



The Paying Guests

By Sarah Waters

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The *New York Times* bestselling novel that has been called “a tour de force” (*Wall Street Journal*), “unputdownable” (*The Washington Post*), “a delicious hothouse of a novel” (*USA Today*), “effortless” (*The Economist*), “seductive” (*Vanity Fair*) and “pitch perfect” (*Salon*)

“Superb, bewitching...Forget about *Fifty Shades of Grey*; this novel is one of the most sensual you will ever read, and all without sacrificing either good taste or a "G" rating” – *NPR*

“One of the year’s most engrossing and suspenseful novels...a love affair, a shocking murder, and a flawless ending ... Will keep you sleepless for three nights straight and leave you grasping for another book that can sustain that high.” — *Entertainment Weekly* (A rating)

“Volcanically sexy, sizzingly smart, plenty bloody and just plain irresistible.” —*USA Today* (4 stars)

It is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned; the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. And in South London, in a genteel Camberwell villa—a large, silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants—life is about to be transformed as impoverished widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers.

With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, a modern young couple of the “clerk class,” the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. Little do the Wrays know just how profoundly their new tenants will alter the course of Frances’s life—or, as passions mount and frustration gathers, how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be.

Short-listed for the Man Booker Prize three times, Sarah Waters has earned a reputation as one of our greatest writers of historical fiction, and here she has delivered again. A love story, a tension-filled crime story, and a beautifully atmospheric portrait of a fascinating time and place, *The Paying Guests* is Sarah Waters’s finest achievement yet.

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The Paying Guests By Sarah Waters Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, September 2014: It is 1922, in a genteel house in a genteel neighborhood just outside of London. Here, the widowed Mrs. Wray and her 26-year-old daughter, Frances, pass each day very much like the day before--with Frances busying herself with household chores, maybe a bit of needlepoint, and her mother nibbling on a lunch of cauliflower cheese while making notes for the parish newsletter. In less skilled hands, such prolonged stage-setting would test even the most patient reader. But in Waters', it's mesmerizing, with every small but evocative detail serving to transport you further into this place and time. Take a deep breath as you're reading, because as soon as you are lulled into the calm cadence of these lives, the Wray's tenants--the "paying guests" they have taken in to help with the bills--turn everything topsy-turvy, and by the novel's conclusion, you have gone from straight-up period piece, to love story, to edge-of-your-seat crime thriller (and not the American kind "with a plot full of holes" that the Wrays suffer through on picture-house Wednesdays). For a story set just after WWI, some of the themes Waters touches on are surprisingly contemporary. History does repeat itself sometimes, and so it goes for Sarah Waters, with yet another masterful novel. --*Erin Kodicek*

Review

"Marvellous--warm and hot and tender and terrible." --*National Post*

"Waters is so confident--and, line by line, her writing so beautiful, precise and polished - that she sweeps all before her. . . . [I was] helplessly pulled along by the magnetic storytelling. Twice in the last few pages I shouted aloud - though whether in joy or horror I will not tell you. Sarah Waters skilfully keeps you guessing to the end." --*The Guardian*

"One of the year's most suspenseful novels...a love affair, a shocking murder, and a flawless ending." --*Entertainment Weekly*

"Both a beautifully delineated love story and a darkly suspenseful psychological novel. . . . The reader is in for a seriously heart-pounding roller-coaster ride." --*Washington Post*

About the Author

SARAH WATERS was born in Wales in 1966 and lives in London. She has a Ph.D. in English Literature and has lectured for the Open University. Waters is the author of five previous novels. *Tipping The Velvet* won the Betty Trask Award and *Affinity* won the Somerset Maugham Award and the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award. *Fingersmith* was shortlisted for both the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize, and won the CWA Historical Dagger prize before earning Waters three 2003 Author of the Year awards. *The Night Watch* was shortlisted for both the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. *The Little Stranger* was published to rave reviews around the world, was an immediate bestseller in Canada and the UK, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Visit her at www.sarahwaters.com.

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