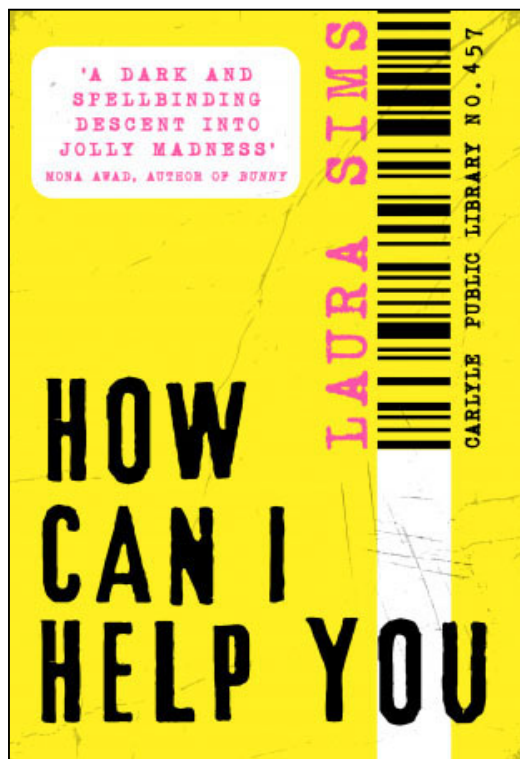




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HOW CAN I HELP YOU

by LAURA SIMS

THE BOOK

A razor-sharp psychological suspense about two librarians whose lives become dangerously intertwined, *How Can I Help You* explores the dark side of human nature and the dangerous pull of artistic obsession.

No one knows Margo's real name.

Her colleagues and patrons at a small-town public library only know her middle-aged normalcy, congeniality and charm. They have no reason to suspect that she is, in fact, a former nurse with a trail of countless premature deaths in her wake. She has turned a new page, so to speak, and the library is her sanctuary, a place to quell old urges.

That is, at least, until Patricia, a recent graduate and failed novelist, joins the library staff. Patricia quickly notices Margo's subtly sinister edge and watches her carefully. When a patron's death in the library bathroom offers a hint of Margo's mysterious past, Patricia can't resist digging deeper - even as this new fixation becomes all-consuming.

LAURA SIMS (Location: South Orange, USA)

Laura Sims is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Looker*. An award-winning poet, Sims has published four poetry collections; her essays and poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *Boston Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Electric Lit*, *Gulf Coast*, and more. She and her family live in New Jersey, where she works part-time as a reference librarian and hosts the library's lecture series.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A 'compulsive' and 'unforgettable novel' (Mona Awad) of razor-sharp suspense about two librarians whose lives become dangerously intertwined

Selected as a *New York Times* Best Thriller of the Year

Killing Eve meets Netflix's *Ratched* – perfect for fans of Ottessa Moshfegh, Patricia Highsmith and Donna Tartt, as well as Bella Mackie's *How to Kill Your Family* and Christine Mangan's *Tangerine*

A twisty and tense character-driven novel that unfolds within a setting that will appeal to all booklovers, as well as the dark academia #booktok trend

Extensive US coverage (published by PRH), with reviews in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Rolling Stone* and more

High profile fans of Sims' work include Harlan Coben, Mona Awad, Kimberly McCreight and Paul Tremblay

PRAISE FOR HOW CAN I HELP YOU

'Unnerving... *How Can I Help You* reads like a homage to Shirley Jackson's work - and, in its portrait of Patricia, to Jackson herself. Sims' great achievement is to present the two main characters almost as sides of the same coin, colluding in a psychological cat-and-mouse game that only one can win' - **New York Times**

'A dark and spellbinding descent into jolly madness, *How Can I Help You* is reminiscent of Shirley Jackson at her eerie best. All of Sims' deliciously wicked powers are on full display in this compulsive and unforgettable novel.

A classic' - **Mona Awad, author of *Bunny* and *Rouge***

'A brilliant slice of psychological suspense... Sims skillfully alternates between the perspectives of each woman, slowly bringing her simmering plot to a boil, and delivers a stunning climax. Patricia Highsmith fans will savor this unforgettable thriller' - **Publishers Weekly**

'A gripping and dark psychological thriller about two librarians that takes place in a library. Delicious... I read it one sitting' - **Harlan Coben**

'A slow-burn game of cat and mouse... The characters are well drawn, and Margo is a particularly enjoyable antihero who brings dark humor to the story... Fresh and funny... A quick read that is reminiscent of Laura Lippman's *Sunburn* and Christine Mangan's *Tangerine*' - **Booklist**



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THE MAN

'No one writes about obsession like Laura Sims'
Samantha Downing

'Chilling... this book kept me
awake at night, heart in throat'
Vanessa Chan

LAURA SIMS