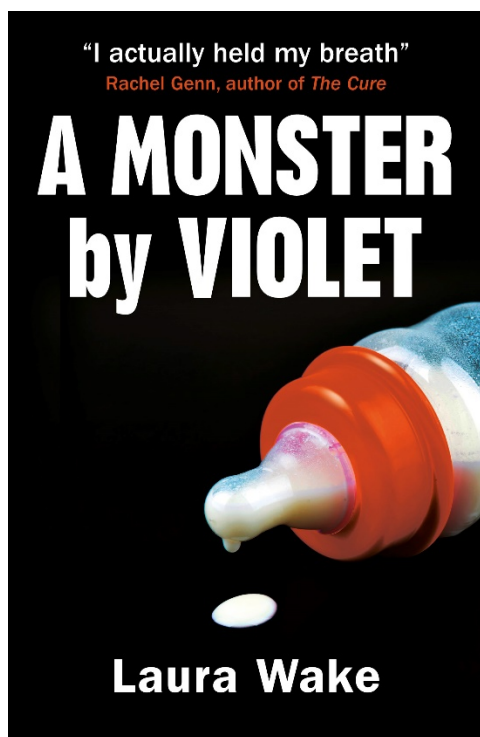


ADVANCE INFORMATION

A MONSTER BY VIOLET

Laura Wake



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Twenty one year old Violet Kale is wasting her life – she hasn't even got the desire to dream. Yet when Violet wakes up after a 3-day drug and alcohol binge to the sound of her friend's baby Maria crying with hunger, she doesn't simply feed the child, she takes Maria and runs...

Violet Kale has fallen out of love with life. A dissolute figure she drifts along with her friend Lisa (mother of a baby daughter Maria), reluctant to take responsibility for anything except her own pleasure. Then on a whim she steals Maria away, heading on a journey to a new land, and seeing in the child a chance of a new future, and a hope for salvation...

- "I actually held my breath." – Rachel Genn, author of The Cure
- "... a character who generates anger and disgust in the reader, and yet is entirely captivating, and whose success the reader urgently cares about. This is powerful, and at times heart-breaking writing." – Jane Rogers, author of Mr Wroe's Virgins and The Testament of Jessie Lamb.
- Part of a large writing network with planned events, readings and regional media coverage, and accepted as part of the Vanguard Readings group for her debut

Laura grew up in the suburbs of London and spent most of her time on rollerblades. She finished school, went to Mallorca to get a job on a boat, then went to Italy and became a ski instructor. After seven years teaching skiing, snowboarding, and English around the world, she decided to do a degree, and started writing. Since then she has completed her first novel **A Monster by Violet** which was shortlisted for several regional writing prizes, and is currently working on a second novel. She teaches Creative Writing at Sheffield Hallam University and for the Workers' Educational Association. Laura lives in Sheffield with her partner, two cats, and a free ranging rabbit.

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