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Their Finest

A Novel

by Lissa Evans

Price: \$15.99(Paperback)

Published: February 14, 2017

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From the Publisher: From the author of the acclaimed Crooked Heart comes another “smart, funny, ingenious, revealing tale of London life during the Second World War” (The Independent)—longlisted for the Orange Prize upon its original publication in England. It is 1940. France has fallen, and only a narrow strip of sea lies between Great Britain and invasion. The war could go either way and everyone must do their bit. Young copy writer Catrin Cole is drafted into the Ministry of Information to help “write women” into propaganda films—something that the men aren’t very good at. She is quickly seconded to the Ministry’s latest endeavor: a heart-warming tale of bravery and rescue at Dunkirk. It’s all completely fabricated, of course, but what does that matter when the nation’s morale is at stake? Since call-up has stripped the industry of its brightest and best, it is...

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About The Author

Lissa Evans

Lissa Evans, a former radio and television producer, is the author of three previous novels, including Their Finest Hour and a Half, which was longlisted for the Orange Prize. Crooked Heart was also longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Orange...

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Release Info

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What We Say

What a treat! This story is set in London during WW II, with a young woman leaping from the Ministry of Information and boring old patriotic shorts to an unexpected opportunity working on a feature film about Dunkirk. The government wants more female heroines featured in war movies to boost morale, so this movie focuses on two young women who took part in that famed naval rescue. Our heroine Catrin Cole is expected to deliver the mushy, feminine dialogue beneath the dignity of the men delivering the script. Vain actors, cynical writers, dodgy politicians and bombs falling all around? Wonderful! While author Lissa Evans delivers all the fun one might expect, at every step of the way she deepens and complicates the tale.

Instead of types we have individuals and instead of comic whimsy we have a story with the weight and pleasure of real life. Catrin is a plucky delight, but she's matched every step of the way by a wonderful cast -- from a dresser at Madame Tussaud's to a doughy character actress to a shambling theatrical agent, they are all complex and surprising. No wonder it's been made into a film starring Gemma Arterton and Bill Nighy, due out in April. Even if it's good, you'll undoubtedly be saying "The book was better." Trust me. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

“The period details evoking London during the Blitz are masterfully done.” - *Library Journal*

“This is a comic novel, but far warmer in tone and broader in scope than that label would suggest....Gloriously observed...Hilliard is a wonderful creation—and Evans’s recreated propaganda scripts are a total joy. Delicious.” - *Times* (London)

“I try not to say, ‘If there’s one novel you should read this summer..’ but *Crooked Heart* tempts me to say it.” - Scott Simon, NPR, on *Crooked Heart*

“Glorious. I loved every line of this book.” - Paula Hawkins, author of *The Girl on the Train*, on *Crooked Heart*

“In ‘Crooked Heart,’ Lissa Evans’s absorbing and atmospheric comic novel, another quietly heroic orphan joins the canon....This is a wonderfully old-fashioned Dickensian novel, with satisfying plot twists....Both darkly funny and deeply touching....It’s a crooked journey, straight to the heart.” - *New York Times Book Review* on *Crooked Heart*

“Beautifully written, minutely observed and researched, evocative and very funny tale.” - *Guardian* (London)

“[Evans] displays...

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