

When I Was

Miranda Miller

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When it comes to memoir, Miranda Miller is an incorrigible novelist.



Viola, three years old in 1953 when guests gather in her parents' London home to watch the Queen's coronation on TV, is not Miranda. Yet character and author share the same age, the same home, the same parents and three brothers, the same friends and fears and love of books and breathless adventures in her native city.

When I Was brings all the family members centre stage, each character opening their consciousness to reveal a multi-faceted study as life presses in on a family's hopes and dreams.

The novel whisks us through 1950s London, in a tale as true as a novelist can make it. The twists of its drama, as a young girl forges her way into being, let you into secrets of resilience and love.

"Miller's fictions are lit by the dark flicker of a strong and original imagination"

HILARY MANTEL

"I found it utterly compelling and could not put it down. I wouldn't have missed this experience for the world. I'm enriched by it."

CAROLYN POLIZZOTTO

Author of *Pomegranate Season*

Miranda Miller was born in London in 1950, to an Anglo-Indian mother and writer father, and has written eight novels, stretching from the eighteenth century to outer space. As well as the life of the artist Angelica Kauffman narrated in the first person, Miranda has given us the voices of London's homeless women. A former Royal Literary Fund Fellow at London's Courtauld Institute, visual art is a key ingredient in Miranda's work, as is her ear for dialogue which stems from a love for theatre. While London is the heartland of her life and work, her writing also takes in experiences from her years living in Saudi Arabia, Libya, Japan and her much-loved Rome. Married with one daughter, she lives and writes in London.



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