

The Strays Novel: Unveiling the Untold Stories of Artistic Bohemia

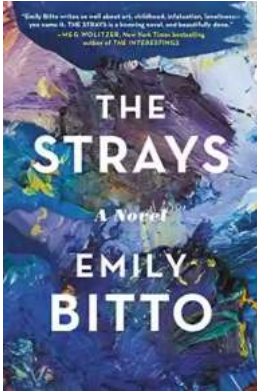
In the realm of literature, few authors possess the talent to transport their readers to a different time and space, immersing them in a narrative that captures their imagination. Emily Bitto is one such author, and her debut novel, "The Strays", is a masterpiece that delves into the captivating and tumultuous world of artistic bohemia in 1930s Australia. With every page turned, readers are drawn deeper into the lives of the prestigious Trentham family and the indelible impact they have on the novel's protagonist, Lily, and her fate.

"The Strays" serves as more than just a mere story; it is an exploration of the complexities of art, friendship, and the unrelenting search for identity. While the novel is a work of fiction, Bitto meticulously weaves historical elements into the narrative, providing readers with a profound sense of time and place. Through her vivid descriptions, readers are transported to the sun-drenched streets of Melbourne, where they can almost taste the excitement and rebellion that permeate the air.

At the heart of the novel lies the enigmatic Trentham family, who take Lily under their wing and introduce her to a world of avant-garde art and unconventional living. As Lily becomes entangled with the Trenthams and their eccentric group of artist friends, she is forced to confront the boundaries of her own desires and the sacrifices she is willing to make for her art. The characters, each unique in their eccentricities and passions, come alive on the page, making it impossible for readers to resist becoming emotionally invested in their journeys.

The Strays: A Novel by Emily Bitto (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 2425 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 257 pages

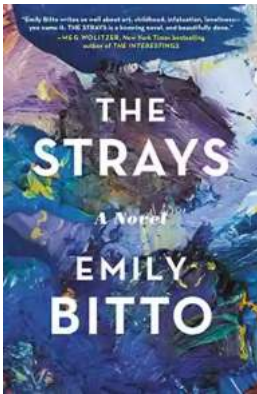


Bitto's writing style is elegant and evocative, capturing the essence of the era with finesse. Her prose paints vivid imagery, immersing readers in the artistic landscapes of painting, music, and performance. It is through her words that the reader experiences both the euphoria and the darkness that define the bohemian lifestyle. Bitto seamlessly intertwines themes of artistry, identity, and the sacrifices one makes for their craft, resulting in a narrative that is both poignant and thought-provoking.

As the novel reaches its climax, readers find themselves on an emotional rollercoaster. Bitto skillfully crafts a plot that keeps readers on the edge of their seats, anticipating the consequences of the characters' actions. The tension between the characters and their desires is palpable, and the reader becomes fully invested in the outcome. As Lily navigates the complexities of her relationships with the Trenthams and her own pursuit of artistic greatness, readers are confronted with questions of personal fulfillment and the price one is willing to pay for their passions.

"The Strays" is not just a novel; it is an immersive experience that transports readers to a time brimming with creativity and rebellion. Bitto's vivid descriptions,

multi-dimensional characters, and thought-provoking themes make this novel impossible to put down. It serves as a testament to the enduring power of art and the lasting impact it can have on one's life. So, if you crave a compelling tale that combines rich storytelling with a glimpse into creative bohemia, "The Strays" is the perfect book to embark on a journey you won't soon forget.



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"Disturbing and magical....with a grace and eloquence." - NPR Books

"Full of lush, mesmerizing detail and keen insight into the easy intimacy between young girls which disappears with adulthood." -- The New Yorker

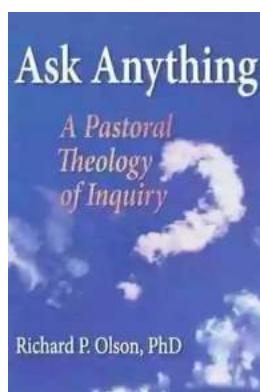
"The Strays is a knowing novel, and beautifully done." -- Meg Wolitzer, New York Times bestselling author of The Interestings

For readers of Atonement, a hauntingly powerful story about the fierce friendship between three sisters and their friend as they grow up on the outskirts of their parents' wild and bohemian artistic lives.

On her first day at a new school, Lily befriends Eva and her sisters Beatrice and Heloise, daughters of the infamous avant-garde painter Evan Trentham. An only child from an unremarkable, working-class family, Lily has never experienced a household like the Trenthams'--a community of like-minded artists Evan and his wife have created, all living and working together to escape the stifling conservatism of 1930's Australia. And Lily has never met anyone like Eva, whose unabashed confidence and worldly knowledge immediately draw her in.

Infatuated by the creative chaos of the Trenthams and the artists who orbit them, Lily aches to fully belong in their world, craving something beyond her own ordinary life. She becomes a fixture in their home, where she and Eva spend their days lounging in the garden, filching cigarettes and wine, and skirting the fringes of the adults' glamorous lives, who create scandalous art during the day and host lavish, debauched parties by night. But as seductive as the artists' utopian vision appears, behind it lies both darkness and dysfunction. And the further the girls are pulled in, the greater the consequences become.

With elegance and vibrancy, *The Strays* evokes the intense bonds of girlhood friendships, the volatile undercurrents of a damaged family, and the yearning felt by an outsider looking in.



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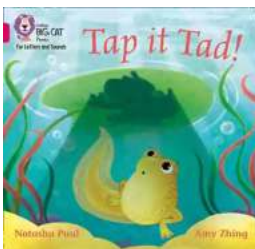
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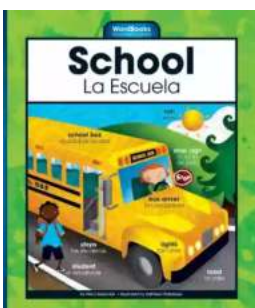
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