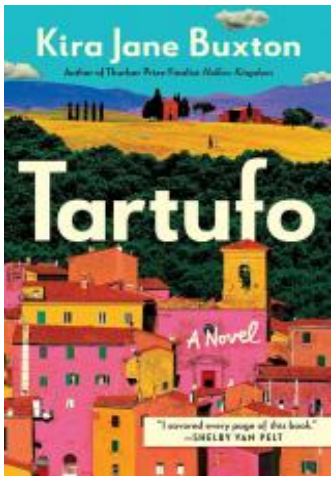
Tartufo

by Kira Jane Buxton



About the Book

From the author of HOLLOW KINGDOM, a fantastically funny story featuring a cast of colorful characters in a dying Italian village --- and a giant truffle that changes their fate forever. Perfect for fans of REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES.

After nearly losing the election to a geriatric donkey, newly installed Mayor Delizia Miccuci can?t help but feel like the sun has finally set on the rural Italian village of Lazzarini Boscarino. Tourists only stop by to ask for directions, Nonna Amara?s cherished *ristorante* is long shuttered, and the town hall is disgustingly overrun with *glis glis* poo --- even Postman Duccio has been disgraced. All that?s left is Bar Celebrità, a rustic establishment where weary locals gather to quibble over decades-long disputes, submit their poor stomachs to bartender Giuseppina?s volcanic espresso, and wonder what will become of the place where together they?ve spent their entire lives.

Little do the villagers know that local truffle hunter Giovanni Scarpazza has just happened upon something that could change everything. A truffle --- *un tartufo*, that is --- sits beneath the soil with the power to either be the greatest gift or the foulest curse the village has ever seen.

Written in the same enchanting style and raucous humor that defines HOLLOW KINGDOM and FERAL CREATURES, TARTUFO is a reflection on the interconnectedness of life in all its manifestations --- and how holding on to harmony in the face of hardship can grow something beautiful and rare beneath the surface.

Discussion Guide

1. The giant truffle at the center of TARTUFO is described as ?a tiny god.? Do you believe it was divine intervention that such a miracle came to Lazzarini Boscarino at its hour of need? Was there something miraculous and perhaps spiritual at play in the village?

2. Eating is often portrayed as a sensual experience in the novel, except when it comes to Umberto?s fine dining creations, which Giuseppina calls an extension of his ego. What makes Umberto?s food seem soulless compared to other depictions of communal meals?

3. The book jumps from different perspectives throughout, often giving insight into the various animals who populate the book. What do these interludes add, and did you feel drawn to any character?s perspective in particular, human or otherwise?

4. The villagers of Lazzarini Boscarino have a strong sense of loyalty --- to their town and to each other. Why do so many of them stay in a town that is literally starting to crumble around them?

5. *Tartufi* can be very divisive. Some people love them, others are put off by the strong aroma. Where do you stand? What are some other common love/hate foods among your book club?

Author Bio

Kira Jane Buxton's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, NewYorker.com, *McSweeney?s*, *The Rumpus*, *Huffington Post* and more. Her debut novel, HOLLOW KINGDOM, was an Indie Next pick, a finalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor, the Audie Awards, and the Washington State Book Awards, and was named a best book of 2019 by *Good Housekeeping*, NPR and *Book Riot*.

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