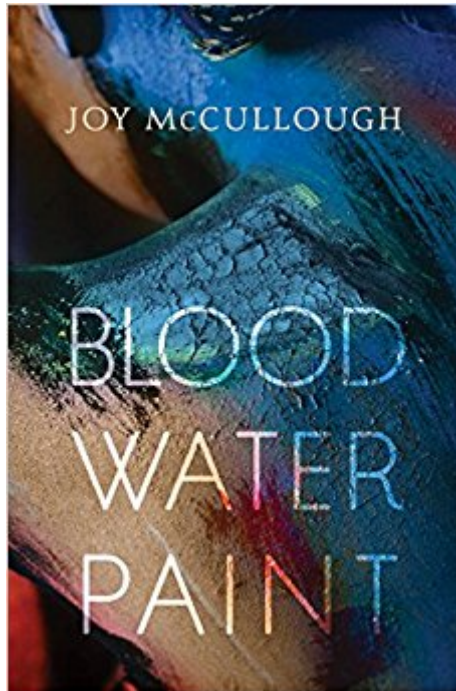




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Blood Water Paint



Synopsis

A stunning debut novel based on the true story of the iconic painter, Artemisia Gentileschi. Her mother died when she was twelve, and suddenly Artemisia Gentileschi had a stark choice: a life as a nun in a convent or a life grinding pigment for her father's paint. She chose paint. By the time she was seventeen, Artemisia did more than grind pigment. She was one of Rome's most talented painters, even if no one knew her name. But Rome in 1610 was a city where men took what they wanted from women, and in the aftermath of rape Artemisia faced another terrible choice: a life of silence or a life of truth, no matter the cost. I will not consume every thought. I am a painter. I will paint. Joy McCullough's bold novel in verse is a portrait of an artist as a young woman, filled with the soaring highs of creative inspiration and the devastating setbacks of a system built to break her. McCullough weaves Artemisia's heartbreaking story with the stories of the ancient heroines, Susanna and Judith, who become not only the subjects of two of Artemisia's most famous paintings but sources of strength as she battles to paint a woman's timeless truth in the face of unspeakable and all-too-familiar violence. I will show you what a woman can do.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A hypnotic and captivating subversion of the traditionally male-dominated narratives of art and European history. Joy McCullough's spare, evocative verse paints a gutting portrait of women learning how to operate in a world of men while coming into their own strength, pride, and power. Tragically relevant and unflinchingly feminist, *Blood Water Paint* is the kind of book all historical fiction should aspire to be." —Mackenzi Lee, New York Times bestselling author of *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* *Blood Water Paint* is a remarkable work of art. In verse

that's both lyrical and brutal, Joy McCullough unearths and illuminates a story of bravery, feminism, and the enduring human spirit flourishing in a dusty studio in Rome more than four centuries ago. Both a grave reminder of how little has changed and a hopeful testament to how much more we might achieve, McCullough's debut is a must-read. —Gae Polisner, author of *The Memory of Things*

Joy McCullough is an author and playwright from Seattle, Washington. *Blood Water Paint* is her first novel. Follow her online at @jmcwrites

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