

A Jewish Girl In Paris by Melanie Levensohn, translation by Jamie Lee Searle (Pannacmillan, £9.99)

Inspired by true events and set against the backdrop of the Second World War, Melanie Levensohn's powerful novel about forbidden love is an enthralling debut. This story starts in occupied Paris, 1940. A young Jewish girl, Judith, falls in love with the son of a wealthy banker and Nazi sympathiser – his family will never approve. As the Germans impose more and more restrictions on Jewish Parisians, the incredible danger they are in becomes apparent and the horror intensifies. The couple secretly plan to flee the country. But before they can make their escape, Judith vanishes.

Montréal, 1982. Shortly before his death, Lica Grunberg reveals to his daughter, Jacobina, that she has or had an older half-sister, Judith. Lica escaped the Nazis but has no idea what happened to his first-born. Jacobina vows to find the sister she never knew. Her search languishes for years, until she is spurred on by her young friend Béatrice, who, with problems of her own, is looking for a distraction.

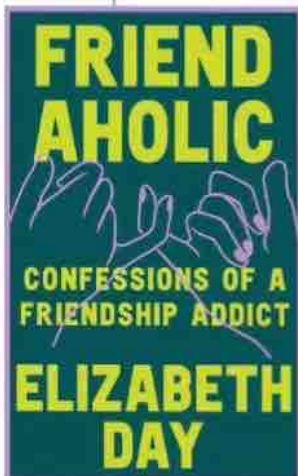
The two women discover a dark family secret, that stretches over two continents and six decades. This beautiful, heart-wrenching novel accurately examines the harsh realities of war whilst remaining hopeful and celebrating resilience and love.



GREAT READ

BOOK CLUB

THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR SHARES HER PICKS OF THE MONTH, FROM LOST LOVE AND A PROVOCATIVE EXPLORATION OF FRIENDSHIP, TO PAGE-TURNING TALES OF CRIME AND RETRIBUTION



Friendaholic

by Elizabeth Day (HarperCollins, £16.99)

I was totally absorbed by this non-fiction book that celebrates and evaluates the role of friendship. We live in a society that places romantic love very high on the agenda, but if you are lucky, you'll know how vital friendships are. Why don't we talk about that love more? When the global pandemic hit in 2020, Day, like many of us, missed and longed for her friends. It led to an examination of the important role of friends – the joy and love, fury and despair – they generate. From ghosting, and frenemies, to fleeting situational friends and forever-there friends, she leaves no stone unturned. *Friendaholic* is the book to buy for the friends you love, but it's also the book that helps you become a good friend to yourself. Original, honest and thought-provoking.



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