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NEVER LAURA

EWGENIYA LYRAS

- The debut genre-bending novel by a talented writer.
- A stunning exploration of the meaning of reality and humanity.
- An allegory for our times, set in a post-pandemic world ravaged by technological advances.
- The first of several titles to be published across 2023 relaunching Hay Press as an imprint of Renard Press.
- To be supported by a series of events and publicity.

'I'd try anything that promised to free me from the prison of my body and its memories.'

A mysterious suicide pandemic sweeps the world, leaving nations reeling, pointing fingers. Losing her parents to the tragedy, Laura attempts to take her own life too, but fails. Fourteen years later, still trying to escape her pain, she meets a powerful entrepreneur, who promises her an expensive out-of-body trip – the biggest freedom money can buy – and she makes a deal that will change her life for ever.

Laura finds herself on a bad trip, and the technology merges with her soul, trapping her somewhere between death and insanity. When she wakes, she is not in control of her mind, and her body goes through radical changes, her consciousness stretching beyond the boundaries of her brain. The line between truth and dreams, between herself and the world, fades. To regain control, Laura must harness her new abilities, travel into the darkest corners of her soul and uncover a past she never knew she had.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born in Belarus, Ewgeniya Lyras gained a Master's degree in Business Administration in Prague, Czech Republic, and studied fashion design at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. She ran a fashion brand, before moving to video production. Presently, she splits her time between Prague and California, where she writes and works as a video producer and editor. She is passionate about topics such as the nature of identity in the virtual realm, departure from labels and stereotypes, and emotional life and its fluidity as the most truthful manifestation of oneself. *Never Laura* is her first novel.



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