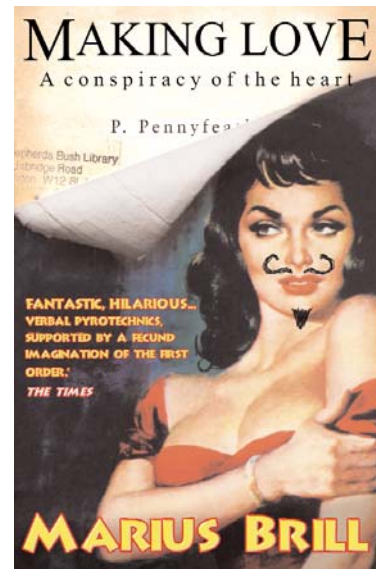


MAKING LOVE

A CONSPIRACY OF THE HEART

Marius Brill

Published in paperback by Black Swan
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Price £6.99



All you read is love?

Ever wondered why, each day, we face an onslaught of books, ads, songs and TV dramas telling us that love gives meaning to our lives?

If love is such a natural feeling why do we need all this encouragement?
Or could there be a darker side, a state conspiracy to influence us to suffer this obsessive compulsion - a plot to keep the young and idealistic too wrapped up in romance to start the revolution?

Once, religion was the opiate of the masses but now - could love be the drug?

These are the questions at the heart of this ingenious comic literary thriller told by a distressed library book that has fallen in love with its reader.

Making Love - A Conspiracy of the Heart, is the world's first book with a mind of its own. It knows when you're touching it, the way you're holding it and it narrates its own story.

Reading is as intimate as we get with the inanimate. So the book imagines each reader as a new lover and the story it tells is as a lover's catharsis, remembering and revealing its feelings about its previous relationship, love, reader: Miranda Brown, who stole it from a library and took it on an adventure of lies and spies.

On the bookshelf of Miranda's life, romance is always out of reach. In the fast-track of Burnt Umber's Intelligence career, a honey-trap is barely first gear. But in less than three days Burnt must either break Miranda's heart, or her neck.

Why? Miranda has found the last copy of a book about 'love', a conspiracy theory so devastating that every other copy had been destroyed by MI5. But then falling in love alters that book, as it does everything, and its new story, of Miranda and Burnt, is interwoven with the original historical treatise.

From Shepherd's Bush Library to Naval warfare on the coast of Montenegro via the damp alleys of Venice, this is a comic story of base humour and high romance, of books and book lovers. A satire as much about battery-farmed chick-lit, spineless spy-thrillers and hack-academic philosophy as it is about our modern obsessions with love and conspiracies. Marius Brill has produced a novel to fall in love with...

About the author

Marius Brill went to university late, after a career as a doorman, journalist and prize-winning playwright at the Soho Theatre. The script of his film, *Diary of a Surreal Killer*, was nominated for a BAFTA Carl Foreman Award. His comic series, *sLaughter in the Dark*, played to critical acclaim on Radio 4 and was praised by Allison Pearson: 'this is what all radio drama should be'. Marius lives in London.

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Doubleday



What the critics are saying about

Making Love A Conspiracy of the Heart

"Fantastic: hilarious... verbal pyrotechnics, supported by a fecund imagination of the first order.

The Times

"An extravagant but beautifully structured plot ... a highly entertaining yet intelligent comic novel."

Times Literary Supplement

"Yes! Yes! Yes!... Utterly original and utterly charming, Making Love is as winning a first novel as I have read in a long time.

Sunday Telegraph

Women who snort when they laugh and men prone to getting erections in public should read this at home.

Time Out

An absurd, hilarious, spy-cum-action-cum-postmodern thriller, Making Love is incredibly clever without showing off, self-referential without being self congratulatory, and a damn good read. Fantastic.

The List

As a rule, if a book starts talking to you... head for the funny farm. While you're down there you might meet Marius Brill, who has produced a book that does precisely that, one so entirely fantastical as to be quite scary.

Arena

"You almost begin to wonder whether he isn't someone utterly brilliant like Tom Stoppard writing under a pseudonym - that clever, that witty and original."

Peter Terry - South Africa FM

"This is a really good book... I can almost say it turns it's own pages."

Dotun Adebayo - BBC Radio London