



Zebra

Gayle Curtis

Birdy has written a novel. A thinly veiled look back at growing up in a dysfunctional household with her parents and siblings. Birdy was a zebra amongst the hyenas. We see her world through the eyes of her younger self, and through the prism of her recent neurodivergent diagnosis and her realisation that her mother was and is a malignant narcissist.

The novel has been published, and Birdy has sent copies to them all. In Part 1, interspersed with the text of the novel are shorter chapters in which her family reacts to the novel and its revelations about those early years in “the compound”. In Part 2, the novel has ended, and we witness the fallout in a family torn apart.

With insight, humour and pathos, Gayle Curtis uses her skill at turn of phrase and character study to draw us into this unsettling portrait of herself as a little girl trying to manoeuvre her way through the eye of the storm - her gaslighting, cruel, unforgiving mum.

Genre: Reading Group/AutoFiction/Neurodiversity

Gayle Curtis is the bestselling author of three psychological thrillers, *Too Close* (Bonnie Zaffre, 2017, reissued by Dalzell Press in 2020, 2400 Amazon reviews), *I Choose You* (Thomas & Mercer, 2020, 5700 Amazon reviews) and *Safe No Longer* (Thomas & Mercer, 2020, 900 Amazon reviews). She lives in North Norfolk, England, with her husband. She was recently diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia.

“Original, clever and sinister. I Choose You kept me guessing till the very end.” —Chris Whitaker, author of *All the Colours of the Dark*.

'So addictive' Lisa Hall (for *Too Close*), bestselling author of *Between You and Me*.

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