

Real Life Novel: The Intimate and Unflinching Portraiture of Brandon Taylor

Brandon Taylor's *Real Life Novel* is a stunning and unflinching portraiture of the lives of Black queer men and women. Written with a lyrical and evocative style, the novel explores themes of race, sexuality, love, loss, and resilience amidst the complexities of contemporary America.



Real Life: A Novel by Brandon Taylor

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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| Language | : English |
| File size | : 1453 KB |
| Text-to-Speech | : Enabled |
| Screen Reader | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled |
| X-Ray | : Enabled |
| Word Wise | : Enabled |
| Print length | : 335 pages |



The novel's protagonist, Wallace, is a young Black man living in rural Alabama. He is intelligent, sensitive, and artistic, but he also struggles with depression and anxiety. Wallace's life is further complicated by his sexuality, which he keeps hidden from his family and community. As the novel progresses, Wallace must confront his own internal demons as well as the external prejudices that he faces on a daily basis.

Taylor's prose is both lyrical and evocative, and he has a keen eye for detail. He captures the beauty and complexity of the natural world, as well

as the harsh realities of life in rural America. The novel is also full of humor and wit, which helps to lighten the often heavy subject matter.

Real Life Novel is a powerful and moving novel that sheds light on the lives of Black queer men and women. It is a necessary read for anyone who wants to understand the complexities of race, sexuality, and identity in America today.

In addition to its critical acclaim, *Real Life Novel* has also received several awards, including the 2020 Whiting Award for Fiction and the 2020 Kirkus Prize for Fiction.

Themes in *Real Life Novel*

- **Race:** *Real Life Novel* explores the complexities of race in America, both past and present. Taylor shows how race affects every aspect of Wallace's life, from his relationships with his family and friends to his experiences in school and work.
- **Sexuality:** Sexuality is another central theme in *Real Life Novel*. Wallace is a gay man, but he must keep his sexuality hidden from his family and community. This leads to feelings of isolation and shame, but it also forces Wallace to confront his own identity.
- **Love:** Love is a powerful force in *Real Life Novel*, but it is also a source of pain and heartache. Wallace experiences both love and loss, and he must learn to navigate the complexities of human relationships.
- **Loss:** Loss is another major theme in *Real Life Novel*. Wallace experiences the loss of his mother, his grandmother, and his friends. These losses shape Wallace's life and force him to confront his own mortality.

- Resilience: Despite the many challenges he faces, Wallace is a resilient character. He learns to cope with his depression and anxiety, and he finds ways to express his creativity and find joy in life.

Characters in *Real Life Novel*

- Wallace: The protagonist of *Real Life Novel*, Wallace is a young Black man living in rural Alabama. He is intelligent, sensitive, and artistic, but he also struggles with depression and anxiety. He must confront his own internal demons as well as the external prejudices that he faces on a daily basis.
- Robert: Wallace's father is a kind and supportive man, but he is also a product of his time and place. He is homophobic, and he does not understand Wallace's sexuality.
- Ruth: Wallace's mother is a loving and caring woman, but she is also struggling with her own demons. She has a history of mental illness, and she is unable to provide Wallace with the emotional support he needs.
- Eladio: Wallace's best friend is a gay man who has recently moved to Alabama from New York City. Eladio is more open and expressive than Wallace, and he helps Wallace to come to terms with his own sexuality.
- Mark: Wallace's boyfriend is a white man who is also struggling with his own personal demons. Mark is intelligent and kind, but he is also manipulative and possessive.

Reviews of *Real Life Novel*

Real Life Novel has received widespread critical acclaim, with many reviewers praising Taylor's lyrical prose, his keen eye for detail, and his unflinching portrayal of the lives of Black queer men and women.

Here are a few excerpts from reviews of *Real Life Novel*:

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