

A Woman of Integrity

J David Simons

SUMMARY

A beautiful novel about one woman's obsession with the life of a silent movie star as she struggles to accept life's compromises.

SALES POINTS

- An epic straddling the 20th and 21st centuries
- Covers Hollywood of the 1920s, 1930s aviation and woman pilots, the Second World War and the present day
- A wonderful examination of one woman's remarkable life
- An acclaimed author presents the best book of his career

DESCRIPTION

Laura Scott is an aging British actor whose career is on the slide after a series of bad choices. She's drawn to the luminous life of Hollywood silent movie actress, Georgina Hepburn, who avoided the compromises of Laura's career, only to leave acting to become a pioneering pilot in the 1930s.

As Laura pushes to produce and act in a one-woman play about Georgina's life, in a questionable act of betrayal of a would-be patron, layers of the past are uncovered, revealing that integrity also comes at a cost. Acclaimed author J David Simons' fifth novel, this is a subtle and complex exploration of the creative life and the consequences of the decisions we all make.

PRaise FOR A WOMAN OF INTEGRITY

'A Woman of Integrity is an impressive read from an experienced pen. Beautifully textured Simons' elegiac prose is written with an admirable confidence' **Lisa O'Donnell**, winner of the Commonwealth Book Prize, author of *The Death of Bees* and *Closed Doors*

'A Woman of integrity introduces us to Laura, an actor no longer in the limelight. As Laura's life unravels, a parallel story comes alive through the memoirs of the feisty reclusive silent film star-turned-photographer, Georgie Hepburn, now deceased. As Laura finds out more about Georgie, her life begins to change. A wonderfully readable, well-researched and at times humorous exploration of two women's lives, loves and experiences in the 20th and 21st centuries.' **Lisa Ballantyne**, author of *The Guilty One* and *Redemption Road*

'Laura Scott and Georgina Hepburn are surely real people – so brightly do their passions and complexities burn. From Highgate to Hollywood, and across generations, J David Simons makes troubled, fascinating women speak to each other, and us, about ageing, flawed idols, movies, and theatre-land in a rollicking, cleverly connected and thoroughly satisfying plot. Like Nancy Mitford and Helen Fielding got together and wrote a postmodern comedy of manners together – with a captivating historical backstory and stardust thrown in. J David Simons is hilarious and insightful.' *Rachel Holmes*, author of *Eleanor Marx: A Life* and co-editor of *Fifty Shades of Feminism*

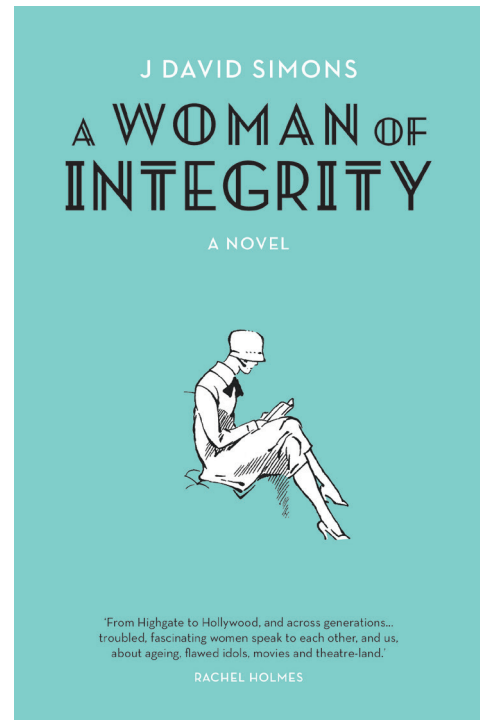
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

J David Simons is a former lawyer and lecturer at universities in Japan and the UK and is the author of five novels. His first, *The Credit Draper*, was shortlisted for the McKitterick Prize. Having spent many years in Japan and other parts of the world, he now lives in Glasgow, the city of his birth.

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Publishing History

J David Simons's novels includes the trilogy *The Credit Draper* (2008), *The Liberation of Celia Cahn* (2011) and *The Land Agent* (2014) and a stand-alone novel *An Exquisite Sense of What is Beautiful* (2013).

MARKET

For fans of Beatrice Colin's *The Luminous Life of Lilly Aphrodite* and *The Songwriter*, and Ronald Frame's *Blurette*.



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