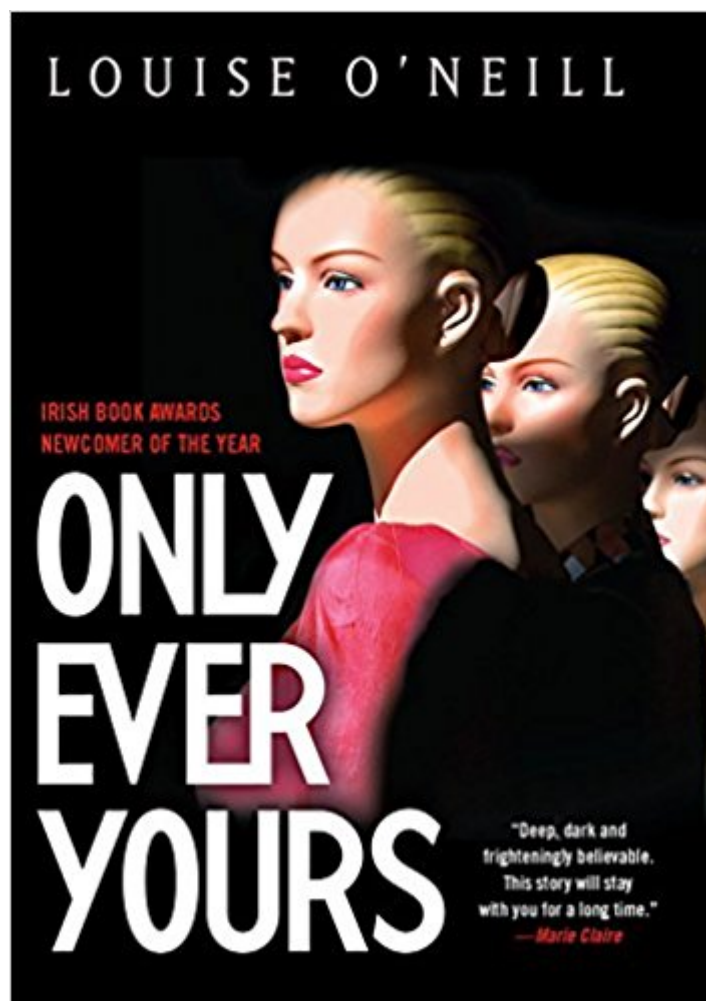




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Only Ever Yours



Synopsis

Where women are created for the pleasure of men, beauty is the first duty of every girl. In Louise O'Neill's world of *Only Every Yours* women are no longer born naturally, girls (called "eves") are raised in Schools and trained in the arts of pleasing men until they come of age. freida and isabel are best friends. Now, aged sixteen and in their final year, they expect to be selected as companions--wives to powerful men. All they have to do is ensure they stay in the top ten beautiful girls in their year. The alternatives--life as a concubine, or a chastity (teaching endless generations of girls)--are too horrible to contemplate. But as the intensity of final year takes hold, the pressure to be perfect mounts. isabel starts to self-destruct, putting her beauty--her only asset--in peril. And then into this sealed female environment, the boys arrive, eager to choose a bride. freida must fight for her future--even if it means betraying the only friend, the only love, she has ever known.

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "freida and isabel live at the School, where every element of their world is closely controlled. They have been trained in the ways of perfect femininity, spending all of their time thinking exclusively about their appearances. At 16, the girls are in their final year so they must be more perfect than ever" that's the only way they will be selected as companions. Their fates otherwise are too horrible to contemplate. But isabel, always top in the class, begins to unravel. freida must now figure out what is happening to her best friend while the biggest change, and challenge, in their lives approaches. This British debut takes dystopias to the next level of intensity and bleakness. O'Neill creates a future world where girls are only products and they aren't even worthy of having their names begin with capital letters. Sophisticated readers will be quickly drawn into the horrific landscape and, thanks to the author's deft characterization and strong world-building, will feel the same kind of claustrophobic fear freida and isabel feel. These elements make the book immediate, compelling, and appealingly different. At points, however, the narrative strives too hard to make the dystopian future world an exaggerated mirror of our own, bogging down the plot. This book is dark and unrelenting, there are no revolutions or happy endings to be had here. VERDICT Recommended as an additional purchase where older teens are looking for more depth in their dystopian fiction. "Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County Library System, NM --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Winner of the 2014 Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year Award at the BGE Irish Book Awards "A haunting dystopian novel for fans of *The Handmaid's Tale*" •Refinery29 "A dark dream. A

vivid nightmare. The world O'Neill imagines is frightening because it could come true. She writes with a scalpel."â •Jeanette Winterson"Utterly magnificent . . . gripping, accomplished and dark."â •Marian Keyes"[A] terrifying but captivating book."â •Company magazine

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