



The Versions of Us

By Laura Barnett

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In one moment, two lives will be changed forever . . . and forever . . . and forever.

The one thing that's certain is they met on a Cambridge street by chance and felt a connection that would last a lifetime. But as for what happened next . . . They fell wildly in love, or went their separate ways. They kissed, or they thought better of it. They married soon after, or were together for a few weeks before splitting up. They grew distracted and disappointed with their daily lives together, or found solace together only after hard years spent apart.

With *The Versions of Us*, Laura Barnett has created a world as magical and affecting as those that captivated readers in *One Day* and *Life After Life*. It is a tale of possibilities and consequences that rings across the shifting decades, from the fifties, sixties, seventies, and on to the present, showing how even the smallest choices can define the course of our lives.

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The Versions of Us By Laura Barnett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

#1 UK Bestseller

An Indie Next Pick, May 2016

A Publishers Marketplace Buzz Book 2016: Spring/ Summer

One of the *Observer*'s New Faces of Fiction

Winner of the Richard and Judy Spring Book Club 2016 (UK)?

"Barnett's enchanting debut imagines three possible lives, three possible love stories—each with its unique joys and sorrows—demonstrating that life has no perfect path."—PEOPLE, "The Best New Books"

"Every love affair has an origin story, and the one that launches *The Versions of Us* is as picturesque as any: A pretty coed, late to class one blustery October afternoon, swerves to avoid the little terrier skittering into her path, and a chivalrous young man comes to the rescue. Her tire is flat, punctured by a rusty nail; their chemistry, electric and instantaneous, is not...*Versions* is smart enough to know that the fantasy of infinite possibility is thrilling—but not nearly as much as the reality of true human connection."—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"A subtle meditation on the ways people change each other. Although the premise is romantic, Barnett explores romance in a realistic way, including obsession, insecurity, and sacrifice. Jim and Eva bring out the best and worst in each other, and their relationship(s) is a testament to the dark and light sides of romantic love...The choices we make under different circumstances are the real heart of the novel, as well as a sense that all paths are worth traveling."—CHICAGO REVIEW OF BOOKS

"British journalist Barnett's debut novel imagines the delicious prospect of romantic do-overs, cleverly negotiating the tricky and often dizzying terrain of three versions of first love...Barnett's evocative presentation is a masterly romantic study of love's choices and consequences, leaving wide open just what constitutes a perfect ending."—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, starred and boxed review

"Barnett masterfully pulls the reader through these alternating tales. Each option is compelling and believable. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned here: Regardless of the paths we choose, the people who are meant to be in our lives will find their way there."—BOOKPAGE

"An intriguing exploration of the many roads not taken."—BOOKLIST

"Fans of the novel *One Day* and the movie *Sliding Doors* will want to pick up this debut."—KIRKUS REVIEWS

"A rich, complex, and deeply satisfying novel... One of the most engrossing novels either of us has read in years."—Richard Madeley, THE RICHARD AND JUDY BOOK CLUB

"A triumphant debut... a thoughtful, measured book about the interplay of chance and destiny in our lives."—Elena Semyenliyska, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"Its very scope is a joy, the technical achievement seamlessly done, and the ending – all the endings

— suitably affecting."—Jenny Colgan, THE GUARDIAN

"Well written, stunningly crafted and constantly surprising... An utterly convincing love story about two people destined to be together somehow, no matter what."—Kate Saunders, THE TIMES

"Barnett renders an irresistible concept in sweet, cool prose."—Hephzibah Anderson, THE OBSERVER

"Unique, complex and playful... Barnett suspends our disbelief like a conjuror."—Elizabeth Fremantle, SUNDAY EXPRESS

"An affecting and thought-provoking work, *The Versions Of Us* will keep you gripped until the tear-jerking conclusion."—Mernie Gilmore, DAILY EXPRESS

"A clever, romantic debut.. Barnett tells three outcomes of the same affair, a simple, effective metaphor for the paths love itself can take you on."—GRAZIA

"Such an exciting and clever novel. It marks the emergence of a major talent in literary fiction."—Viv Groskop, RED

"A deeply moving and emotional story that has the ability to make you evaluate your own life."—STYLIST

'A captivating whirlwind of a book... Barnett weaves the myriad strains of her characters' lives into a cohesive and compelling whole.' (Sarah Gilmartin, IRISH TIMES)

"She is a stylish writer; so much so, it's hard to believe that this is her first novel. Spanning the entire second half of the 20th century and much of the 21st, this book is evocative and atmospheric."—Anne Cunningham, IRISH INDEPENDENT

"Where to begin? With the fluid and effortless prose? The poise and control of the author? The tenderness – but never sentimentality – which permeates the characterization? The cleverness of the plot device? *The Versions of Us* is both brilliant and astonishingly good."—ELIZABETH BUCHAN

"Truly enthralling... I simply adored this wonderful novel."—JESSIE BURTON, author of *The Miniaturist*

"I absolutely loved [*The Versions of Us*]. It's so elegantly and beautifully written... I was equally enthralled by each of the three versions... A really wonderful book."—ESTHER FREUD

"Three roads diverged in a wood...and you have no idea which one the characters are going to take. It's "Sliding Doors" meets "One Day" and a lot of 'what ifs.'" —theSkimm

About the Author

LAURA BARNETT is a writer, journalist, and theatre critic. She has been on staff at the *Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and is now a freelance arts journalist and features writer, working for the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, and *Time Out London*, as well as several other national newspapers and magazines. *The Versions of Us* is her first novel. She lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eleonora Plunkett:

This The Versions of Us tend to be reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this The Versions of Us can be one of many great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed anyone with information that might be will shock your preceding knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Versions of Us forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Tonia Lee:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specially book entitled The Versions of Us your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get just before. The The Versions of Us giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

April Hannah:

The Versions of Us can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Versions of Us however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Nancy Smith:

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