

Press Release

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WE ARE ALL MADE OF GLUE

MARINA LEWYCKA

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From bonding to bondage, from B & Q to Belarus, along with seven smelly cats, three useless handyman, two slimy estate agents, social workers, and a bonker lady, this is a story of a very unlikely friendship. Georgie Sinclair's husband has walked out; her sixteen-year-old son is busy surfing born-again websites; and all those overdue articles for *Adhesives in the Modern World* are getting her down. So, when Georgie Sinclair spots Mrs Shapiro, an eccentric old Jewish émigré neighbour with an eye for a bargain and fondness for matchmaking, rummaging through her skip in the middle of the night, it's just the distraction she needs. And although they mistrust each other at first a firm friendship is formed over the reduced-price shelf at the supermarket. Then, Mrs Shapiro is admitted to hospital and to Georgie's surprise, she is named as her next of kin. But sorting out Mrs Shapiro's semi-derelict mansion in Highbury, home to seven stinky cats with agendas of their own, is no easy job especially when the handyman called in seems to be doing more breaking than fixing. And then there are the two slimy estate agents (one with a charming taste for bondage) who start competing to trick Mrs Shapiro into selling her rickety old house, or the social worker determined to commit her to a nursing home? As Georgie steps in to help her new friend, she finds herself unravelling a mystery which takes her from Highbury to wartime Europe to the Middle East, and learning a bit about DIY along the way.

Marina Lewycka lives in Sheffield but hails from the Ukraine. She was born in 1946 in a refugee camp in Germany. Her first novel, the bestselling *A Short History of Tractors of Ukrainian* was translated into 29 languages and was also longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2005, shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction 2005 and winner of the Bollinger Everyman Prize for Comic Fiction 2005 and the Saga Award for Wit 2005. Marina Lewycka is married and teaches at Sheffield Hallam University. Her two previous novels, *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* and *Two Caravans*, are available in Penguin now.

**PRAISE FOR
A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS IN UKRAINIAN:**

‘Hugely enjoyable ... yields a golden harvest of family truths’
Daily Telegraph

‘It’s rare to find a first novel that gets so much right ... Lewycka is a seriously talented comic writer’
Time Out

‘Wit, humour, sparkling dialogue, vivid characterisation and generous spirit.
Food for thought and a great read’
Financial Times

‘Funny, gritty, original ... one I adore’
Daily Mail

PRAISE FOR TWO CARAVANS:

‘A funny, charming, rollicking road trip.’
Observer

‘Buoyant and witty ... *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* was entertaining, but this is better’
The Sunday Times

‘Hilarious and horrifying, *Two Caravans* is funny, clever and well-observed’
Guardian

‘All the humour of *Tractors* is here’
Evening Standard

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