

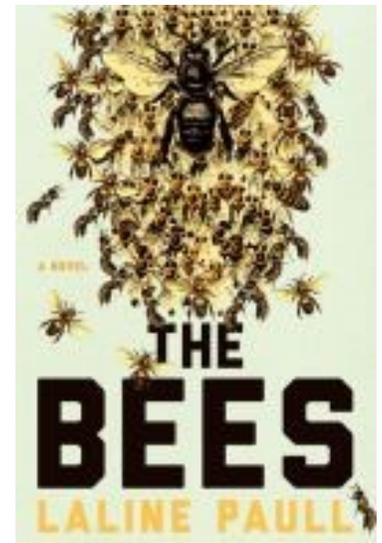


The Bees

Laline Paull

Discussion Questions

1. *The Bees* has attracted praise from many established authors and publications. What makes *The Bees* such a special debut & what did you enjoy the most about this novel?
2. Do you agree with the idea that Flora is an action hero? Why or why not?
3. There are many references throughout the novel to Flora's physical differences. How do you see difference being represented?
4. There has been criticism that the reader has to suspend disbelief in order to accept the bee biology and behaviour in the novel. Did this effect your reading experience? Do you think Laline Paull makes it easy for the reader to suspend disbelief in order to follow Flora's story?
5. The hive in the book and in the real world is a totalitarian regime. How do the ideas of totalitarianism work in this novel?
6. We only see the hive represented through Flora's point of view. Was this helpful or a hindrance to the reader?
7. Do you think reading *The Bees* has changed your attitude to the current plight of bees? Does having a bee as the main character promote awareness?
8. If you had to classify *The Bees*, which genre would you say it belongs to, or do you think it borrows elements from multiple genres?
9. What, if any, comment do you think *The Bees* makes about the human world? Does the society of its anthropomorphic characters always directly resemble human society or do the two diverge?





The Bees

Laline Paull

About the Author

Laline Paull studied English at Oxford, screenwriting in Los Angeles, and theater in London. Her debut novel *The Bees* was nominated for the 2015 Bailey Women's Prize for Fiction. She lives in England with her husband, photographer Adrian Peacock, and their three children.

This book is available for download as an eBook or an eAudiobook. For more information, please visit lpl.overdrive.com or call 519-661-4600.