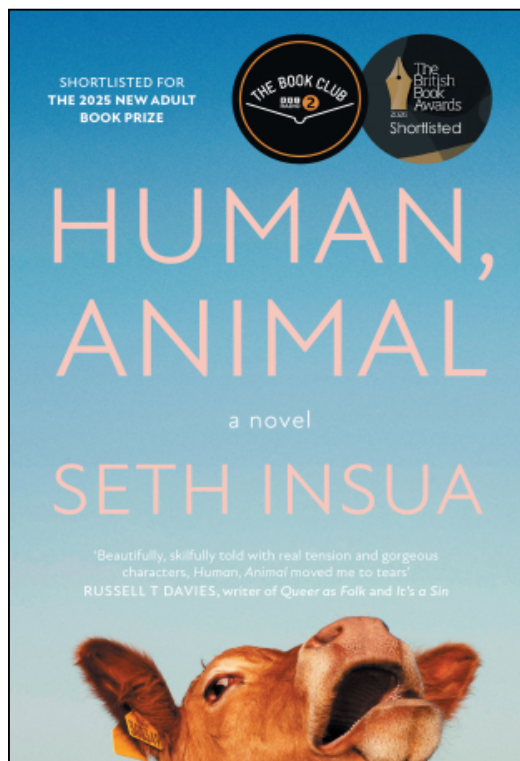




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HUMAN, ANIMAL

A BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

by SETH INSUA

THE BOOK

Dairy farmer George Calvert is fighting to keep the family business afloat. Worried about the future but resistant to change, he refuses to face the reality of his failing farm, his elderly mother's declining health and his troubled relationship with his youngest son, Tom.

Newly returned from university, Tom isolates himself in his childhood bedroom, guarding the truth of his burgeoning identity.

When animal rights activists break into the cowshed one morning and Tom appears to side with the protesters, father and son lock horns. As the Calverts begin to unravel, a decades-old secret surfaces – one that might rip them apart completely, or finally unite them.

A deeply moving debut about one family's struggle to find connection in a rapidly changing world, *Human, Animal* is an ode to the wild, a journey of self-discovery and a hopeful path to common ground.

SETH INSUA (Location: Newcastle upon Tyne, UK)

SETH INSUA is an Anglo-Spanish writer and artist. He was born in Kent in 1989. He graduated from the University of Oxford with a First in English Language and Literature. He has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and The London Magazine's Short Story Competition and was a semi-finalist in the BlueCat Screenplay Competition. He lives with his husband, David, between Newcastle upon Tyne and Madrid. *Human, Animal* is his first novel.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A revealing debut about the importance of connection in a divided world, exploring themes of family, identity, the enduring effects of conflict and the friction between tradition and progress – from land use and animal rights, to gender, sexuality and relationships

Perfect for fans of *Pity* by Andrew McMillan, *Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart (64K sold), *A Town Called Solace* by Mary Lawson (35K sold) and *The Discomfort of Evening* by Lucas Rijneveld (14K sold)

Explores the hardships of agricultural life, imbuing the rural everyday world of its characters with a rich lyricism, and celebrates the power and fragility of family, illustrating how love can sit alongside disagreement and how we might step outside our echo chambers and stand together

Key narrative settings include: Kent and central London

The author already has a strong social media presence (12.1K followers on Instagram) and connections within the media and queer community

Insua's work has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and *The London Magazine's* Short Story Competition and he was a semi-finalist in the BlueCat Screenplay Competition

PRAISE FOR HUMAN, ANIMAL

'Beautifully, skilfully told with real tension and gorgeous characters, *Human, Animal* moved me to tears. Insua writes with so much kindness, empathy and wisdom... Remarkable' - **Russell T Davies**

'Insua probes the spaces between black-and-white-thinking with immeasurable sensitivity... *Human, Animal* explores the anxious convergence of the past, present and future with staggering clarity. A truly impressive debut' - **Joshua Jones, author of Local Fires**

'A rich and compelling debut from a writer with a striking talent for weaving together complex narrative strands in order to create a sophisticated, symphonic whole. Insua is one to watch' - **Barney Norris, author of The Vanishing Hours**

'A beautiful, clever debut... Insua balances polarised worlds - the young and old, the urban and rural, the expected and forbidden - to create a novel so full of generosity and insight' - **Abigail Dean, author of Girl A**

'Blisteringly emotional, exploring the complex folds of family bonds. The last page left me haunted. Completely unmissable' - **Lucy Rose, author of The Lamb**

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