

READER GUIDE: MICHELLE WINTERS' I AM A TRUCK

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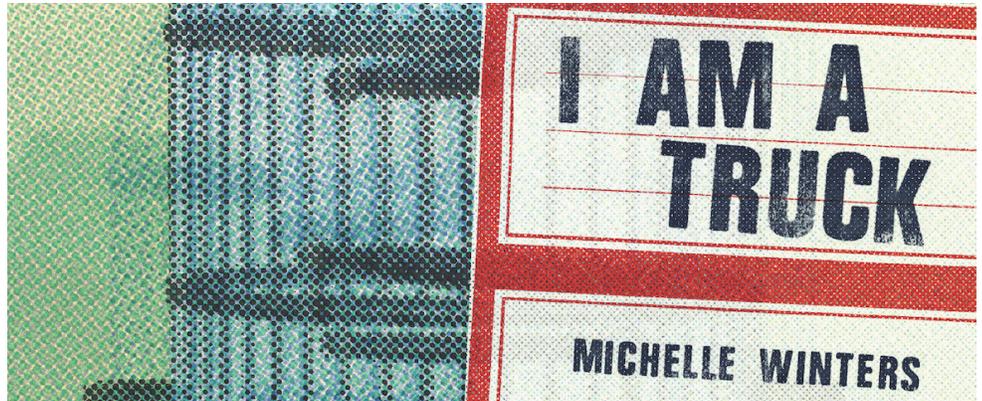
www.invisiblepublishing.com

promotion@invisiblepublishing.com

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Dear Readers,

Thanks so much for choosing *I Am a Truck*. I hope you have an excellent time reading and talking about it.

I sometimes look around at us humans and think how great it is that a) we're fully mobile, and don't need to be plugged into an outlet to produce thoughts and feelings, and that b) as humans, intersecting in various ways, we can enrich each others' lives. There are reasons we're drawn to other people and things we're looking for in them, be it the drive to be understood, fulfillment of a personal shortcoming, or the plain alleviation of loneliness. What gets fulfilled by the friendships in the book? What do the characters need from each other, and what do they get?

One of the other amazing—and devastating—things about humans and our cordless mobility is that we can weave in and out of each other's lives, sometimes leaving behind cavernous empty spaces. Agathe and Martin experience hefty losses, but every character is touched by the absence of another person in some way. How do the characters deal with loss? How do they fill the emptiness in their lives?

Masculinity plays a large part in many of the characters' relationships and behavior. Rejean's masculinity defines him, while for Martin, masculinity is like a club he wishes he could join. Colonel Weed and his men live alone in a world devoid of women. Then there's Tony and Wood...What are the challenges presented to the men in the book by the fact of being men? Where does violence fit in? How does masculinity affect men's relationships with each other?

Finally, it would be wrong to look at this book without a discussion of rock and roll. Discovering it as a teenager changed the colour of the world for me, and I pay a debt of honour to that discovery in the writing of this book. Does Agathe's experience of music resonate with you? Do you remember the first time music really affected you?

I hope you enjoy the book!

Very sincerely,
Michelle Winters