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*Amanda Filipacchi*

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**Amanda Filipacchi : The Unfortunate Importance of Beauty: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unfortunate Importance of Beauty: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Unfortunate Importance of Amanda's BooksBy Café Girl  
MediaI hate that I have to wait three or four years for Amanda Filipacchi to release another one of her surreal novels. THE UNFORTUNATE IMPORTANCE OF BEAUTY is yet another crazy look into the author's super-interesting mind, and this time she focuses on physical and inner beauty. Barb is drop-dead gorgeous and desperate to shift the focus on her personality. After all, she's intelligent and artistic, works hard as a costume designer. Her best friend Lily has the opposite problem. A whimsical pianist with zero outer beauty (to put it mildly), she is desperate to create the piece of music that would enable her to look beautiful. If she's beautiful beyond belief, then she will win the heart of the man she hopelessly loves (who, unfortunately, happens to be a shallow douche). What you get is a whacky love story that -- amid all the dark humor and craziness -- still manages to be touching and profound. I didn't feel much sympathy for Barb. The woe-is-I-beautiful-woman is ridiculous, to say the least. My heart went out to Lily though, whose outer appearance is heartbreaking. The author gets the point across quite beautifully (no pun intended). We do judge people on their physical appearance, in more ways than one. There are several interesting characters in this book, one of which is Georgia, an obvious fictional version of Amanda F. (or maybe it's just obvious to me because I've followed the author's career rather closely. Not stalkerish close, just... never mind). So, if you're familiar with the author's work, you know what to expect: lots of surrealism, dark humor, magical realism, and oddball characters. I didn't like the whole "we're super-creative artists" thing though. Felt kind of silly and pretentious. Other than that, get ready for a fascinating ride. You'll want to read her all of her books, and then you'll have to wait several years for the next one. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Surreally goodBy Mark WoodsSimply wonderful. Deceptively simple. Anyone who has read all of Filipacchi's novels, as I have, learned long ago not to be fooled by the apparent simplicity of her language. Or learned the pleasures of being fooled by it, the better to enjoy its subtle creeping. The surprise of feeling it get under my skin matches the surprise of having my expectations (of the narrative's course) overturned. Reading this book entails feeling delight when you least expect it — and repeatedly. I cannot recommend it highly enough. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Liked Lily Hated BarbBy book beach bunnyBarb is a beautiful woman (apparently otherworldly) who hides her beauty under an ugly suit. Though she takes it off to humiliate men who shame her. Lily is a musician who is to ugly to be fixed who is in love with a man who doesn't even notice her. She is trying to make a piece of music that will make him think she's as beautiful as can be. Overall this book didn't work for me as much as I liked the thoughtful subject manner and as much as I thought it

would in the beginning. Weird thing is Lily's stuff worked for me but Barb's was a fail even though in the beginning of the book I really liked Barb. The thing is that even though Lily's story was more fantastic and "magic" it was Barb's story that I couldn't buy. I'm usually good at suspending my disbelief but starting from the exceedingly long "let's stop a murder in my apartment" plot that was so full of holes that I couldn't even understand why the characters would buy it I was pretty much done with her. While I did feel for her in the beginning my feelings were exercised to the point of breaking and by a second insane incident this time concerning a gun man I had turned against her. So that's a strange review because again I really love the idea that we all just want to be seen for who we really are but one story worked for me and the other one didn't in such a way that it actually colored the rest of the book.

“Filipacchi’s book [has] a philosophical heft and prods us to examine our own prejudices.... Funny, surreal, absurd, and charmingly preposterous.... Filipacchi’s characters never question the weirdness around them but meet it with a delightful, practical ingenuity.” —The New York Times Book Review “[A] sure comic touch... smart and sweet... a tribute to the pleasures of friendship.” —The New Yorker “Readers, who'd like to spend a little time at the corner where a brisker Haruki Murakami meets a drier ‘30 Rock’ would do well to seek out Filipacchi’s radiantly intelligent and very funny novel.” —San Francisco Chronicle A magical and comedic take on modern love, the power of friendship, and the allure of disguise. In the heart of New York City, a group of artistic friends struggles with society's standards of beauty. At the center are Barb and Lily, two women at opposite ends of the beauty spectrum, but with the same problem: each fears she will never find a love that can overcome her looks. Barb, a stunningly beautiful costume designer, makes herself ugly in hopes of finding true love. Meanwhile, her friend Lily, a brilliantly talented but plain-looking musician, goes to fantastic lengths to attract the man who has rejected her—with results that are as touching as they are transformative. To complicate matters, Barb and Lily discover that they may have a murderer in their midst, that Barb’s calm disposition is more dangerously provocative than her beauty ever was, and that Lily's musical talents are more powerful than anyone could have imagined. Part literary whodunit, part surrealist farce, *The Unfortunate Importance of Beauty* serves as a smart, modern-day fairy tale. With biting wit and offbeat charm, Amanda Filipacchi illuminates the labyrinthine relationship between beauty, desire, and identity, asking at every turn: what does it truly mean to allow oneself to be seen?

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writing today.” —Ed Park“Amanda Filipacchi's untamed imagination makes the world a little more fun to live in. This witty novel shines a blacklight on beauty, to reveal its dark side, and the author's irrepressibly zany one.” —Roxana Robinson“Amanda Filipacchi has crafted a delightful gem, an unusual mixture of laughter and suspense. One never knows what's going to happen next in this odd and charming universe. This is a wonderfully absurd and comedic novel that also reads like a page-turning whodunit.” —Jonathan Ames “Filipacchi’s book [has] a philosophical heft and prods us to examine our own prejudices.... Funny, surreal, absurd, and charmingly preposterous.... Filipacchi’s characters never question the weirdness around them but meet it with a delightful, practical ingenuity.” —Sarah Lyall, *The New York Times Book* “[A] sure comic touch... smart and sweet... a tribute to the pleasures of friendship.” —*The New Yorker*“Readers, who'd like to spend a little time at the corner where a brisker Haruki Murakami meets a drier '30 Rock' would do well to seek out Filipacchi's radiantly intelligent and very funny novel.” —Ellis Avery, *San Francisco Chronicle*“So funny, so farcical, and its characters so engaging that I couldn't stop reading.” —KJ Dell'Antonia, *The New York Times*“Few comic novelists get characters talking so naturally, and amusingly... 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You want to read this book.” —Bustle“Filipacchi’s fourth [novel], is a critique of how society’s visual valuations override the importance of character: a ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’ manifesto.” —*The Daily Beast*“[A] darkly humorous modern fairy tale.” —*Huffington Post*“Part murder mystery, part satire, part meditation, Ms. Filipacchi’s book has also been called a modern fairy tale.” —Laren Stover, *New York Observer*“Filipacchi's fourth novel blithely upends the social constructs of beauty, desire, and art in her signature brisk, darkly comic style... with sharp surreal turns and layers of subversive meaning... While looks can kill, they're no match for Filipacchi's rapier wit.” —*Publishers Weekly*“An ingeniously crafted fictional meditation on power and freedom, essence and appearance that takes the form of a philosophical farce. A delight for the mind that penetrates the heart.” —Walter Kirn“Amanda Filipacchi writes with a deceptive ease, creating magic out of thin air. 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This is a wonderfully absurd and comedic novel that also reads like a page-turning whodunit.” —Jonathan AmesAbout the AuthorAmanda Filipacchi is the author of three previous novels: *Nude Men*, *Vapor*, and *Love Creeps*. Her fiction has appeared in *Best American Humor* and elsewhere. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Atlantic*. She earned an MFA in fiction writing from Columbia University. She lives in New York.

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