



Maestra

By L.S. Hilton

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THE INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

THE BEST OF SKIMM READS 2016

“One of this year’s most talked about novels.” —*The Washington Post*

“A twenty-first-century femme fatale as lethal as Tom Ripley and as seductive as Bacall.” —*Vogue*

A put-upon assistant at a prestigious London art house, Judith Rashleigh is well-educated, well-groomed, and impeccably behaved—keeping the darker desires she indulges on nights off as her own little secret. But when Judith uncovers a dangerous heist, her life is shattered and she’s forced to run. Armed with just her wits and a talent for self-invention, she makes her way from the French Riviera to Geneva, Rome, and the nightclubs of Paris, determined to take back what is rightfully hers.

The beginning of a darkly irresistible trilogy, *Maestra* follows the rise of Judith, a woman whose vulnerability and ruthlessness have left readers worldwide begging to know: where do you go when you've gone too far?

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Maestra By L.S. Hilton Bibliography

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- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of April 2016: A psychological thriller reminiscent of *The Talented Mr. Ripley* except that here Tom Ripley is the unreliable narrator Judith Rashleigh, a woman with a penchant for art, fashion and--let's just call it what it is--X-rated sex. At first Judith seems to be an ambitious working class girl trying to rise above her shabby roots and gain entry into the upper echelon of the art world and society, a world she knows she belongs in but can't quite touch. And that is where things begin, but when Judith is wronged, instead of falling apart she becomes someone new--a dangerous chameleon who's calculating ways gain entry to the glamorous life. *Maestra* challenges what you think you know about the characters and action right up until the very end in this smart, morally tangled, and very promising beginning to a new trilogy. --*Seira Wilson*

Review

"What makes a woman who'll do anything to get what she wants so threatening...and thrilling?...It's Judith's modes of retaliation that make her a radical heroine. She deploys a uniquely female arsenal...weaponizing femininity...It's hard not to feel vicariously empowered by a woman unapologetically in pursuit. Let's call her the Sheryl Sandberg of sociopaths, leaning in to the hilt."—*O, The Oprah Magazine*

"*Maestra* will be one of this year's most talked-about novels...Judith may well be [a] more interesting character [than Patricia Highsmith's Tom Ripley]...Will Judith's dreams come true, or will her crimes catch up with her? We won't know right away. At least two more of her adventures remain...More mayhem, more art—and certainly more sex—lie ahead for insatiable Judith and for all those consenting adults who will delight in her endless ups and downs."—*The Washington Post*

"This year's most erotic novel makes *Fifty Shades* look like the Bible. If British author L. S. Hilton had her way, her new book *Maestra* would come with a warning label on it. "It would say, 'THIS IS NOT A LOVE STORY.'"...Bound to be the It beach book of the summer...Unapologetic, confident and quite the sociopath, protagonist Judith Rashleigh is no Anastasia Steele."—*New York Post*

"*Maestra* features a feisty, morally complex and sharp heroine who may appeal to fans of Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*."—*The New York Times*

"An unpredictable London auction-house assistant turned high-class escort slips effortlessly into the world of the glamorous and wealthy, crossing international borders and leaving destruction in her wake."—*The Wall Street Journal*, "5 Killer Books for 2016"

"The European art world mixes with an underground world (hint: sex parties). This thriller is like *The Talented Mr. Ripley* meets *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Warning: it's VNSFW. That V is for very."—*The Skimm*

"[J]ubilantly mordant...Already optioned for the big screen by Amy Pascal, [*Maestra* is] the story of a twenty-first-century femme fatale as lethal as Tom Ripley and as seductive as Bacall."—*Vogue*

"Ever since Gillian Flynn dominated the book club circuit (and the big screen) with her psychological thriller *Gone Girl*, everyone's been waiting for the next mystery to sink their teeth into. [*Maestra*] is it. The best part? It's the first in a trilogy."—*InStyle*

“Judith is a compelling and oddly relatable narrator. The challenges she faces as an outsider trying to break in are near-universal, particularly since she battles a male-dominated field and works against her own socioeconomic background...A taut, meaty thriller that’s certainly on par with those bestselling ‘girls’ in terms of intrigue, surprising twists, and unputdownableness, while Judith Rashleigh’s single-minded and self-centered quest for wealth and acceptance could well be the most compelling since Patrick Bateman’s.”—*Chicago Review of Books*

“As readable as any crime thriller, but also clearly belongs in the literary tradition of *Moll Flanders* and *Vanity Fair*.”—*Sunday Times* (UK)

“Meet Judith, an art-house assistant who’ll make you root for the bad girl once you *really* get to know her.”—*Marie Claire*

“The name Judith Rashleigh will be on everyone’s lips, just like Amy Dunne (*Gone Girl*) and Lisbeth Salander (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) were in summers past...Thank the book gods that L. S. Hilton’s *Maestra* is only the first installment in a series.”—*Redbook*

“A *Gone Girl*-like thriller...This heavily hyped novel has already secured a seven-figure movie deal with Amy Pascal.”—*Hollywood Reporter*

“You’re going to want to hurry up and read this R-rated psychological thriller before it hits the big screen—it’s already been optioned by Columbia Pictures. Think *50 Shades of Grey* meets *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.”—*Allure.com*

“Delicious escapism—I loved it!”—Clare Mackintosh, international bestselling author of *I Let You Go*

“[A] deliciously Highsmithian thriller...As Judith assumes and sheds identities as effortlessly as her Louboutins during a twisty series of increasingly treacherous escapades, Hilton artfully conjures a glossy world where just about everything—and everyone—has its price.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Delicious...at once glamorous, edgy, decadent (like rich but somewhat bitter dark chocolate), erotic, and irresistible. Judith Rashleigh is just full of surprises. She is ruthless and yet, unlike [Patricia Highsmith’s] Ripley, she is vulnerable...[*Maestra*] is a gift for readers who delight in vengeful female protagonists. The detailed sex scenes will also appeal to fans of the *Fifty Shades* series. You can bet your Christian Louboutin stilettos they will love it.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

“It’s big.”—*Library Journal*

“Don’t underestimate Judith Rashleigh. With her life and everything she’s worked for at stake, *Maestra*’s fierce, unforgettable anti-heroine crafts a brilliant and dangerous scheme that she will go to shocking lengths to pull off. An edgy, decadent thriller that delivers shocking twists.”—Laura McHugh, award-winning author of *The Weight of Blood*

“Utterly un-put-down-able, a shocking and sexy psychological thriller.”—*Popsugar*

“Judith is no victim, and proves herself ballsier and more unflinching than the gangsters ostensibly running the show...This is already being compared to *The Girl on the Train* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* in terms of addictability.”—*Glamour* (UK)

“A psychological thriller set on the French Riviera, rather like Patricia Highsmith crossed with *Gone Girl*. Unsurprisingly, there’s a film deal in the works.”—*Harper’s Bazaar* (UK)

“Brimming with scandal, intrigue and mystery, this is a book that everyone is talking about.”—*Heat* (UK)

“One for fans of *Fifty Shades of Grey*.”—*Grazia* (UK)

“*Maestra* is riveting, with a dominant character who is brilliant, sly, deadly, and entirely in control of her life. The book is unpredictable and multifaceted. Judith is one of the most memorable females in recent fiction; she is a marvelous character, perfect for film.”—Amy Pascal, Columbia Pictures producer

“[F]unny and clever, entertaining and well written, with smart, knowing references to everything from *Grazia* magazine to the Italian baroque painter Artemisia Gentileschi...*Maestra* is destined for the bestseller charts, and Hilton will be publishing *Viagra*.”—*The Sunday Times* (UK)

“*Maestra* twists and turns to morph into a crime thriller packed with...nail-biting antics and scandalous seductions.”—*Marie Claire* (UK)

“Sharp and extremely well written.”—*Daily Mail* (UK)

“[V]oracious...sexually uninhibited, completely unapologetic.”—*The Telegraph* (UK)

“You’ll love it if you liked *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.”—*Cosmopolitan* (UK), “The Buzz Book” for April 2016

“A fast-paced romp... *Maestra* lives up to the hype.”—*Red* (UK)

“Judith knows what she wants and she’s not afraid to do everything in her power to get it. The film rights for this *Gone Girl* meets *Fifty Shades* thriller have already been snapped up, so grab your copy now.”—*Essentials* (UK)

“A pacy, sexy thriller set in the decadent world of the super-rich with a resourceful heroine at its heart.”—*Woman & Home* (UK)

“The most hotly anticipated thriller of 2016...*Maestra* is fast, hedonistic, clever and erotic.”—*Good Reading* (UK)

About the Author

L. S. Hilton is the author of the *New York Times* and internally bestselling novel *Maestra* and *Domina*. She grew up in England and has lived in Key West, New York City, Paris, and Milan. After graduating from Oxford, she studied art history in Paris and Florence. Hilton has worked as a journalist, art critic, and broadcaster, and is presently based in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cornelius Ryerson:

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