



Euphoria

By Lily King

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A New York Times Bestseller

Winner of the 2014 Kirkus Prize

Winner of the 2014 New England Book Award for Fiction

A Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award

A Best Book of the Year for:

New York Times Book Review, Time, NPR, Washington Post, Entertainment Weekly, Newsday, Vogue, New York Magazine, Seattle Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, The Guardian, Kirkus Reviews, Amazon, Publishers Weekly, Our Man in Boston, Oprah.com, Salon

Euphoria is Lily King's nationally bestselling breakout novel of three young, gifted anthropologists of the '30's caught in a passionate love triangle that threatens their bonds, their careers, and, ultimately, their lives. Inspired by events in the life of revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead, *Euphoria* is "dazzling ... suspenseful ... brilliant...an exhilarating novel."—*Boston Globe*

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Euphoria By Lily King Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, June 2014: If I tell you that *Euphoria* is a novel loosely based on the life of the anthropologist Margaret Mead, your eyes will start to glaze over. Well, they shouldn't--not when the novel is as wonderful as this one. Its both romantic and intelligent, a combination you don't need to be a scientist to know doesn't appear often in nature. Mead, a controversial character in real life, is here transmuted into the equally complex (and somewhat sickly) Nell Stone, who has made a reputation for herself by studying native tribes in New Guinea. Her husband, also an anthropologist, is more jealous than dutiful, although he does manage to make her feel inadequate for failing to produce a baby. Enter a charming-but-tortured third anthropologist, who at times seems to be unsure to which of his new friends he's more attracted. Sparks of the emotional and sexual kind fly, but what's even more interesting is the portrait of a growing friendship based at least partly on philosophy and attitudes toward "primitive" cultures. You know from the beginning that some bad things are going to happen, but it is to King's great credit (and the fact that she changes some of the events in Mead's life) that you can't really guess what they are. This is the best kind of historical novel--the kind that sent me running to read more about its real-life inspiration. --Sara Nelson

From [Booklist](#)

Just after a failed suicide attempt, Andrew Bankson, English anthropologist studying the Kiona tribe in the territory of New Guinea, meets a pair of fellow anthropologists fleeing from a cannibalistic tribe down river. Nell Stone is controversial and well respected. Her rough Australian husband, Fen, is envious of her fame and determined to outshine her. Bankson helps them find a new tribe to study, the artistic, female-dominated Tam. Nell's quiet assurance and love of the work, and Fen's easy familiarity, pull Bankson back from the brink. But it is the growing fire between him and Nell that they cannot do anything about. Layered on top of that is Nell's grasp of the nuances of the Tam, which makes it clear that she will once again surpass Fen. Set between the First and Second World Wars, the story is loosely based on events in the life of Margaret Mead. There are fascinating looks into other cultures and how they are studied, and the sacrifices and dangers that go along with it. This is a powerful story, at once gritty, sensuous, and captivating. --Elizabeth Dickie

Review

"In a perfect marriage of words and voice, narrators Simon Vance and Xe Sands join author Lily King to produce an extraordinary audiobook experience. Inspired by events in the life of cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead, King has fashioned a haunting novel of love, ambition, and obsession, focused on three anthropologists off-map in New Guinea just before World War II. Delivering the alternating chapters of Mead's stand-in, American Nell Stone, and Englishman Andrew Bankson, Sands and Vance perform the stupendous feat of creating memorable versions of the same characters. Their performances offer nuanced interpretations of the different personalities and echo, but do not copy, each other's approach. Also, each uses a unique narrative pace that enhances the listener's understanding of this unforgettable tale."

--AudioFilemagazine

"*Euphoria* is a meticulously researched homage to Mead's restless mind and a considered portrait of Western anthropology in its primitivist heyday. It's also a taut, witty, fiercely intelligent tale of competing egos and desires in a landscape of exotic menace - a love triangle in extremis . . . The steam the book emits is as much intellectual as erotic . . . and King's signal achievement may be to have created satisfying drama out of a

quest for interpretive insight . . . Exquisite." --New York Times Book Review

"There are some novels that take you by the hand with their lovely prose alone; there are those that pull you in with sensual renderings of time and place and a compelling story; and there are still others that seduce you solely with their subject matter. But it is a rare novel indeed that does all of the above at once and with complete artistic mastery. Yet this is precisely what Lily King has done in her stunningly passionate and gorgeously written *Euphoria*. It is simply one of the finest novels I've read in years, and it puts Lily King firmly in the top rank of our most accomplished novelists." --Andre Dubus III, author of *House of Sand and Fog*

"With *Euphoria*, Lily King gives us a searing and absolutely mesmerizing glimpse into 1930's New Guinea, a world as savage and fascinating as Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, where obsessions rise to a feverish pitch, and three dangerously entangled anthropologists will never be the same again. Jaw-droppingly, heart-stoppingly beautiful. I loved this book." --Paula McLain, *New York Times* bestselling author

"I have come to expect Lily King's nuanced explorations of the human heart, but in this novel she pulled me in to the exotic world of a woman anthropologist working with undiscovered tribes in 1930s New Guinea and I was totally captivated. *Euphoria* is a great book! So great, that I stayed up late to finish it." --Karl Marlantes, *New York Times* bestselling author

"King changes the names (and the outcome) in this atmospheric romantic fiction set in New Guinea and clearly based on anthropologist Margaret Mead's relationship with her second and third husbands . . . A small gem, disturbing and haunting." --*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"The love lives and expeditions of controversial anthropologists Margaret Mead, Reo Fortune, and Gregory Bateson are fictionalized and richly reimagined in New England Book Award winner King's meaty and entrancing fourth book . . . While the love triangle sections do turn pages (Innuendo! Jealousy! Betrayal!), King's immersive prose takes center stage. The fascinating descriptions of tribal customs and rituals, paired with snippets of Nell's journals - as well as the characters' insatiable appetites for scientific discovery - all contribute to a thrilling read that, at its end, does indeed feel like *'the briefest, purest euphoria.'*" --*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Set between the First and Second World Wars, the story is loosely based on events in the life of Margaret Mead. There are fascinating looks into other cultures and how they are studied, and the sacrifices and dangers that go along with it. This is a powerful story, at once gritty, sensuous, and captivating." --*Booklist*

"Writers are childlike in their enthusiasm about other writers' good work. They're thinking: How'd they ever think of that? That's amazing/beautifully written/true! Imagine all the effort that went into pulling this off. Could I do something this original/surprising/moving? I'm always happy to read Lily King, and I particularly enjoyed reading *Euphoria*." --Ann Beattie, award-winning author of *Chilly Scenes of Winter*

"Fresh, brilliantly structured, and fully imagined, this novel radically transforms a story we might have known, as outsiders - but now experience, through Lily King's great gifts, as if we'd lived it." --Andrea Barrett, National Book Award-winning author

"Lily King delves into the intellectual flights and passions of three anthropologists - as complex, rivalrous, and brutal as any of the cultures they study. *Euphoria* is a brilliantly written book." --Alice Greenway, *Los Angeles Times* Award-winning author

"Adventure and romance, danger and knowledge, desire and desolation: these are a few of my favorite things. And, exquisitely braided, they form the core of *Euphoria*. Set in the 1930s, in a New Guinea that Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson would recognize with delight and trepidation, this passionate and thrilling new novel reminds us that all our mores are fictions, that culture itself is only a story we tell ourselves. And what a harrowing tale Lily King weaves from these threads. I'm left breathless, excited, ready to wander and explore, a little afraid, enamored, enlightened." --Bill Roorbach, author of *Life among Giants*

"Inspired by an event in the life of Margaret Mead, this novel tells the story of three young anthropologists in 1930s New Guinea . . . This three-way relationship is complex and involving, but even more fascinating is the depiction of three anthropologists with three entirely diverse ways of studying another culture." --*Library Journal* (starred review)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steve Adams:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book *Euphoria* was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The book *Euphoria* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book *Euphoria*. You never experience lose out for everything should you read some books.

Eric Lowe:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Euphoria* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Martin Norwood:

E-book is one of source of information. We can add our information from it. Not only for students but native or citizen require book to know the up-date information of year in order to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, could also bring us to around the world. Through the book *Euphoria* we can get more advantage. Don't one to be creative people? Being creative person must choose to read a book. Just simply choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life with that book *Euphoria*. You can more appealing than now.

Christopher Melendez:

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