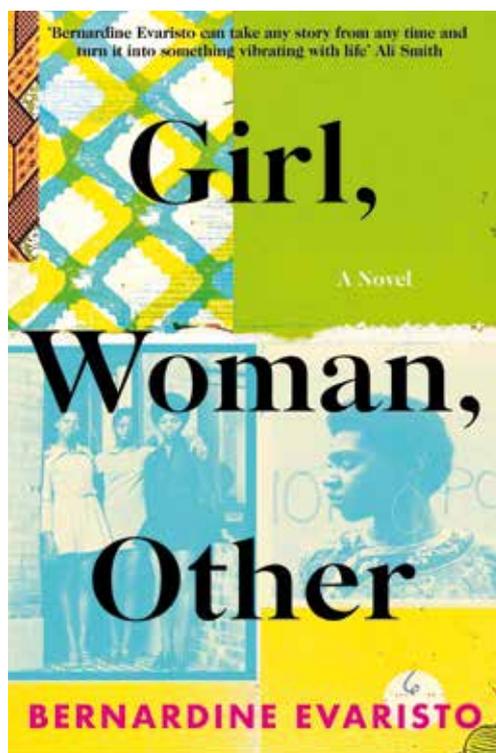


Readers' Guide



Girl, Woman, Other Bernadine Evaristo

Hamish Hamilton

Other novels by Bernadine Evaristo

Mr Loverman (2013)

Hello Mum (2010)

Blonde Roots (2008)

Soul Tourists (2005)

About the author

Bernardine Evaristo was born in London in 1959. She is the Anglo-Nigerian author of seven other books of fiction and verse that explore aspects of the African diaspora: past, present, real, imagined. Her writing also spans short fiction, reviews, essays, drama and writing for BBC radio. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London and Vice Chair of the Royal Society of Literature. As a literary activist for inclusion she has founded several successful initiatives including Spread the Word writer development agency (1995 – ongoing); The Complete Works mentoring scheme for poets of colour (2007-2017) and the Brunel International African Poetry Prize (2012 – ongoing). She was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in 2009. She lives in London.

About the book

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years. Joyfully polyphonic and vibrantly contemporary, this is a gloriously new kind of history, a novel of our times: celebratory, ever-dynamic and utterly irresistible.

What the judges thought

“A wonderful verse novel about the lives of black British women, their struggles, laughter, longings and loves. Evaristo manages to depict a vast collective of intergenerational stories moving through different spaces with a dazzling rhythm. Her prose is passionate, poetic, brimming with energy and humour. It is a great novel about womanhood and modern Britain.”

Discussion points

The book is about love as well as the struggles the characters experience. Did you find any of their experiences either familiar or surprising?

How does the author create unique voices for each character?

What effect does the poetic language have on how you read the novel?

What commentary does the book provide on racism and sexism in contemporary Britain?

Themed reading

Diana Evans *Ordinary People*

Afua Hirsch *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging*

Zadie Smith *White Teeth*

Laila Lalami *The Other Americans*

Useful links

<https://bevaristo.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/may/08/girl-woman-other-by-bernardine-evaristo-review>

<https://www.ft.com/content/8b808cac-7587-11e9-b0ec-7dff87b9a4a2>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/bernardine-evaristo-girl-woman-other-story-modern-britain-review>