

[LITERATURE]

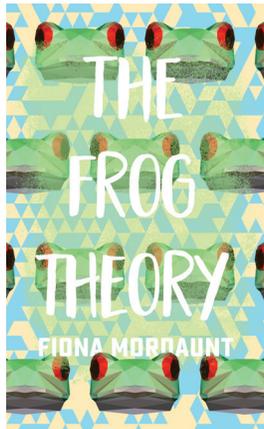
# A NOVEL APPROACH

We chat to Fiona Mordaunt, who spent her childhood growing up in Fulham, about her quirky debut novel *The Frog Theory*

WILLIAM MONROE

## Give us a brief synopsis of *The Frog Theory*

Kim Carter finds himself falling in love with Clea, a girl from the smarter part of Fulham. He tells her the anecdote of the frog theory – that it will jump straight out of boiling water and live, but stay in and die if heated slowly from cold – and uses it to wake her up to the dangerous situation she is in at home.



## To what extent does the novel reflect your own childhood growing up in Fulham?

There was a real cross-section of people living in Fulham. Growing up there I got to know a lot of them and to a large extent the characters are loosely based on real people and situations. I chose to set the book in Fulham because that is where I imagined the characters as I was writing.



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## Did you spend a lot of time revisiting and researching in the Fulham area?

No, because it was all in my memory. I lived on Doneraile Street as a child and we used to go to Bishop's Park, where the story of *The Frog Theory* begins. When I became a teenager, we moved to Parsons Green, at which time I found a fondness for pool at The Durrell Arms pub, before ID was required!

## What inspired you to pen it?

I was inspired to write *The Frog Theory* because of my childhood which was

spent in Fulham. I came back to it about every 10 years or so, it was like a funny little tune I couldn't get out of my head. Moving to Botswana gave me the time to fully focus on writing, to finish *The Frog Theory* and to get it published.

## Is there a message to take away from the novel?

Yes: hope that you will be able to conquer a violent experience mentally.

## How would you sum up the novel in three words?

Funny. Quirky. Unexpected.

## Your former career as a model maker sounds fascinating; tell us more

Yes, I trained as a model maker then freelanced on films and stage shows. We used to take body casts to make costumes fit properly and I thought it would be great to offer that service to the public, so in 1998 I started the company Image Casting. The Hard Rock Cafe asked me to make them some pieces for Duran Duran and then for Lionel Richie, who loved his casts so much he asked for his own. I have a copy of them above my piano.

## What plans do you have for the future?

I've started writing another novel along the lines of *The Frog Theory* and I'm also working on a series of wildlife photos, sketches and articles based in Botswana. ♦

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