

PRESS RELEASE: FICTION

I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For

Jen Calleja

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'Calleja's writing combines wit, guile and style – social intricacies and powerplay are explored and exploded in this formidable collection.' – **Eley Williams**

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A novelist questions why she's been shortlisted for the Prize of Prize's Prize; an artist duo has a messy break up; a schoolgirl is saved from a predator by a flash flood and a gang of dead animals; a surgeon has an incurable identity crisis; a budding actor can't see what's so funny; a pregnant food writer gets a craving for luxury consumerism.

These thirteen stories by writer and literary translator Jen Calleja pick apart the hidden motivations behind our desires, and the ways we seek out distraction from difficult truths. They investigate histories, power dynamics, rituals, institutions – the roles we adopt, as well as the ones we inherit.

Known for her acclaimed poetry and translations, and as a performer in numerous bands, these facets manifest in an attention to the latent ambivalence of language, and the nature of storytelling itself. This writing is direct and considered – it asks to be read, read out loud, retold, refashioned into fables with a distinctive mouthfeel.

I'm Afraid that's All We've Got Time For is a sharp, bold, inventive and prescient fictional debut from a versatile and brilliant writer.



Jen Calleja is a writer and literary translator originally from Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex, and now based in London. Her debut collection of poetry, *Serious Justice*, was published by Test Centre (2016), followed by the pamphlet *Hamburger in the Archive* (If a Leaf Falls Press, 2019). Her short fiction and poetry have appeared in many publications and anthologies including *Ambit*, *3:AM*, *Somesuch Stories*, *Funhouse*, *Another Gaze*, *Hotel*, *Structo*, *Prototype* and *Spells: 21st Century Occult Poetry* (Ignota, 2018). She was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize 2019 for her translation of Marion Poschmann's *The Pine Islands* (Serpent's Tail) and was the inaugural Translator in Residence at the British Library. She plays or has played in the bands Sauna Youth, Feature, Monotony, and others.

Praise for *I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For*

'Calleja creates worlds where "there is so much space between molecules that we never really touch anyone or anything." Reading about busses on detours, short windows opening and closing, erased identities, air kisses, blank books and books yet to be written, I felt held at arm's length of something crucially important. Deferral and near misses are at the core of Calleja's writing, yet this collection entirely hits the mark. I loved it.'

Isabel Waidner, author of *We Are Made Of Diamond Stuff*, shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize 2019

'Calleja's writing combines wit, guile and style — social intricacies and powerplay are explored and exploded in this formidable collection.'

Eley Williams, author of *Attrib. and other stories*, winner of the Republic of Consciousness Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize 2018

'Comic, inventive and surreal, *I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For* renders a world unfamiliar yet familiar with each bright shard of a story.'

Sophie Mackintosh, author of *The Water Cure*, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2018

About Prototype

Prototype was founded in 2019 by Jess Chandler, co-founder of the independent publishing houses Test Centre and House Sparrow Press.

Established to continue and develop the work begun by Test Centre, Prototype is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Through the discovery of high quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for experimental writing.

I'm Afraid that's All We've Got Time For is the 2nd title in Prototype's new fiction list, following Caleb Klaces' acclaimed debut novel *Fatherhood*, which established the aesthetic of a collectible series. Upcoming titles include the debut novel by Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten, *The Boiled In Between* (Sept. 2020).

Test Centre's back catalogue includes works by Derek Jarman, Max Porter, Iain Sinclair, Sam Riviere, Sophie Collins, Jack Underwood, Rachael Allen, Stephen Watts, Wayne Holloway-Smith and Jonathan Meades.

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