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FLEDGING

ROSE DIELL

- The debut novel by a talented writer.
- Longlisted for the Reflex Press Novella Award 2022.
- A novel for our times: a brilliantly original take on the topical debate on the child-free movement and women's right to choose.
- Will appeal to fans of Sheila Heti's *Motherhood* and Emma Gannon's *Olive*.
- An empathetic and identifiable work for all those facing the baby question.

It starts as bloating, a hard curvature in my gut that won't go away. I wonder if it's my period, but it isn't the right time. The cramps come slowly at first, like a rising tide, and then grow shorter and sharper, a racing heartbeat.

When Lia lays an egg she doesn't know what to do. At her age, it's impossible to escape the baby question, and all her friends seem to be having children. She feels her heart's not in it – but all the same, there's the egg, impossible to ignore, lying in a nest of towels in the living room.

Her partner on tour on the other side of the world and her mother diagnosed with a terminal illness, Lia finds herself torn, unsure whether she's ready to give up on her songwriting dreams; but time is running out, and she must make one of the biggest decisions of her life.

Beautifully written and brilliantly original, *Fledging* is a riveting tale and resounding call for a woman's right to make her own choices, whether that means embracing motherhood or living child-free.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rose Diell is a Londoner of Italian, Norwegian and American heritage. She writes in her spare time, with the encouragement and support of her writing circle, the Southbank Scribblers, whom she met through a City Lit writing course. She loves studying language in all its forms and speaks Italian, French and Arabic. She has also lived in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Rose lives in London with her civil partner and Tolstoy, an extremely fluffy ginger tabby. *Fledging* is her first novel.

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