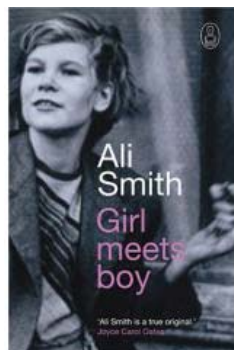




LGBT Reading Group



July/August 2008



The Read... **Girl Meets Boy**

The book is a modern-day retelling of the myth of Iphis, one of the few happy moments in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, where Iphis the girl is transformed into Iphis the boy in time to marry Ianthe (a girl), the love of her/his life.

Two sisters in Inverness, Midge (or Imogen) and Anthea. They work for Pure, a company selling bottled water to the middle class masses. Anthea falls in love with Robin - a girl with her name spelled the boy's way - when she daubs anti-capitalist slogans on the outside of the Pure building. ISBN: 978-1847670687



Photo: © Sarah Wood

The Author... **Ali Smith**

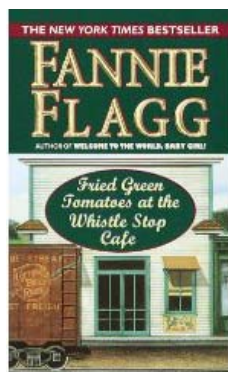
Ali was born in 1962 in Inverness, Scotland, to working-class parents. She studied at Aberdeen and then at Cambridge for a Ph.D. that was never finished. Her books have won many awards and are often shortlisted for the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize for Fiction.

The Accidental won the 2005 Whitbread Novel of the Year award. *Girl Meets Boy* is shortlisted for the 2008 Clare Maclean Prize.

Openly gay, she has been with her partner Sarah for 20 years. They live in Cambridge.

Our Opinion... This contemporary tale, based in Inverness, is more than a modern-day retelling of the Iphis myth. Beginning with memories of the two sisters as children (listening to their granddad telling tales of his youth as a girl...) we then find both adult sisters working for the ruthless Pure water company. Rebellious Anthea struggles to tow the corporate line and then falls in love with a woman who daubs anti-Pure political slogans on advertising hoardings. Ultimately, this story is about how the sisters each find their own way to love and happiness even though Midge, at first, struggles with her sister's lesbian relationship. The group felt that this was not a particularly memorable or life-changing book, but appreciated the easy-read feeling of it and how Smith had used different styles of narrative and word-play.

Girl Meets Boy is based on one of Ovid's *Metamorphosis* as part of Canongate's Myth Series.



What Next? **Fried Green Tomatoes...**

At the Whistle Stop Café By Fanny Flagg

Evelyn is a depressed, overweight, middle-aged wife and mother. One day, whilst waiting to visit an aunt in a nursing home, she befriends an elderly woman called Ninny who tells Evelyn tales of the two young women that ran a café in the town of Whistle Stop, Alabama, during the 1930's - Idgie, who enjoys drinking and gambling, and Ruth, who is in an abusive marriage.

Evelyn finds herself empowered by the story of these two strong-willed, independent women and goes on to develop a great friendship with Ninny. A humorous yet touching story of friendship, love, courage and self-sacrifice. ISBN: 978-0804115612



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