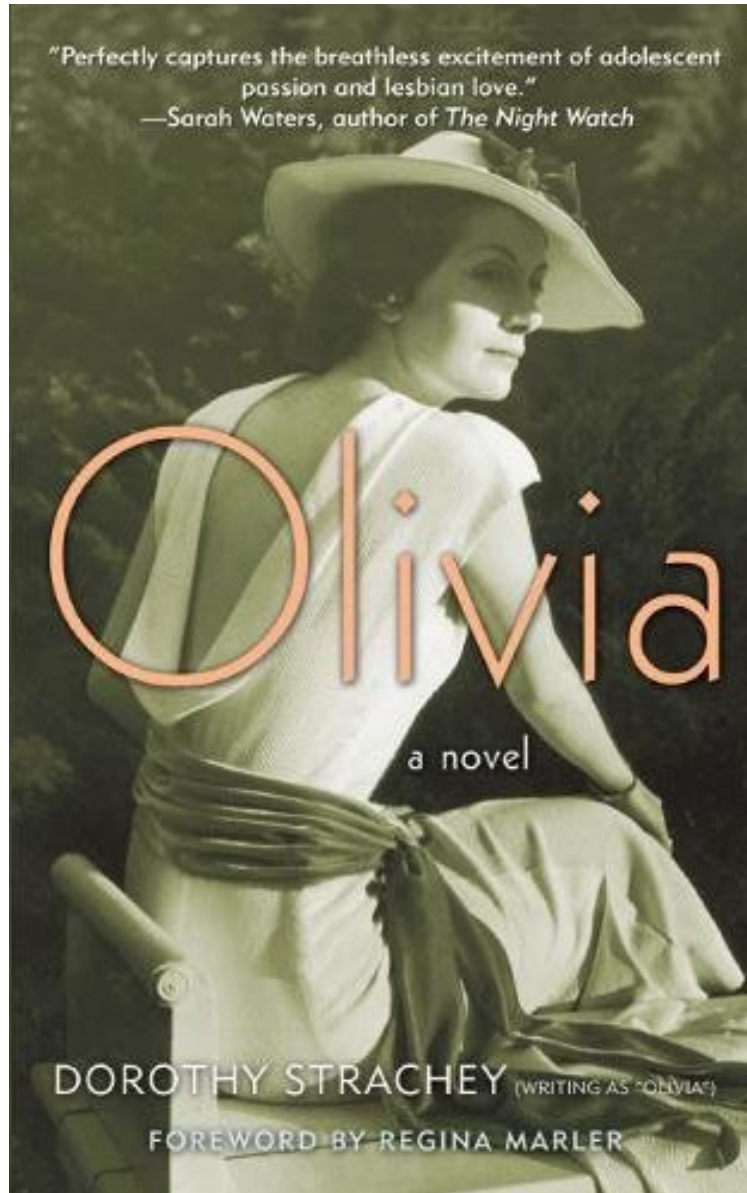


(Download pdf) Olivia: A Novel

Olivia: A Novel

Dorothy Strachey

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Dorothy Strachey : Olivia: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Olivia: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. True to LifeBy Susan M.This short novel written by Dorothy Strachey (her only novel) in the 1940s captures the thrill of first adolescent love. There is nothing salacious or tasteless

about Olivia's intense feelings for the young woman who is her teacher. What is left unsaid, is whether the feelings are reciprocal. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dorothy Strachey's masterpiece By Hava Fono It is a beautifully written very frank description of a young adolescents experience in a boarding school. The sensitivity of feeling the othentic emotions and the sadness of growing up in a world of prejudice is very truthfully described. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Read this! By drfiddler! This novel by Dorothy Strachey, sister of famous biographer and eccentric, Lytton Strachey, is a little jewel of a well-written novel. Probably based on Dorothy's experiences in a girl's school, it describes a English teenager's crush on a school mistress in late 19th century France. This novel is not about sex or being a lesbian. It is about anticipation and the overwhelming need for affection and approval. It is a classic, "coming of age" novel with (for once!) a young girl instead of a young boy. Quick, enthralling read!

Considered one of the most subtle and beautifully written lesbian novels of the century, this 1949 classic returns to print in a Cleis Press edition. Dorothy Strachey's classic *Olivia* captures the awakening passions of an English adolescent sent away for a year to a small finishing school outside Paris. The innocent but watchful Olivia develops an infatuation for her headmistress, Mlle. Julie, and through this screen of love observes the tense romance between Mlle. Julie and the other head of the school, Mlle. Cara, in its final months. Although not strictly autobiographical, Olivia draws on the authors experiences at finishing schools run by the charismatic Mlle. Marie Souvestre, whose influence lived on through former students like Natalie Barney and Eleanor Roosevelt. Olivia was dedicated to the memory of Strachey's friend Virginia Woolf and published to acclaim in 1949. Colette wrote the screenplay for the 1951 film adaptation of the novel. In 1999, *Olivia* was included on the Publishing Triangles widely publicized list of the 100 Best Gay and Lesbian Novels of the 20th Century.

"Perfectly captures the breathless excitement of adolescent passion" * Sarah Waters * "A remarkable novel which is unique in its presentation of the female mind and emotions in teachers and pupils at a girls' school. It has a strange combination of strength and delicacy" * The Times * "It is the story of an overheated emotional glasshouse, of an awakening and febrile yearnings, of the anguished decoding of tiny signals of intention from the beloved, of fervid alliances and bitter jealousies between two factions of girls, and the falling out of the two teachers they adore, with a shattering conclusion" * Guardian * "The chapter from Dorothy Strachey's *Olivia*, which deals with the well-worn topic of a schoolgirl's love for her teacher, seems fresh and beautifully done" -- Julie Burchill * Sunday Times * "A narrative of sheer emotion... *Olivia* achieves the purity of classic tragedy" * New York Times Book * About the Author Dorothy Strachey (1865-1960) was the sister of the novelist Lytton Strachey and a prominent member of the Bloomsbury Group. She was Andre Gide's main English translator. *Olivia*, originally published under a pseudonym, is her only novel.