



The Bees: A Novel

By Laline Paull

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The Bees: A Novel By Laline Paull

The Handmaid's Tale meets *The Hunger Games* in this brilliantly imagined debut set in an ancient culture where only the queen may breed and deformity means death.

Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. She is allowed to feed the newborns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect pollen. She also finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous.

But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all—daring to challenge the Queen's fertility—enemies abound, from the fearsome fertility police who enforce the strict social hierarchy to the high priestesses jealously wedded to power. Her deepest instincts to serve and sacrifice are now overshadowed by an even deeper desire, a fierce maternal love that will bring her into conflict with her conscience, her heart, her society—and lead her to unthinkable deeds.

Thrilling, suspenseful and spectacularly imaginative, *The Bees* gives us a dazzling young heroine and will change forever the way you look at the world outside your window.

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The Bees: A Novel By Laline Paull Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Imagine a story similar to Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale* but told from the perspective of an insect. That's exactly the premise of Paull's debut novel. Flora 717, a lowly sanitation bee, is born with unusual features and abilities that allow her to move fluidly between the strict hierarchies of her hive. Through this ability, she witnesses the brutality and beauty that the various castes of bees exhibit to keep the hive productive, all in service and loyalty to the queen. But when Flora discovers she is fertile and can produce an offspring, she must betray her instincts to worship the queen bee and follow an untrodden path that leads her away from her kin. Paull's plot brings to mind films like the 1998 hit *Antz*, but her deft storytelling and her nod to scientific literature allow the story to avoid the cutesy trappings that sometimes characterize novels featuring nonhuman characters. A surprisingly compelling tale. --Heather Paulson

Review

"Fascinating... engrossing... Paull's clear fascination with her source material brings humanity and warmth to a depiction of the remarkable social world of bees, which is no small achievement." (—**Huffington Post**)

"The Bees is an extraordinary feat of imagination, conjuring the life of a beehive in gripping, passionate and brilliant detail. With every page I turned, I found myself drawn deeper into Flora's plight and her immersive, mesmerizing world." (—Madeline Miller, bestselling author of *The Song of Achilles*—**Madeline Miller, bestselling author of The Song of Achilles**)

"This is a rich, strange book...convincing in its portrayal of the mind-set of a bee and a hive. I finished it feeling I knew...how bees think and live. This is what sets us humans apart—our imagination can...create a complete, believable world so different from our own." (—**Tracy Chevalier, New York Times bestselling author of Girl With a Pearl Earring**)

"Told with rapturously attentive imagination...Few novels create such a singular reading experience." (—**The New York Times Book Review**)

"Riveting... evocative and beautiful." (—**NPR**)

"Richly imagined" (—**Los Angeles Times**)

"[A] gripping Cinderella/Arthurian tale with lush Keatsian adjectives." (—**Margaret Atwood, via Twitter**)

"THE BEES is one wild ride. A sensual, visceral mini-epic about timeless rituals and modern environmental disaster. Paull's heart pounding novel wrenches us into a new world." (—**Emma Donoghue, The New York Times bestselling author of Room**)

"It quickly became clear that in its basic facts, the novel sticks closely to real-world apian biology and behavior. That is fascinating enough, but Paull deftly wields this information to create an even more elaborately layered culture of beeness...Beautiful." (Washington Post)

"Brilliantly imagined...Paull's use of human language to describe this tiny, intricate world is classic storytelling at its finest...*The Bees* boasts a refreshingly feminist spin on fairy tale-style plots....A wildly creative book that resonates deeply for quite a long time. (Austin Chronicle)

“It’s rare to come across a book as mind-blowingly imaginative as Laine Paull’s *The Bees*. It’s even more rare for such works to be successful, well-written, gripping stories...*The Bees* is an utterly memorable wonder of a novel.” (Kirkus)

“A marvelous work of fiction... The parallels to “1984” and Margaret Atwood’s “*The Handmaid’s Tale*” are numerous but this story is also its own.” (Florida Times-Union)

From the Back Cover

Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive, where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw, but her courage and strength are assets. She is allowed to feed the newborns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect nectar and pollen. A feat of bravery grants her access to the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous.

But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all—daring to challenge the Queen's preeminence—enemies abound, from the fearsome fertility police who enforce the hive's strict social hierarchy to the high priestesses jealously wedded to power. Her deepest instincts to serve and sacrifice are now overshadowed by a greater power: a fierce maternal love that will bring her into conflict with her conscience, her heart, and her society—and lead her to perform unthinkable deeds.

Thrilling, suspenseful, and spectacularly imaginative, *The Bees* and its dazzling young heroine will forever change the way you look at the world outside your window.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Rowe:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby will be reading a book. How about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this *The Bees: A Novel*.

Jaime Howell:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, short story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not hoping *The Bees: A Novel* that give your fun preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading practice all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world far better then how they react towards the world. It can't be said constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for every you who want to start examining as your good habit, you are able to pick *The Bees: A Novel* become your own starter.

Glenn Wallin:

Publication is one of source of information. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students and also native or citizen want book to know the change information of year in order to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside all of us add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. By book *The Bees: A Novel* we can take more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? Being creative person must prefer to read a book. Just choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't possibly be doubt to change your life with that book *The Bees: A Novel*. You can more pleasing than now.

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