

Assembly

author: Natasha Brown

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Synopsis

author	Natasha Brown
readBy	Pippa Bennett-Warner
inLanguage	english

This visionary and unflinching novel is about a black woman who has spent her life carefully navigating cutthroat worlds of privilege in her career and relationships—until one day she is pulled up short by a life and death decision. Come of age in the credit crunch. Be civil in a hostile environment. Go to college, get an education, start a career. Do all the right things. Buy an apartment. Buy art. Buy a sort of happiness. But above all, keep your head down. Keep quiet. And keep going. The narrator of *Assembly* is a black British woman. She is preparing to attend a lavish garden party at her boyfriend's family estate, set deep in the English countryside. At the same time, she is considering the carefully assembled pieces of herself. As the minutes tick down and the future beckons, she can't escape the question: is it time to take it all apart?

Assembly is a story about the stories we live within—those of race and class, safety and freedom, winners and losers. And it is about one woman daring to take control of her own story, even at the cost of her life. With a steely, unfaltering gaze, Natasha Brown dismantles the mythology of whiteness, lining up the debris in a neat row and walking away. "Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* meets Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*...as breathtakingly graceful as it is mercilessly true."—Olivia Sudjic, author of *Sympathy* and *Asylum Road*

A woman confronts the most important question of her life in this blistering, fearless, and unforgettable literary debut from "a stunning new writer." (Bernardine Evaristo)

—A quiet, measured call to revolution—This is the kind of book that doesn't just mark the moment things change, but also makes that change possible. —Ali Smith, author of *Summer*

"Brilliant. Brown's gaze is piercing." —Avni Doshi, author of *Burnt Sugar*

Reader's comments

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