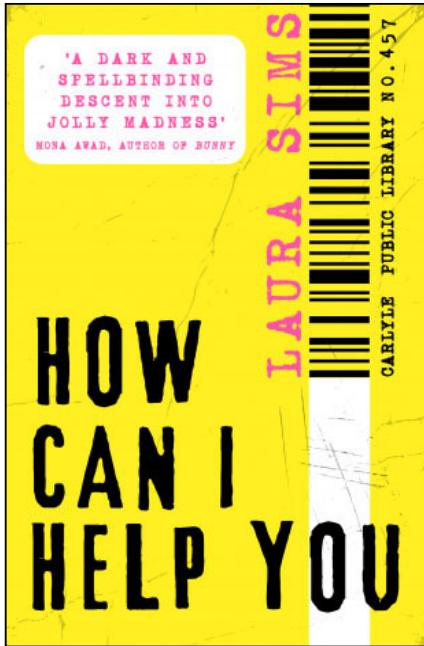


HOW CAN I HELP YOU

LAURA SIMS



Pub. Date:	25 July 2024
Price:	£9.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-875-7
Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)
Extent:	224
Weight:	
Publishing Rights:	Exclusive: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada. Open Market: RoW. excl. North America
Sales Rights:	Exclusive: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada. Open Market: RoW. excl. North America
Market:	American Fiction, Literary Fiction, Suspense
BISAC Code:	FIC031080: Fiction : Thrillers : Psychological FIC031010: Fiction : Thrillers : Crime FIC019000: Fiction : Literary
THEMA Code:	FHX: Psychological thriller FF: Crime & mystery fiction FBA: Modern & contemporary fiction
Country of Manufacture:	UK
Rpt. Code:	IP
Overseas Publisher:	USA & Canada: Putnam HB, \$27.00, 18 Jul 2023

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www.turnaround-uk.com

vervebooks.co.uk/how-can-i-help-you

ISBN 978-0-85730-875-7



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

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.

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*

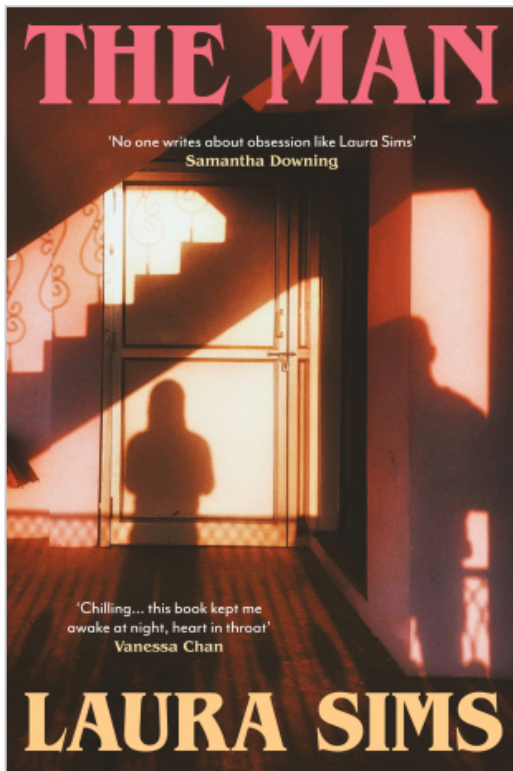
'A slow-burn game of cat and mouse... The characters are well drawn, and Margo is a particularly enjoyable antihero who brings dark humor to the story... Fresh and funny... A quick read that is reminiscent of Laura Lippman's *Sunburn* and Christine Mangan's *Tangerine*' - *Booklist*

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.



OTHER TITLES BY LAURA SIMS



The Man
978-0-85730-950-1