

new edition forthcoming



Acclaim for *NATANA* & Mercedes Clarasó



Shortlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award

"Roughly speaking, in spite of Natana's professed aim to reconcile this rationalist character called Philip Locke, very appropriately, to his two wives – the live one is called Davina and the dead one is called Elise – the reader rather assumes that this girl is either going to make him fall in love with her, or that she's going to fall in love with him herself . . .

"I was reminded, in many ways, not so much of other novels I'd read, but of the 1912–13 poems of Thomas Hardy. *Natana* conveys all sorts of extraordinary thoughts to the mind. It's a wonderfully original comedy, really, about the limits of rationalism. It's also a very touching love story."

A.N. Wilson, Prize-giving speech

"*Natana* spans many years, different countries, and even the worlds of the living and the dead. The characterization is subtle and endearing – the characters, in particular the women, are vividly and lovingly realized."

Scottish Book Collector

"Mercedes Clarasó brings an interesting perspective to the Scottish literary fascination of marrying opposites, be they characters, ideas or themes. She also tackles one of literature's most compelling and resonant ideas – where someone or something is irredeemably lost, where a character tries to come to terms with an action or series of actions whose importance he was unaware of in the past, but which has determined his future, or with a part of himself he does not understand . . . "

Herald

"A highly original novel, written with liveliness and charm."

David Daiches

"Clarasó has insight into psychological make-up and motive. With her maturity, she brings something valuable, a perspective that few young writers can give."

Scotsman

"A bewitching and intriguing love story which pulls the reader into the intrigue as early as the first page and never lets go. Only when reading the last chapter can you feel comfortable at drawing breath, such is the attraction of the characters and the changing moods."

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