

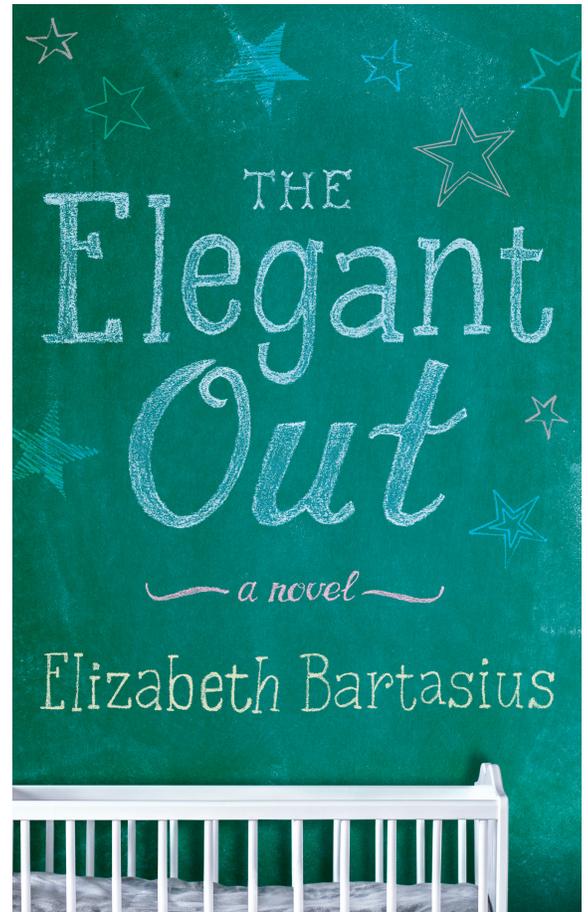


THE ELEGANT OUT

A Novel

After escaping an abusive relationship, Elizabeth finds herself struggling with immense feelings of inadequacy. Stuck in a small-town, eight to five job, she dreams of characters and plot lines—when she's not thinking about babies. She wants another. Gabe, her love, does not. When her writing coach praises her talent and encourages her to write, Elizabeth dives in, resolved to pursue her dream of publishing once again and put her ideas about pregnancy on the back burner. But then everyone around her, from her cousin to the couple-that-never-would, starts announcing their own pregnancies, and her baby obsession comes rushing back—accompanied by a deep depression.

Frustrated with Gabe's refusal to give her another child—as well as his questioning of her motives—Elizabeth finds herself considering a separation. Writing, meanwhile, becomes a tool for beating herself up over her inability to find her voice. Ultimately, she must face an abusive past to answer a complex question: Is having babies the answer, or simply a distraction from her immense feelings of inadequacy and fear—an elegant out? If she fails to uncover her truth, Elizabeth fears she might remain strangled, her voice squelched forever.



FOR FANS OF

- *Play for Me* by Celine Keating
- *I Like You Just Fine When You're Not Around* by Ann Garvin
- *Today Will Be Different* by Maria Semple

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We hope you'll consider *The Elegant Out* for any upcoming reviews, author Q&As and roundups you're planning.

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ADVANCE PRAISE

"[A] riveting tale of maturing womanhood and an insightful peek into the creative process." — **Kirkus**

"Beautifully told, this story of a woman at her fertility crossroads will resonate with many readers. Choosing between the long-term commitment of having a child and the joyous fulfillment of writing a novel feels like a downside of being a liberated woman, but working out the answer can lead to insights that expand the heart." — **Jenni Ogden, author of *A Drop in the Ocean***

"An ode to creativity that combines psychological insight with the passionate pursuit of inspiration. Moving, absorbing, and honestly written." — **Jessica Levine, author of *Nothing Forgotten***

"Deliciously funny and honest. Elizabeth Bartasius's spirited writing draws us deeply and vividly into what is, at the core, every woman's story." — **Kristina Hall, comedian and creator of *Stand Up!***

"The novel of the year that you WILL NOT be able to put down." — **Abigail Skeans, Esq., cofounder of Pomona Society**

"*The Elegant Out* is a true treasure—a story you will turn to time and again for inspiration, heart, and a good chuckle when you need it." — **Monica Mehta, author of *The Entrepreneurial Instinct***

"Reminiscent of Anne Lamott's works, *The Elegant Out* grapples with the glorious, messy intersection of real life and true art." — **Patricia Minger, author of *Magic Flute***

"Really lovely...fun...impressionistic...poetic...evocative." — **Kate Maloney, PhD, Producer & Executive Producer of *WeRiseUP The Movie***

"I lost myself in this story...the plot unravels beautifully." — **Kristen Moeller, author of *What Are You Waiting For: Learn How to Rise to the Occasion of Your Life***

"The eloquence of the writing is palpable. Her words paint pictures. I couldn't get enough of it. Like a good cup of coffee that you want to savor. More than that, *The Elegant Out* is a reminder we all have our hands around our own throats choking off our self-expression, and we all have the power to remove them, should we choose too. A beautiful written book by a brilliant writer." — **Jennifer Coken, author of *When I Die, Take My Panties* and *Embrace the Ridiculousness***

"Deep insights, enjoyable characters, a delightful unfolding of an intimate conversation." — **Annie Rose Stathes - Social Justice Performance Artist at *BeAuthentic.com***

"Elizabeth Bartasius' wit will have you laughing out loud. Her gritty, steadfast prose offer comfort and understanding. Her heroine's honest tone assures readers that they too do not have to apologize for unflattering, vulnerable, and painful missteps." — **Jill Murphy Long, author of *The Conduit*, *Skiing with God*, *Permission to Nap*, *Permission to Party*, and *Permission to Play***

"*The Elegant Out* is a true treasure — a story you will turn to time and again for inspiration, heart, and a good chuckle when you need it." — **Monica Mehta, author of *The Entrepreneurial Instinct***

"I love the way Elizabeth writes. Abuse is a triggering topic but she delivers the story with such grace." — **Shelly Bell, Business Strategist & Entrepreneur of the Year, Technically DC**

"Elizabeth B is on a warpath toward life. The author convincingly weaves the conflict of a thirty-six- year old caught between the biological imperative and the desire to birth herself as a writer. She paints a heartfelt picture of a woman in the throws of urgency. Bartasius explores the yearnings for forgiveness toward self and others in this portrayal of Elizabeth who can't seem to "take those hands off her throat" and emerge from her strangle hold. **The Elegant Out offers much wisdom, inspiration, self-reflection and love.**" – Barbara Sapienza, author of *Anchor Out*

ABOUT ELIZABETH:

Elizabeth Bartasius is a writer and editor of transformative stories that inspire and engage. *The Elegant Out*, her debut novel, placed as a finalist in the 2017 Faulkner–Wisdom Competition. She enjoys European cafes, tropical climates, and list-making. She currently lives in the US Virgin Islands with her husband and a rogue iguana. You can learn more about her at www.elizabethbartasius.com.



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