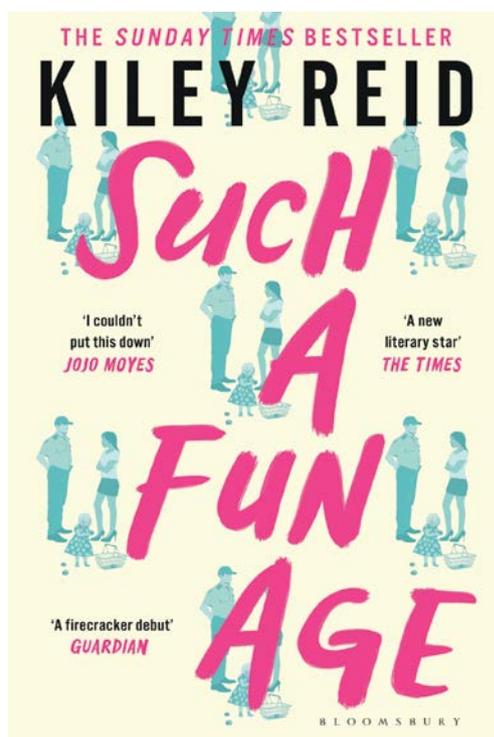




Readers' Guide



Such a Fun Age

Kiley Reid

Bloomsbury Circus

thebookerprizes.com

About the author

Kiley Reid was born in Los Angeles in July 1987. She earned her MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was awarded the Truman Capote Fellowship and taught undergraduate creative writing workshops with a focus on race and class. Her short stories have been featured in *Ploughshares*, *December*, *New South*, and *Lumina*. *Such a Fun Age* is her debut novel. Reid lives in Philadelphia.

About the book

Alix Chamberlain is a woman who gets what she wants and has made a living showing other women how to do the same. So she is shocked when her babysitter, Emira Tucker, is confronted while watching the Chamberlains' toddler one night. Seeing a young black woman out late with a white child, a security guard at their local high-end supermarket accuses Emira of kidnapping two-year old Briar. A small crowd gathers, a bystander films everything, and Emira is furious and humiliated. Alix resolves to make it right.

Emira herself is aimless, broke and wary of Alix's desire to help. When the video of Emira unearths someone from Alix's past, both women find themselves on a crash course that will upend all they think they know about themselves, and each other.

With empathy and piercing social commentary, *Such a Fun Age* explores the awkwardness of transactional relationships, what it means to make someone 'family', the complicated reality of being a grown-up and the consequences of doing the right thing for the wrong reason.

What the judges thought

'Insightful about so many issues – particularly inter-racial relations, privilege, wealth – and rooted in the history of black women caring for white children, this is a gripping first novel, peopled by wholly believable and engaging characters.'

Discussion points

What do you think about the way that Alix tries to befriend Emira?

The author chooses to tell the story alternating between Alix and Emira's perspectives. Why do you think the narrative is told in this way, rather than from one character's point of view?

The novel explores many themes, most notably racism, feminism and class. How do these themes intersect?

What does the title *Such a Fun Age* refer to?

Themed reading

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

A Good Neighbourhood by Therese Anne Fowler

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo

Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams

Useful links

<https://kileyreid.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jan/02/such-a-fun-age-kiley-reid-review-white-liberals-black-people>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2020/01/review-such-fun-age-kiley-reid/604552/>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/12/28/791747689/such-a-fun-age-is-a-complex-layered-page-turner>

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