's best friend, has found a sense of purpose in charismatic up-and-coming politician Alek.

When vigilantes break into the coffee shop and destroy their new coffee-making A ut, it sets in motion a chain of events that will pull the three young women in very different directions.

Change is coming - change that will launch humankind into a new era. If Rose, Lal and Janetta can find a way to combine their burgeoning talents, they might just end up setting the course of history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eli Lee was born in Dorset and is now based in London. As well as writing fiction and non-fiction for a variety of anthologies, magazines and websites, she is fiction editor and contributor to literary journal *Minor Literature[s]* and has also worked for *Strange Horizons*.



GLOSSY: THE INSIDE STORY OF VOGUE

BY NINA-SOPHIA
MIRALLES

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Glossy is a story of more than a magazine. It is a story of passion and power, dizzying fortune and out-of-this-world fashion, of ingenuity and opportunism, frivolity and malice. This is the definitive story of Vogue.

Vogue magazine started, like so many great things do, in the spare room of someone's house. But unlike other such makeshift projects that flare up then fizzle away, *Vogue* burnt itself onto our cultural consciousness.

Today, 125 years later, *Vogue* spans 22 countries, has an international print readership upwards of 12 million and nets over 67 million monthly online users. Uncontested market leader for a century, it is one of the most recognisable brands in the world and

a multi-million dollar money-making machine. It is not just a fashion magazine, it is the establishment. But what - and more importantly who - made *Vogue* such an enduring success?

Glossy will answer this question and more by tracing the previously untold history of the magazine, from its inception as a New York gossip rag, to the sleek, corporate behemoth we know now. This will be a biography of *Vogue* in every sense of the word, taking the reader through three centuries, two world wars, plunging failures and blinding successes, as it charts the story of the magazine and those who ran it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nina-Sophia Miralles is an award-winning London-based writer and editor specialising in the arts, history and lifestyle. In 2015 she launched *Londonr*, a culture magazine with an elegant twist which was born online and has since expanded to a print edition and a literary salon. She has also worked for *HARRODS Magazine* and writes for *The Paris Review*.