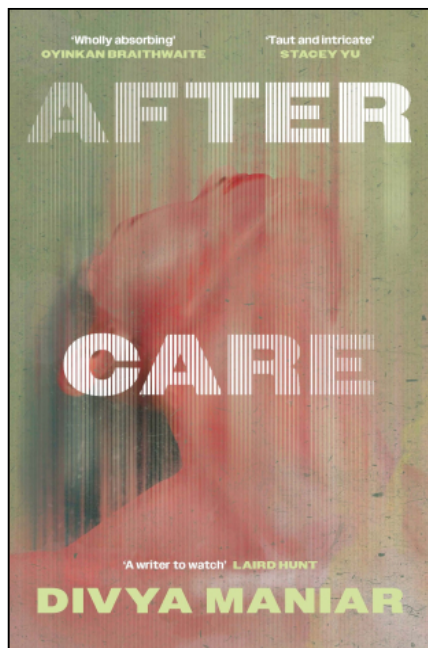




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AFTER CARE

DIVYA MANIAR

MARKETING & SALES POINTS

An unsettlingly honest debut from Singaporean British-based writer Divya Maniar

After Care is a scathing debut novel about the dark world of reality TV, 'influencer culture' and consumerism, for fans of *Boy Parts* by Eliza Clark (34K sold), *Ripe* by Sarah Rose Etter (6K sold) and *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh (130K sold)

Blending biting social critique with an uncanny claustrophobia and the feverish pressure of cultural relevance, *After Care* interrogates what happens behind the scenes of what we see on our screens and what that reflects back at us, the audience. It asks, in a world full of harm, is there any point in caring about anybody but yourself?

Engages with topical online discourse surrounding influencers, fast fashion and consumerism, the morality of reality TV and women's bodies under patriarchal systems

After Care joins the list of 'Weird Girl' fiction in 2026 that highlights the darker sides of femininity while promoting a varied and nuanced discussion of race and gender

THE BOOK

Grace is no longer famous. She sits alone in her New York apartment, endlessly watching reruns of herself on the reality TV show *Speed Daters*. Then, one evening, a man breaks in through her window. A rare, still-obsessed fan or raging incel – Grace is unsure. Before she can find out, he disappears.

That same night, the world is rocked by the news that Anoushka, Grace's onscreen rival, has taken her own life. Suddenly thrust back into the public eye, Grace is thrilled to be relevant again. Driven by a familiar desperation for love and attention, she clings to the dregs of her old life: her followers; her on-again, off-again boyfriend, Cal; and her unstable influencer income.

But fame is fickle, and Grace's image is fragile. When the fans begin to turn on her, Grace escapes with Cal to his isolated cabin. In the woods with nothing but each other, can they mend what's broken without destroying what little is left?

A piercing debut exposing the toxicities of reality TV and influencer culture, *After Care* is a disconcertingly recognisable portrait of reckless consumerism, spectatorship and the attention economy.

PRAISE FOR AFTER CARE

'Bold and haunting, *After Care* dissects the delusions of fame, parasocialism and the attention economy. Who do we become when we're being watched? And what happens when people stop? Maniar has written a taut and intricate study that refuses easy answers' - **Stacey Yu, author of *Kitten***

'A pitch-perfect and utterly compelling portrait of one of modern society's most ubiquitous and troubling figures - the reality TV star turned influencer - and of how far any of us might be willing to go for the illusory approval of strangers on the other side of a screen' - **Naomi Xu Elegant, author of *Ginkgo Season***

'Searing, visceral and sincerely uncomfortable, but like a deep dark doomscroll into the psyche of 2026, I found that I just couldn't look away. An unmissable debut' - **Genevieve Jagger, author of *Fragile Animals***

'An edgy, ice-cool debut... It reminded me a little of Jennifer Egan's prescient early novel *Look at Me* and *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*' - **Sharlene Teo, author of *Ponti***

'An excellent debut... Exposes the economic machinery behind online performance: attention as survival, visibility as currency... An unsettling and compassionate novel, with an exhilarating and edifying ending' - **Seth Insua, author of *Human, Animal***

DIVYA MANIAR (Location: London, UK)

Divya Maniar is a writer and dancer from Singapore. She studied Comparative Literature and Philosophy at Brown, and holds an M.Phil in English Literature from Cambridge. Her writing has appeared in *Joyland*, *The Rumpus* and elsewhere. *After Care* is her debut novel.

