



Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths)

By Ali Smith

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Girl meets boy. It's a story as old as time. But in Whitbread winner Ali Smith's lyrical, funny, mash-up of Ovid's most joyful gender-bending metamorphosis story, girl meets boy in so many more ways than one. Imogen and Anthea, sisters that are opposites, work together at Pure, a creative agency attempting to "bottle imagination, politics, and nature" in the form of a new Scottish bottled-water business with global aspirations. Anthea, somewhat flighty and bored with the office environment, becomes enamored of an "interventionist protest artist" nicknamed Iphisol, whose billboard-size corporate slurs around town are the bane of Pure's existence. And when Anthea and Iphisol meet, it's a match made in heaven. *Girl Meets Boy* is about girls and boys, girls and girls, love and transformation, the absurdity of consumerism, as well as a story of reversals and revelations that's as sharply witty as it is lyrical. Funny, fresh, poetic, and political, *Girl Meets Boy* is a myth of metamorphosis for a world made in Madison Avenue's image, and the funniest addition to The Myths series from Canongate since *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood.

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Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths) By Ali Smith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #421658 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Canongate U.S.
- Published on: 2007-12-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .67" h x 5.22" w x 8.14" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 176 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Veteran British novelist Smith returns from 2006's Whitbread Award–winner *The Accidental* with a cheerful, sexy, disorienting take on the gender-shifting myths of Iphis (as told in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*). Fragile, rootless Anthea arrives at the Inverness, Scotland, offices of the slick, multibrand corporate behemoth Pure, where her up-and-coming sister Midge has gotten her a job. Raised on their grandfather's strange stories of rebellion and gender switching, the sisters undergo very different transformations when confronting Pure oblivion, the corporation's goal of being simultaneously ubiquitous and invisible. Drifting at work, Anthea meets kilt-clad graffiti artist Robin, who awakens destructive passions within her. Midge, meanwhile, is summoned to Pure's London headquarters by Keith, the charismatic boss of bosses, and her meeting with him sets her on an unexpected course with the company. Smith's spare and sharp lyricism makes the action secondary, but the ironies that arise from the corporate setting for a very old myth are handled with glee (including jabs at water supply privatization), and Smith's cadences, which read like classical drama, carry the novel along beautifully. (*Jan.*)

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Review

“The great thing about stories is that they can build their own walls and then let us walk right through them. **Girl Meets Boy** is a joyful celebration of life in all its strange shapes, on all sides of the wall.” –Jeanette Winterson, *The Times*

“A spritely love story that plays on notions of gender and sexuality to exuberant effect.” –*The Observer*

“Smith has done a splendid job. Alongside the touching love story are some perceptive insights on the ambiguities of gender. As fanciful as it is honest and as moving as it is hilarious, this is a gorgeous story.” –*The London Paper*

“An ecstatic, exhilarating helter-skelter ride of a story which shows just how relevant Ovid’s myth of the transformative power of love is to modern readers . . . [Smith’s] Midge and Anthea are jean-clad demonstrations that myths aren’t about exotic gods but human experience.” –*Financial Times*

“It is clever, complex and thrilling . . . **Girl Meets Boy** delights because it refuses to stop at a single metamorphosis; despite its compactness, its stories multiply and rebound exuberantly, its echoes calling to one another across the pages.” –*The Times Literary Supplement (TLS)*

“Ali Smith bursts from the page with her fabulous retelling of the story of Iphis and Ianthe from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. **Girl Meets Boy** . . . pulls you in and doesn’t let you go. . . . Smith’s retelling is bold and brilliant—containing the best sex I’ve read in years.” –One of Jackie Kay’s favourite books of 2007, *The Observer*

“From its arresting opening line to its exuberant ending, **Girl Meets Boy** is concerned with gender, love and transformation.” –*London Review of Books*

“A cheerful, sexy, disorienting take on the gender-shifting myths of Iphis . . . Smith’s spare and sharp lyricism . . . are handled with glee . . . and Smith’s cadences, which read like classical drama, carry the novel along beautifully.” –*Publishers Weekly*

“Ali Smith’s **Girl Meets Boy** might give you the inspiration you need to seek out love . . . [A] compact, rollicking novel . . . In Smith’s hands, Ovid’s gender-bending metamorphosis story gets a Madison Avenue-style makeover.” –*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

“Ali Smith’s re-mix of Ovid’s most joyful metamorphosis is a story about the kind of fluidity that can’t be bottled and sold.” –*Scottish Arts Council*

“[Smith] shows us unfamiliar beauty within the mundane, as if we were children again. . . . In prose marked by harmonious opposites, she’s childlike and wise, exuberant and subtle, humorously intelligent and provocatively dry.” –*The Globe and Mail*

“[A] witty, profound, humane paean to passionate love. . . . Highly original, audacious and lyrical, she has become a special writer.” –*The Sunday Herald*

“To read Ali Smith is like being borne up on the wing of a bird in flight.” –*The Globe and Mail*

“Ovid could hardly be a better fit for Smith’s ethereal and transformative imagination.” –*Daily Telegraph*

“By the time I finished the book, my heart was beating and tears stood in my eyes, even as I had the biggest smile written all over my face.” – *The Observer*

About the Author

Ali Smith was born in Inverness, Scotland, and lives in Cambridge. She is the author of award-winning **Free Love and Hotel World** (also shortlisted for the Orange and Man Booker Prize); and of **Other Stories and Other Stories; The Whole Stories and Other Stories** and **The Accidental**. Smith writes for *The Guardian*, *The Scotsman* and the *TLS*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Chan:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the subject Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths) suitable to you? Often the book was written by well known writer in this era. The particular book untitled Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths) is the main one of several books in which everyone read now. This book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know prior to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to understand the core of this e-book. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Clemencia Torres:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths), it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its

mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Nicholas Sheen:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths) publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still skepticism Girl Meets Boy: The Myth of Iphis (Myths) as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't ascertain book by its handle, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Curtis Waters:

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