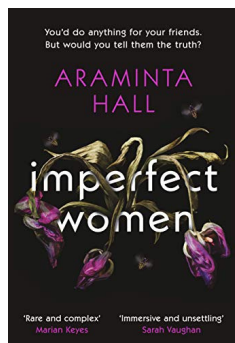


# MEET THE AUTHOR

Creative writing teacher and author **Araminta Hall** on reading and writing books and what inspires her



Author photo (c) Sarah Ketelaars



**What inspired you to want to write?** It's really the only thing I've ever wanted to do and I think the inspiration came from always loving reading so much. I really enjoy telling stories!

**What are your top tips for people wanting to write a book?** Reading is the top one, especially in the genre you want to write in, but also anything that interests you. Then just keep going as a lot of getting published is down to not giving up. Don't wait for the muse to strike because the first draft of anything is terrible and the good stuff comes in the edits.

**Do you have a message for our NHS front line staff?** Thank you all for everything you have always done and continue to do. I am constantly awed by the thought of the selfless, hard and incredible work you all do. I hope you know how much you are all appreciated.

**If there was one book you would recommend to a friend what would it be and why?** Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

**What was the last book that made you laugh?** Luster by Raven Leilani (although it will also make you cry and gasp in shock)

**Which was your favourite book as a child?** The Railway Children by Edith Nesbit

**What book are you reading now?** The collected letters of Virginia Woolf and Light Perpetual by Frances Spufford

**Whose biography would you like to write?** Patricia Highsmith. It's been written but her life was endlessly fascinating.

**Which book have you read that surprised you and why?** So many! But pretty much anything by Patricia Highsmith, Iris Murdoch, Barbara Vine, Margaret Atwood. More recently I was surprised by Luster, The Vanishing Half, Such a Fun Age and Watch her Fall.

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