

# Lori & Joe

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**Highly anticipated second novel from the Goldsmiths Prize-shortlisted author and winner of the 2018 Northern Book Prize.**

Lori and Joe have lived in the Lake District for many years, in a quiet valley where one day is much like another. Bringing Joe his regular cup of coffee one morning, Lori finds him dead. She could call an ambulance, but what difference would it make? Instead, she heads out for a walk over the fells. As she makes her way through the November fog, Lori's thoughts slip between past and present, revealing a marriage marked by isolation, childlessness and a terrible secret she's never disclosed.

Arnold's musical prose merges form and content to express what cannot be communicated through language alone. Taking place over the course of a single day, yet revealing the secrets of a marriage of many decades, *Lori & Joe* is a sparse, intimate and deeply moving story of entrapment and isolation, and of a life in which desire is continually overcome by inertia: nothing changes and nothing is ever (re)solved.



Amy Arnold lives in Cumbria. She has degrees in Music and Psychology, and studied postgraduate Neuropsychology at Birmingham University. She's worked as a university lecturer, teacher and swede packer. Her debut novel, *Slip of a Fish*, won the 2018 Northern Book Prize and was shortlisted for the 2019 Goldsmiths Prize.

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## PRAISE FOR *LORI & JOE*

'*Lori & Joe* is like a piece of music, or the memory of music inside someone's mind: we are drawn into the immersive world of the troubled protagonist as she looks back over her life and its secrets. It's impossible to put this book down once you've started it – you'll want to read it all in one go. Then you'll want to read it again.'

– **Helen Mort**

'Amy Arnold's subject is the vast and quietly dangerous interior landscape of an individual life. As we move through this novel, traversing and circling back across the Cumbrian moorland and hills where it is set, we come to see the house where Lori lives as a sort of theatre, a seemingly safe outline of walls and rooms that is not a safe space at all. *Lori & Joe* shows a writer, in this, her second novel, caught up wondrously once again in the creative project of reflecting consciousness in the very rhythm and language of her prose.'

– **Kirsty Gunn**

'A unique and mesmerising book which manages to be both equivocal and amazingly solid; it feels like a walk in the lakes in the mist, all mud and stone and weather that slips and changes around you. It is ghostly and resonant and brutally physical all at the same time, with a propulsive quality to the way language loops and repeats, letting it reveal its secrets slowly. I am haunted by it.'

– **Sammy Wright**

## PRAISE FOR *SLIP OF A FISH*

'*Slip of a Fish* commits itself absolutely to portraying a troubled state characterised by obsessive involution . . . the fact that [it renounces] the traditional pleasures of narrative is a marker of [its] achievement.'

– **Chris Power, *New Statesman***

'Original, ambitious and challenging.'

– **Stevie Davies, *The Guardian***

'Arnold's impressive debut is strange and dexterous ... [she] has an ability to capture on the page a complex, obsessive mind without veering into pretention or convolution.'

– **Rebecca Watson, *White Review***

Prototype, established in 2019, is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Recent titles include Yuri Felsen's lost modernist novel *Deceit*, in its first English translation by Bryan Karenyk, Lucie Elven's acclaimed debut novel *The Weak Spot*, and *The Boiled in Between*, the debut novel by Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten. Lucy Mercer's debut collection *Emblem* is The Poetry Book Society's Summer Choice for 2022, and Lila Matsumoto's *Two Twin Pipes Sprout Water* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for Winter 2021. Recent titles from House Sparrow Press, an imprint of Prototype, include Derek Jarman's *Through the Billboard Promised Land Without Ever Stopping*.