

# flesh Laura Bickle: A Journey into Psychological Horror and the Grotesque

Laura Bickle's *flesh* is a novel that delves into the darkest recesses of the human psyche, exploring the themes of body horror, psychological trauma, and the grotesque. Originally published in 2017, the novel has garnered critical acclaim for its unflinching portrayal of the human condition and its ability to unsettle and disturb readers.

## The Grotesque and the Human Body

One of the central themes of *flesh* is the grotesque, and Bickle uses the human body as a canvas to explore this concept. The novel is filled with graphic descriptions of violence, disfigurement, and bodily decay, and these descriptions serve to highlight the fragility and vulnerability of the human body. In Bickle's world, the body is not a source of beauty or pleasure, but rather a site of horror and revulsion.



### **Flesh** by Laura Bickle

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3773 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 221 pages

Lending : Enabled

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Bickle's use of the grotesque is not simply gratuitous, but rather serves a specific purpose. By confronting readers with the horrors of the human body, she forces them to confront their own mortality and the inevitability of their own decay. The grotesque in *flesh* is a reminder that we are all flesh and blood, and that we are all subject to the same physical and emotional frailties.

## **Psychological Trauma and the Fragmented Self**

Another major theme in *flesh* is psychological trauma, and Bickle explores the ways in which trauma can fragment the self and lead to a sense of alienation and disconnection. The novel's protagonist, Laura, is a young woman who has suffered a series of traumatic experiences, and these experiences have left her with a profound sense of guilt and shame. Laura's body becomes a physical manifestation of her psychological trauma, and she is constantly plagued by visions of her own disfigurement and decay.

Bickle's portrayal of psychological trauma is unflinchingly honest, and she does not shy away from the darkest and most disturbing aspects of the human experience. Through Laura's journey, she explores the ways in which trauma can shape a person's identity and relationships, and she challenges readers to confront their own fears and vulnerabilities.

## **The Body as a Metaphor**

In addition to its exploration of the grotesque and psychological trauma, *flesh* also uses the body as a metaphor to explore a variety of other themes. The novel can be read as a commentary on the objectification of women's bodies, the commodification of the human body, and the ways in which the body is used as a tool of control and domination. Bickle's novel is

a powerful indictment of the ways in which society devalues and defiles the human body, and it challenges readers to rethink their own attitudes towards the body.

## A Haunting and Unforgettable Experience

*flesh* is a challenging and disturbing novel, but it is also a brilliantly written and deeply moving work of art. Bickle's unflinching portrayal of the human condition is both horrifying and compassionate, and she forces readers to confront their own fears and vulnerabilities. *flesh* is a novel that will stay with you long after you finish it, and it is a work that will continue to haunt and unsettle readers for years to come.

## About the Author

Laura Bickle is an American writer whose work has been praised for its originality, darkness, and psychological depth. She is the author of two novels, *flesh* and *The Last Woman in the World*, as well as a collection of short stories, *The Book of Shadows*. Bickle's work has been translated into several languages and has been adapted for the stage. She lives in New York City.

## Further Reading

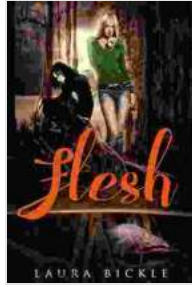
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- [Kirkus Reviews review of \*flesh\*](#)
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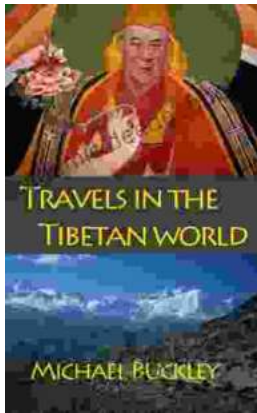
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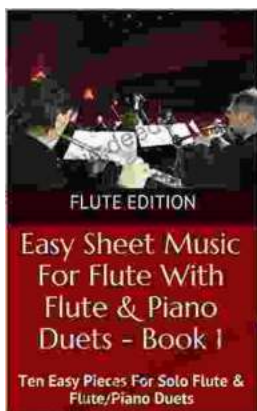
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