



## Radical Love: Five Novels

*Fanny Howe*

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### **Radical Love: Five Novels** Fanny Howe

Fiction. Five short novels gathered into one volume: Nod, The Deep North, Famous Questions, Saving History and Indivisible. "I have not the least doubt that her work is parallel to Paul Auster's, say, or any writer thus whose books are not simply products for the market - albeit the work can reach a very large number of potential readers indeed. In Fanny's case these will range from contemporary fellow writers questioning ways and means in their art and all who find their enterprise of interest, to those who feel themselves confronted with deeply ingrained questions of religion, person, society, gender, politics, which almost anyone alive at this moment is trying to answer. Her most recently published novel, "Indivisible," is a masterpiece of these determinants, of lives specific, of times and places particular. At the same time it is also a masterwork of the art - no one more actively employs the strategies and possibilities of language than does she"--Robert Creeley.

### **Radical Love: Five Novels Details**

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## From Reader Review Radical Love: Five Novels for online ebook

### Jacob Wren says

A few lines and passages from Radical Love:

All people seek great difficulty, no doubt about that; they seek and even create the situation which will be insurmountably problematic. It would be a strange person who did not know that suffering is a way to stay alive.

The night before she dreamed she had won the Nobel Prize for Despair.

From the beginning he held the tragic position that the only revolution was the eternal revolution – an inexhaustible struggle for something already lost.

Weak desires protect you from disappointment. But nothing keeps you safer than being a visible ruin.

Some people use the word affliction when they mean infliction. They think that making other people suffer is painful to them because someone else made them suffer first. Libby never blamed her life on her father interfering with her but she wished she was not the drunk that her mother was. She experienced her addictions not as afflictions but as weeds that grow in certain gardens wild. No matter how you tugged and pulled, you couldn't ever get them all out of the ground.

His work was his obscurity. You can actually work in opposition to fame.

I was an existentialist, then I noticed how words could make things happy again. Many of the most lost people used the loveliest language in order to laugh.

The dialectic of the 20th century (determinism versus choice) is as old as the hills. But today I realized that a choice can be wrong. I used to think otherwise. Now I see that choices are so difficult because people know that they can make the wrong ones. But I think that if a choice is made against you to reject you, your work or your love for instance – it can't be wrong. It can't be wrong because it would always come to that, anyway. Sooner or later, you would be rejected by that party. And you would suffer throughout the whole process. So in a way what happens to you is pre-determined, but what you do is a choice.

What is sad to discover is that events in this world are both pre-determined and whipped up at the moment they are occurring. People are bewildered by this paradox unless they can grasp the difference between time and timing. It is like the way they write out their calendar, make predictions and watch events unfold according to plan... and then it all goes wrong and a choice becomes necessary.

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### **Hilary says**

Have only read three of the five so far (Nod, Famous Questions, Indivisible), but enjoyed them immensely. So glad they're all collected here.

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### **Masha says**

the cover alone--of fanny howe's wonderful young face--makes the book worth getting. but really, these interconnected novels contain everything one could ever ask from writing. howe's books are treasures.

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### **Zachary Martin says**

Five Novels that will totally kick your motherfucking ass.

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### **Catherine says**

When I read one of these novels many years ago -- The Deep North, in its Sun & Moon edition -- I felt an uncommon affinity with the writing--so when I saw this huge collection of five novels at the Nightboat table at the 2013 AWP I had no choice but to buy it. (I resist those purchases, so many books, so many presses, but the ones I give in to turn out to be so often the best reads of the year.) I love this book, these five short novels, not only for the affinities I still feel with the writing and sensibility, but for the clarity, breadth and depth of vision, vast expanse discovered and revealed in ordinary troubled lives. Howe is so brilliant, so luminous in the darkness. These are the kinds of novels that renew my confidence that wisdom and truth can be realized in literary forms. At the same time I doubt large numbers of people, even readers, will agree with me, or will have the opportunity to agree or disagree--where will they find the book in the first place? How will they know where to look for it, or even to try? (We're lucky who go to AWP--and even there, so many books, so little time.) These novels were published originally by wonderful small literary presses and are brought together again and offered by another wonderful small literary press. There are so many such presses, bringing out so many wonderful titles, year after year, and so many of them nearly vanishing. Great thanks to Nightboat for collecting and reissuing in this big volume.

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