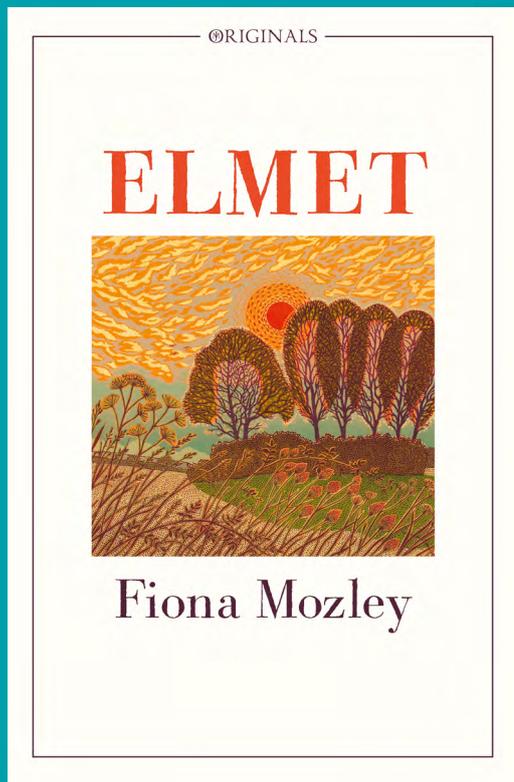


Reader's Guide



Elmet Fiona Mozley

JM Originals

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About the author

Fiona Mozley was born in 1988 and grew up in York. She went to King's College, Cambridge, after which she lived in Buenos Aires and London. She is studying for a PhD in medieval history, and works part-time at The Little Apple Bookshop. *Elmet* is her first novel.

About the book

Daniel is heading north. He is looking for someone. The simplicity of his early life with Daddy and Cathy has turned sour and fearful. They lived apart in the house that Daddy built for them with his bare hands. They foraged and hunted. When they were younger, Daniel and Cathy had gone to school. But they were not like the other children then, and they were even less like them now. Sometimes Daddy disappeared, and would return with a rage in his eyes. But when he was at home he was at peace. He told them that the little copse in Elmet was theirs alone. But that wasn't true. Local men, greedy and watchful, began to circle like vultures. All the while, the terrible violence in Daddy grew...

What the judges thought

'A hugely potent story about aspects of hidden England,' is how the judges described *Elmet*. Seen through the eyes of children, it tells a story about societies 'that are at the margins of 'civilised' English life' in 'a very distinctive, unusual voice', and 'builds to a terrifying climax'.

Discussion points

Discuss the fact that *Elmet* is a debut novel – are you surprised by this? Does it read like a first novel?

The story points out that Daniel and Cathy were not like other children – why is this?

We see events through the eyes of Daniel – to what extent does his child's view of the world colour what we see?

Elmet is the small hamlet where Daniel and his family live – to what extent is it a character in its own right?

How well do you think Mozley built the tension and unease as the atmosphere in the novel turns towards violence?

Useful links

www.theguardian.com/books/2017/aug/09/elmet-fiona-mozley-review

www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/fiona-mozley-i-wrote-a-novel-on-my-commute-now-it-might-win-the-man-booker-prize-a3598686

www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21725754-29-year-olds-debut-novel-has-just-been-longlisted-2017-man-booker-prize-fiona