



FICTION DEBUT

Published November 12th 2026

THE LONG LET

by Ben Sims

Keynote

A propulsive, tense, and darkly funny debut, *The Long Let* takes us into the charged territory of sexual obsession with the unrequited love of an older man for a young Adonis, set in a claustrophobic north London houseshare.

Selling points

- **Written in rococo, Nabokovian prose, an extraordinary debut reminiscent of literary classics such as *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Lolita*. Will appeal to fans of *Vladimir* by Julia May Jonas, *Eileen* by Ottessa Moshfegh and hit TV shows *Baby Reindeer* and *You*.**
- Spiky queer lit verging on dark academia, with a repellent yet magnetic protagonist.
- **Deals with themes of sexual obsession and harassment, age-gap relationships, stalking and emotional manipulation.**
- The fourth novel from Conduit Books, a new small press dedicated to initially publishing male authors, with a focus on fatherhood, working-class male narratives and negotiating 21st-century relationships as a man. Ambitious, humorous, political, cerebral fiction and memoir.
- **'He's an amazing writer, one who really cares about language.** His prose has an unexpected quality – always surprising'
– James Cook, author of *In Her Room*

Summary

When Dr. Hugh Clore, a literature professor of precarious means and obsessive temperament, becomes the lodger of the boyish and beautiful Arthur Rose he's instantly besotted. Recently orphaned, Arthur drifts through a life of claustrophobic privilege, having inherited his parents' wealth and a grand Georgian terraced house on Highbury Fields.

Hugh plots to make Arthur fall in love with him, adopting the role of mentor and taking charge of Arthur's education. But his carefully laid plans are disrupted when Arthur's girlfriend, Georgia Groad, moves in.

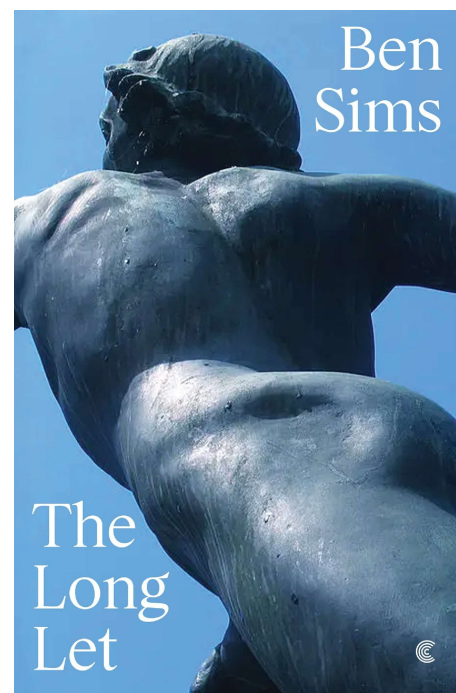
At twenty-one, a year older than Arthur, Georgia becomes Hugh's nemesis—an obstacle to his aspic paradise. Hugh, delusional but effective in his manipulations, sets his sights on Georgia, drawing her into his orbit as his second pupil, scheming to replace her in Arthur's life. One thing is for certain: it can't end well.

Comparative authors/titles

The Line of Beauty by Alan Hollinghurst; *Our Young Man* by Edmund White; *Ordinary Human Failings* by Megan Nolan; *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin; *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov; *Against Nature* by Joris-Karl Huysmans; *All Fours* by Miranda July

Author

Ben Sims is a writer based in London. He works as a fundraiser in London trying to save 38,500 churches, is a trustee of the Victorian Society and volunteers at 'The Listening Place' with people on the brink of suicide. *The Long Let* is his first novel.



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Contact

Publisher

Jude Cook

jude@conduitbooks.co.uk

Press & publicity

Claire Maxwell

clairesrmaxwell@googlemail.com

US & translation rights

tbc

Distribution

Turnaround

T: 020 8829 3000

orders@turnaround-uk.com



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