

Apollo Hardcover Edition (ISBN-10: 1035906449)

Hard Copy: A Story of Girl Meets Printer - Reader's Guide

By Fien Veldman, Translated by Hester Velmans

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

Hard Copy: A Story of Girl Meets Printer is a unique and thought-provoking novel by Fien Veldman, translated by Hester Velmans. This book delves into the life of a customer service assistant who finds an unusual connection with her office printer amidst feelings of isolation and burnout. The narrative explores themes of loneliness, the absurdity of modern office life, and the human need for connection, even in the most unconventional forms. The story is praised for its sharp intelligence, madcap sweetness, and poignant commentary on society. It offers a fresh perspective on the challenges of contemporary existence and the search for meaning in unexpected places.

BOOK OVERVIEW



This is a story of girl meets printer.

Fien
Veldman
HARD
COPY

Translated by Hester Velmans

This image displays the front cover of the book 'Hard Copy: A story of girl meets printer'. The design features a close-up of a person's face, with a prominent bright blue horizontal line passing through the eye area, reminiscent of a scanner light. The title 'HARD COPY' is displayed prominently, along with the author's name, Fien Veldman, and the translator's name, Hester Velmans. The overall aesthetic suggests a blend of human interaction and technology, central to the book's theme.

Synopsis

The protagonist, a customer service assistant, spends her days in a claustrophobic office cubicle. Feeling isolated and frustrated, she develops an unusual bond with the office printer. As she confides in it, she perceives the printer as listening and understanding. This unconventional relationship raises concerns among her employers, leading to a diagnosis of burnout and subsequent leave. Facing potential severance and separation from her unique companion, she resolves to fight for her connection. The narrative explores the boundaries of human-object relationships and the desperate search for companionship in a detached world.

Key Themes

- Loneliness and Isolation in Modern Society
- The Absurdity of Office Culture
- Human Connection and Empathy
- Mental Health and Burnout
- The Nature of Reality and Perception

READING EXPERIENCE

Engaging with the Narrative

To fully appreciate *Hard Copy*, readers are encouraged to approach the story with an open mind, allowing themselves to be drawn into the protagonist's unique perspective. The novel's strength lies in its ability to blend humor with profound observations.

1. **Consider the Allegory:** While the premise is literal, consider the deeper allegorical meanings behind the protagonist's relationship with the printer. What does the printer represent in her life?
2. **Observe Social Commentary:** Pay attention to the subtle and overt critiques of corporate environments and societal expectations.
3. **Embrace the Absurdity:** The novel often veers into the absurd. Allowing yourself to embrace this aspect can enhance the reading experience.
4. **Reflect on Empathy:** Think about how the book challenges conventional notions of empathy and connection.

CARE AND HANDLING OF YOUR BOOK

To ensure the longevity and preservation of your *Hard Copy* hardcover edition, please follow these guidelines:

- **Storage:** Store the book in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and excessive humidity to prevent warping, fading, or mold growth.
- **Handling:** Handle the book with clean, dry hands. Avoid bending the covers or forcing the spine open too wide, which can damage the binding.
- **Protection:** If transporting, place the book in a protective bag or sleeve to prevent scratches or damage to the cover.
- **Cleaning:** For dust, gently wipe the cover with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners.

Further Engagement and Discussion

If you wish to delve deeper into the themes or discuss the book with others, consider the following:

- **Book Clubs:** *Hard Copy* is an excellent choice for book club discussions due to its unique premise and rich thematic content.
- **Online Forums:** Search for online literary forums or social media groups dedicated to contemporary fiction or translated works to share your thoughts.
- **Re-reading:** Sometimes, a second reading can reveal new layers of meaning and appreciation for the author's craft.
- **Author's Other Works:** Explore other works by Fien Veldman or books translated by Hester Velmans to gain further insight into their styles and themes.

Specifications

Book Details

Attribute	Detail
Title	Hard Copy: A Story of Girl Meets Printer
Author	Fien Veldman
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Author and Translator Information

About Fien Veldman (Author)

Fien Veldman is an acclaimed author, recipient of the 2021 Joost Zwagerman Essay Award for her essay 'Not really making it', which explores growing up in a working-class neighborhood. In 2018, she won the Elise Mathilde Essay Award. *Hard Copy* marks her debut novel, showcasing her unique voice and insightful observations.

About Hester Velmans (Translator)

Hester Velmans is the translator responsible for bringing Fien Veldman's work to English-speaking audiences. Her expertise ensures that the nuances and original intent of the Dutch text are faithfully conveyed, allowing readers to fully experience the author's distinctive style.

SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK

For inquiries regarding the book's content, publication, or to provide feedback, please refer to the publisher's official channels.

- **Publisher:** Apollo
- **Official Website:** Please visit the publisher's website for contact information and further details about their catalog.
- **Author Contact:** Information regarding contacting the author, Fien Veldman, can typically be found through her publisher or literary agent.

