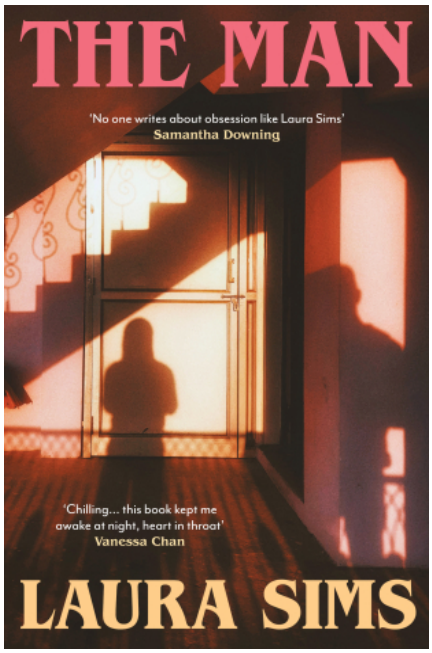
VERVE BOOKS



THE MAN

LAURA SIMS

Pub. Date:	23 July 2026
Price:	£10.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-950-1
Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)
Extent:	288
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 Literature, Crime Thriller, Domestic Suspense, Literary Fiction
BISAC Code:	FIC019000: Fiction : Literary FIC030000: Fiction : Thrillers : Suspense FIC031080: Fiction : Thrillers : Psychological
THEMA Code:	FBA: Modern & contemporary fiction FHX: Psychological thriller
Country of Manufacture:	UK
Rpt. Code:	IP

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www.turnaround-uk.com

vervebooks.co.uk/the-man

ISBN 978-0-85730-950-1

MARKETING & SALES POINTS

From the highly acclaimed author of *How Can I Help You* comes a masterful domestic suspense novel that follows a 1960s housewife turned amateur photographer who begins to fear for her life when she notices the dark silhouette of a man in the background of her self-portraits

Unexpected and propulsive, *The Man* explores art, violence, fame and ownership. Perfect for readers of Patricia Highsmith, Han Kang and Eliza Clark

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

How Can I Help You* was selected as a *New York Times* Thriller of the Year. The novel received extensive coverage across the UK and US, including reviews in the *Guardian*, *Sunday Times*, *Glamour*, *Rolling Stone

THE BOOK

The photos Judith Stanley takes are just for her, a private passion to fill her suburban days. But when she shares them with Paul Sorenson, her new photography instructor, she's unprepared to hear his astonished praise. 'Stunning,' he calls her photos. 'Extraordinary.' She has an uncanny eye, he says, and should consider publication. He could help. Except Judith has no interest in sharing her work; in fact, the mere idea of it frightens her.

Still, emboldened by Paul's encouragement, Judith ventures out beyond her quiet neighbourhood to the city in search of increasingly striking images. When she starts to notice the dark shape of a man in the corner of her self-portraits, Judith is certain he's an attacker from her past. She doesn't know why he has returned, but she's sure of his presence: the hoarse sound of his breathing, his hard grip on her elbow. Perhaps it would appease the man if she were to put her camera down and give up her private passion. But she can't; she refuses. Until one night when the man finally emerges from the shadows, and Judith's story suddenly and irrevocably becomes his own.

Chilling and heart-poundingly propulsive, *The Man* is a phenomenal and timely novel exploring the inescapable fear of living as a woman, the tantalizing seduction of artistic freedom and the very real dangers that lurk both inside and outside the confines of the mind.

PRAISE FOR *THE MAN*

'Haunting, atmospheric and relentlessly unnerving... Beneath the muscular prose and quiet sense of dread is a thoughtful exploration of power imbalances, our relationship with art and the roles we allow women to play' - **Andrea Bartz, author of *We Were Never Here***

'This book kept me awake at night, heart in throat, then stayed with me long afterward. I could not stop turning the pages. Sims has done it again' - **Vanessa Chan, author of *The Storm We Made***

'Fiercely intelligent and deeply chilling... The perfect book club read' - **Ana Reyes, author of *The House in the Pines***

'An absolute page-turner. I tore through this novel in two feverish sittings... Expertly paced, utterly gripping and deeply layered' - **Kirsten King, author of *A Good Person***

'I was gripped by this twisty, creepy tale... Art and trauma, obsession and ambition all collide with terrifying consequences that will have you flipping to the last page' - **Susan Barker, author of *Old Soul***

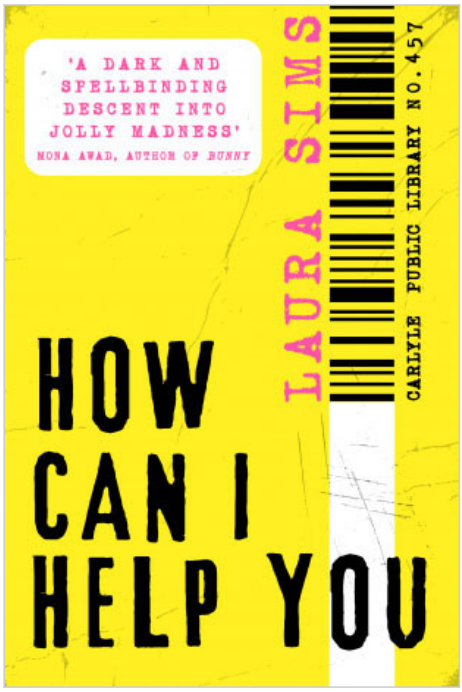
'A gorgeous, haunting exploration of creativity, confinement and desire... Every page shimmers with intelligence and quiet menace. I could not put it down' - **Danielle Trussoni, author of *The Puzzle Box***

LAURA SIMS

Laura Sims\'s previous novels *How Can I Help You* and *Looker* have been featured on Best Books lists in the *New York Times Book Review*, *Vogue*, *People*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Real Simple*, *Publishers Weekly* and more. An award-winning poet, Sims has published four poetry collections; her essays and poems have appeared in the *New Republic*, *Boston Review*, *LitHub* and *Electric Lit*. She lives in New Jersey, where she works part-time as a children\'s librarian.



OTHER TITLES BY LAURA SIMS



How Can I Help You
978-0-85730-875-7