

CENTRAL AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE 2023

I am thrilled and honoured to present just a small selection of shows that our Central community will be participating in at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe - the world's largest arts festival. This brochure offers a glimpse of the incredible work that will be there to enjoy, and for a more extensive line-up please see our website.

Furthermore, I look forward to bringing our students, alumni, staff and friends at the Fringe together again this year for a special **Central Celebration in Edinburgh on Tuesday 15 August**. It gives me immense delight to co-host this extraordinary event alongside Jenny Sealey OBE, Central's Vice-President, and Artistic Director of Graeae.

Join me in celebrating the exceptional artistry and creativity that our Central community will bring to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year!

Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE

ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

For a full list of Edinburgh shows featuring our alumni and students see www.cssd.ac.uk/biog/central-edinburgh-fringe-2023

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The information in this brochure was prepared in advance of the Festival and the content was accurate at the time. The show content and images are the responsibility of the respective organisers and not Central.

30 AND OUT
 Prentice Productions with Kit Sinclair
 Pleasance Courtyard - Baby Grand (Venue 33)
 2-5, 7-28 August, 12.45pm

Kit just left her boyfriend and the closet. While her friends marry and get mortgages, she is starting again in whirlwind of drugs, clubs and heartbreak. Is it too late to be a lesbian? Join Kit in this hilarious, sexy and painful portrayal of drawing your own blueprint.



AFTER THE ACT (A SECTION 28 MUSICAL)
 Breach Theatre co-produced by New Diorama, in association with Traverse
 Traverse Theatre - Traverse 1 (Venue 15)
 3, 5-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, times vary

'Queers in classrooms?' 'Perverts panicking parents?' - a new musical about pride, protest... and abseiling lesbians. Section 28's landmark legislation that silenced a generation and offered a global blueprint for LGBTQ+ oppression. Two decades after its repeal, theatre company Breach Theatre sing and dance on the grave of this watershed moment in LGBTQ+ history.



ALAN TURING - GUILTY OF LOVE
 David Kettle Productions Limited
 Hill Street Theatre - Alba Theatre (Venue 41)
 4-27 August, 2.10pm

Everyone knows about the code breaking genius of Alan Turing, but behind the mathematical genius lay a man of great passion. With sublime melodies, this incredibly moving, uplifting and thought provoking new musical delves into Turing's youthful love of Christopher Morcom and how this shaped his life and work.



ARCADE
 DARKFIELD PRESENTS
 Summerhall - The Terrace (Venue 26)
 3-27 August, times vary

DARKFIELD's new show ARCADE is an interactive experience in a shipping container that uses the aesthetics of 1980s video games, complete darkness, 360 degree binaural sound and sensory effects to immerse players in a war-torn world through which they can choose their own path.



ARTIST/MUSE
 WNWIC
 Assembly George Square Studios - Studio Five (Venue 17)
 3-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 12.25pm

LET Award finalist 2023. A life drawing class plunges you into the chaotic world of Paul and Olivia, two lost souls in NYC's vibrant art scene circa 1920. Inspired by the story of Fedeve Oliver, artist model and muse to Picasso, this new play invites audiences to witness (or condone?) the evolution and dissolution of their relationship as the lines blur between creation/destruction, genius/collaboration and love/rabise.



BACON
 Sophia Swithbank, directed by Matthew Liffie, produced by HHF Productions
 Summerhall - Cairns Lecture Theatre (Venue 26)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 3.30pm

The return of the multi award-winning play, BACON is an unflinching and unexpectedly humorous look at masculinity, sexuality and power, through this dizzying lens of a novel. Winner of the Tony Craze Award and three Off-West End Awards for Best Director and Best Performance in a Play.



BEASTS (WHY GIRLS SHOULDN'T FEAR THE DARK)
 Mendi Chivasa
 ZOO Playhouse - Playground 2 (Venue 186)
 4-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 2.20pm

BEASTS is a one-woman tour de force production about the experience of street harassment, the effect of intimidation, and how women are supposed to feel safe when those who are sworn to protect us admit that they can't.



BOWJANGLES: DRACULA IN SPACE
 Bowjangles / Something For The Weekend
 Gilded Balloon Patter Hoose - Downstairs (Venue 24)
 2-27 August, 4.30pm

Forget everything you know about string quartets. Bowjangles are an irreverent, anarchic group of genre-spanners, bringing music, theatre and comedy together in a way you've never seen before. Now, the award-winning foursome are blasting into outer space to meet a mysterious benefactor whose proposition seems a little too good to be true...



BURNING DOWN THE HORSE
 Fishing 4 Chips
 Pleasance Courtyard - Beneath (Venue 33)
 2-15, 17-27 August, 1.05pm

BURNING DOWN THE HORSE, a brand new immersive comedy set onboard the most iconic wooden animal in history - the certain dome. Be prepared to contend with heroic egos, class clashes and sword supply issues. Oh, and for gods' sakes, no naked flames!



CASTING THE RUNES
 Box Tale Soup
 Pleasance Courtyard - Pleasance Above (Venue 33)
 2-15, 17-27 August, 11.45am

You are invited to the edge of your seat, on a journey to the darkest corners of the night... Expert on the so-called supernatural, Howard Dunning is a scholar and a sceptic. But when he crosses paths with the mysterious Mr Karswell, Dunning's life becomes a waking nightmare. A chilling new adaptation of M R James' classic ghost stories.



CHARACTER FLAW
 Philippa Dawson
 Greenside @ Nicholson Square - Lime Studio (Venue 209)
 4-12, 14-19, 21-26 August, 5.20pm

Pip's bold and captivating solo performance following Pip as she intertwines humour and enlightenment through personal experiences with ADHD whilst exploring its impact on her sexuality. Through captivating storytelling and sketch, and a clever use of voiceover and music, the show engages the audience whilst promoting acceptance of neurodiversity.



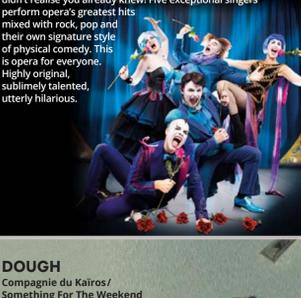
THE COLLIE'S SHED
 Island Life Productions
 Gilded Balloon Patter Hoose - Other Yin (Venue 24)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 1.15pm

Based in a Men's Shed in East Lothian, THE COLLIE'S SHED follows four retired miners as they discover how a review into the policing of the '80s mining strikes and a potential Miners' Pardon Bill by the Scottish Government suddenly affects them, their friendships and their relationships.



A COMEDY OF OPERAS
 Yllana / Something For The Weekend
 Pleasance at EICC - Pentland Theatre (Venue 150)
 2-8, 10-15, 17-20, 22-23, 25-27 August, times vary

Multi award-winning international sell-out show! Featuring the world's favourite arias - including many that you didn't know a scholar and a sceptic. This is opera for everyone. Highly original, subtly talented, utterly hilarious.



COWBOYS AND LESBIANS
 Spring Lamb
 Pleasance Dome - 10Dome (Venue 23)
 2-11, 13-15, 17-27 August, 1.35pm

Somewhere in the Deep South, sometime... A misunderstood teen girl is falling for a mysterious cowboy with a dark past. Meanwhile, in London... Nina and Noa are wasting their youth on flashcards and fantasies about their teachers. They've never done drugs, they've never been to a party. They've never even been kissed... And they're absolutely never going to admit that they fancy each other.



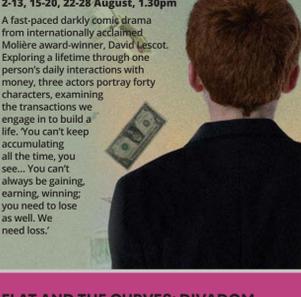
DOKTOR KABOOM AND THE WHEEL OF EVEN MORE SCIENCE!
 Doktor K Worldwide / Something For The Weekend
 Pleasance Courtyard - Pleasance Beyond (Venue 33)
 2-5, 7-17, 19-27 August, 12.00pm

The Doktor is back! With even more science! More laughs! More Kaboom! Spin the wheel and choose what happens next. Giant chemical reactions! Fly a homemade craft! Shrink-wrapping your teenager! Every show is different. With Government support for 2023, don't miss this spectacular 'museum' (Entertainment-Now.com) show for all ages.



DOUGH
 Compagnie du Kairos / Something For The Weekend
 Pleasance Dome - KingDome (Venue 23)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-28 August, 1.20pm

A fast-paced darkly comic drama from internationally acclaimed Moliere award-winner, David Lescot. Exploring a lifetime through one person's daily interactions with money, three actors portray forty characters, examining the transactions we engage in to build a life. You can't keep accumulating wealth all the time, you see... You can't always be gaining, earning, winning, you need to lose as well. We need loss.



ELVIS DIED OF BURGERS
 BLINK Dance Theatre
 Summerhall - Red Lecture Theatre (Venue 26)
 2-5, 7-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 11.45am

Elvis DIED OF BURGERS is an expression of the BLINK Director's love of food - dancing, rapping and rhyming about it. This non-linear, semi-improvised performance takes audiences on a journey through the cast's own memories and deep dives into culinary conundrum surrounding the end of Elvis' life.



EULOGY
 DARKFIELD
 Pleasance Dome - Potterwell Plaza - Container 1 (Venue 23)
 2-28 August, times vary

EULOGY is a surreal, otherworldly journey through a cosmic, labyrinthine hotel that exists entirely in your mind. How you arrived is a mystery and why you are there remains unclear. Just make sure you read the pamphlet.



FLAT AND THE CURVES: DIVADOM
 Lee Martin for Gag Reflex
 Pleasance Dome - QueenDome (Venue 23)
 2-27 August, 9.50pm

The four fabulous frontwomen explore modern-day feminism through self-portrait songs about sex, scandal and sisterhood, drawing influence from the divas that came before them, from '90s girl groups to classical prima donnas.



FRIEND (THE ONE WITH GUNTER)
 Brendan Murphy's Worldwide Comedy Award
 Winner presented by James Seabright
 Gilded Balloon at the Musaeum - Auditorium (Venue 64)
 2-5, 7-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 4.00pm

One barista. 10 seasons. 70 minutes. All 236 episodes of Friends retold through the eyes of Gunter, Central Perk's very own seventh friend. Discover the true insider story of what happened from the character who kept everyone caffeinated!



THE FRUITY PRINCE
 The Pesky Players
 Paradise in the Vault - The Vault (Venue 29)
 2-12, 15-20, 22-28 August, 3.35pm

The Virgin Queen? I don't think so! Lizzy has got a son and he might just be a little bit fruity. Henry VIII has been lost in the mists of telenovela history for too long. Finally, he's here to claim what is rightfully his (only took him 500 years!). Join us for a sizzling Tudor romp through seduction and scandal.



GENTRIF*CKED
 Backbone TFC
 Just the Tonic at the
 The Little Kirk (Venue 27)
 14-19, 21-26 August, 6.00pm

British Writers' Guild Award-nominee Kate Lutz Elliott tells stories that are self-deprecating and (according to a drunk mate at the Fringe) unexpectedly profound. GENTRIF*CKED is an award-winning standup show about village life, thirty-something existential crises, a wheelchair, and asking to jailing a cat... (specifically not like Kate's grandma did). As seen on BBC, Netflix and London's West End.



THE HALF MOON
 Alice Malshead and Emily Foran, Lyric Belfast, Pleasance
 Pleasance Dome - JackDome (Venue 23)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-28 August, 2.35pm

THE HALF MOON is a ferociously optimistic story of home and hope, as we meet four generations of women from one Belfast family, all struggling with their sense of feeling trapped in their small community of Tiger's Bay. A gritty, warm, truly Belfast story - amplifying the voices of women who historically haven't been heard.



HELP YOURSELF
 Jess Brodie, Victoria Bianchi, Emma Ruse Productions
 Summerhall - Demonstration Room (Venue 26)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 4.00pm

Have you ever felt like you didn't have the words? Have you ever felt like you wanted to say the exact right thing, but couldn't? Have you ever wanted to make someone stop crying and just shut up? Then our HELP YOURSELF seminar is for you! HELP YOURSELF is a new piece of contemporary theatre exploring self-care, grief and friendship.



HIVE
 Mushmoss Collective
 Assembly Roxy - Downstairs (Venue 139)
 2-5, 7-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 1.20pm

HIVE An uncanny adventure where friendly cryptids. Set at a demolition site. A queer, weird fiction, new play about memory, displacement and corporate development. Using lyrical language to explore lost homes, west storms and eldritch infestations.



THE ICE HOLE: A CARDBOARD COMEDY
 Compagnie le Fils du Grand Réseau / Something For The Weekend
 Pleasance Courtyard - The Grand (Venue 33)
 2-28 August, times vary

A great actor, recounts an epic journey from the fjords of Iceland to the dunes of the Spanish desert. Cursed by the mermaid he once accidentally caught, he is aided by one fellow performer, a language no-one quite understands and a thousand pieces of cardboard. In the spirit of Monty Python with a twist of Laurel and Hardy, the theatrical acrobatics from these virtuosos performers will make you howl with laughter.



I LOVE YOU, NOW WHAT?
 Sophie Craig / The Recreate Agency
 Pleasance Courtyard - Beside (Venue 33)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-28 August, 3.35pm

Can love survive when someone dies? No bastard ever warned me that your love life goes down the shitter when someone dies. This brilliantly funny, heart-warming and raw debut play by actor and comedian Sophie Craig, examines a beautifully ugly story about grief and love's place within it.



IT'S A MOTHERKING PLEASURE**
 FlawBored - Untapped Award Winner 2023
 Underbelly, Bristol Square - Friesian (Venue 302)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 2.20pm

Usually disabled people want to do the right thing. But what if they don't? What if they were out to make as much money as possible from the guilt of non-disabled, anxious people? Multiple award-winning disability-led theatre company FlawBored present a scathing satire on a life before the memorial identity politics that spares no one.



LADY DE LADY DE LADY DE LADY DE LADY DE
 Gracey Dickson Productions
 Roundabout @ Summerhall - ROUNDABOUT (Venue 20)
 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-27 August, 4.00pm

Charly is unshowered, fresh from a break-up & avoiding her Mum like the plague. But she's irrelevant. All you need to know right now is that Charly is a drug dealer. And she's really good at her job. Lady Dealer is a nine-minute poem play by Martha Watson Allpress.



LIZ GUTTERICK: GERIATRIC ROCK!
 Liz Gutterick
 Pleasance Courtyard - The Cellar (Venue 33)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 4.15pm

Dual national, bisexual, Half-American. Die? In her debut show, California native Liz Gutterick (2022 Union JACK Radio Ones to Watch) explores belonging and why we can stay in love with the life as we grow older.



LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER: THE IMPROVED WHODUNNIT
 Pinch Punch
 Gilded Balloon Patter Hoose - Other Yin (Venue 24)
 2-12, 14-27 August, 5.45pm

Pinch Punch welcome you aboard LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER: THE IMPROVED WHODUNNIT, a totally improved, totally outrageous murder mystery, where killing the cast and shaking the case is in your hands. Expect dubious accents and craking alibis, along with thrills, spills, and good old-fashioned kills.



ABOUT JAMIE
 Jamie Finn
 Underbelly, Cowgate - Iron Belly (Venue 61)
 3-13, 15-27 August, 3.40pm

After Jamie's dumped, spin instructor Lily takes him in and he spends five years learning how to move forward, on a bike that doesn't work. But what do you do when a friend breaks up with you? Jamie Finn blends storytelling, comedy and song. He explores what it means to be a queer person who will finally talk about Jamie!



AN OAK TREE
 Francesca Moody Productions
 Royal Lyceum Theatre Hotel that exists entirely in your mind. How you arrived is a mystery and why you are there remains unclear. Just make sure you read the pamphlet.



PAVED WITH GOLD AND ASHES
 Threudumb Theatre
 Greenside @ Infirmary Street - Olive Studio (Venue 238)
 14-19, 21-26 August, 6.40pm

Based on a true event in New York City, 1911. With immigrants arriving from all over Europe, for many the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory is one of the most coveted places to work. But as five young women battle poverty, capitalism, unfair working conditions, and one of the deadliest work-related disasters in US history, their dreams soon turn to ashes...



PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE
 ClusterFlux Collective
 Underbelly, Cowgate - Big Belly (Venue 61)
 3-13, 15-24 August, 11.00am

In hazmat suits, enclosed within a white polythene box and confronted with a rising fourth wall, ClusterFlux address the impending climate crisis through a personal and mysterious, encapsulating their complex relationship to the past, the joy of living in the moment and fears for an uncertain future.



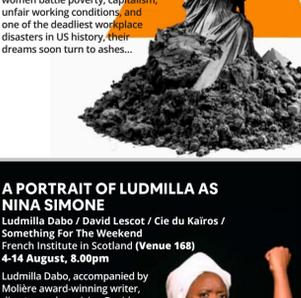
POLKO
 PIG Productions
 ROUNDABOUT @ Summerhall - ROUNDABOUT (Venue 26)
 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-27 August, 11.50pm

As teenagers, Emma, Job and Polko thought they'd never grow apart. When Emma returns to the suburb of their childhood ten years later she discovers nothing, and everything has changed.



A PORTRAIT OF LUDMILLA AS NINA SIMONE
 Ludmilla Dabo / David Lescot / Cie du Kairos / Something For The Weekend
 French Institute in Scotland (Venue 168)
 4-14 August, 8.00pm

Ludmilla Dabo, accompanied by Moliere award-winning writer, director and musician David Lescot, stage a moving, intimate and dazzling portrait of the iconic 'High Priestess of Soul', Nina Simone. Through the legendary singer's music and life story, intertwined with personal stories from Dabo's own journey from young musical prodigy to her role as a major figure in the civil rights movement.



SÉANCE
 DARKFIELD
 Pleasance Dome - Potterwell Plaza - Container 2 (Venue 23)
 2-28 August, times vary

SÉANCE, the first DARKFIELD shipping container experience, transforms the interior of a 24ft container into a Victorian séance room. Over 20 minutes it explores the psychology of a group of people, and asks that they believe, not only in what seems to be happening inside the container but also in what might be conjured up into the room with them.



SELF-RAISING
 Graeae Theatre Company, in association with Theatre Iolo, Soho Theatre
 Pleasance Dome - QueenDome (Venue 23)
 2-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 12.30pm

'It starts with a secret. It's a real secret and I had to keep it for a long time... SELF-RAISING is a true life story about growing up deaf in a hearing world that has a secret. Award-winning Artistic Director of disabled-led theatre company, Graeae, Jenny Sealey has spent a lifetime championing stories by deaf and disabled artists. In SELF-RAISING she takes to the stage to tell her own...



SHOWSTOPPERS: THE MUSICAL
 The most-seen, Olivier Award-winning West End hit is back! Watch the masters of musical improv create a brand new musical comedy from scratch at every single performance of this multi award-winning show. Audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into an all-singing, all-dancing show with hilarious results.



SIAPA YANG BAWA MELAYU AKU PERGI? (WHO TOOK MY MALAY AWAY?)
 Izzatul Abdullah
 Summerhall - TechCube 0
 2-13 August, 4.20pm

A lecture-performance that investigates Faizal's Muslim-Malay-Singaporean identity and his relationship with each noun, especially the latter two. A love letter to Singapore, it addresses themes of colonisation, identity, indigenous displacement, and the loss of culture, heritage and language. As he teaches the audience about himself and the country that he still considers home, he explores what 'Malay' means to be Singaporean and Malay.



TANA
 Tana Project
 CARIS | C VUES | CaQua - studio (Venue 21)
 2-20 August, 12.00pm

Experience TANA, a captivating play breaking boundaries of friendship, self-discovery, and identity in a London lockdown, this spellbinding performance blends spoken word, physical theatre and cabaret. Follow Tana's cross-dressing journey, where Tana blurbs their friendship. Explore queer-Asian complexities, celebrate authenticity and redefine liberation.



THIS IS A CHAIR
 Cig and Dagger Productions
 theSpace @ Niddry St - Upper Theatre (Trust) (Venue 9)
 7-12 August, 3.50pm

The world is in an even more precarious place than it was when Fringe was originally written. Carly Churchill's 1999 masterpiece is brought up to date in a new staging for 2023. This is a Chair, or is it? Churchill's revolutionary play plays the latest and asks us if we should take everything or anything at face value.



WHAT IF
 withtheatre
 theSpace @ Surgeons Hall - Grand Theatre (Venue 53)
 14-19, 21-26 August, times vary

A heart-wrenching collision between illusion and reality, a telling story of a young couple in love as they embark on a turbulent journey of loss, immigration, frailty and hope. It solves the question, can true love survive everything, even death, or is there no place for love at time of war? An honest and authentic performance from Ukrainian and Russian actors, united on one stage.



WHEN WE DIED
 Alexandra Donnachie
 Summerhall - Anatomy Lecture Theatre (Venue 26)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 7.40pm

He's dead, and it's her job to prepare and present his body for his family's final goodbye. She often finds that people who imagine what their partner's life was like. But today she doesn't have to imagine who he is. She knows this man.



WILD ONION
 Orange Skies Theatre
 Gilded Balloon Patter Hoose - Doornstairs (Venue 24)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 3.00pm

This is the onion-smashing, Cyr-wheeling, tear-jerking tale of friendship, styled like a cabaret, told by three besties and 100 onions in this punky gossy mess. Meet Daisy, Jaide and Rachel, real life best friends, the day before the memorial service of their fourth bestie.



WITH THE DEVIL'S DESIRE
 Shona Cowie and Neil Sutcliffe
 Scottish Storytelling Centre - Netherbow Theatre (Venue 30)
 14-17, 19 August, 2.15pm

Sit down, I'll tell you a story. Maggie Osborne made a deal with the devil to bring prosperity to the high street and built a business in just one night with Auld Horny himself. The deal was cracker and the town boomed, so she burnt Maggie alive. The deal broke though and whilst I'm not saying any of this is true... it is there in the state of Scotland's high streets now.



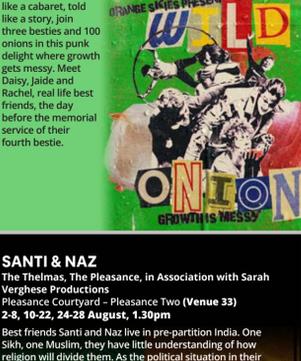
PLAYING LATINX
 Mariana Malena Theatre and Guido Garcia Lueches
 Summerhall - Cairns Lecture Theatre (Venue 26)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 6.55pm

Do you have what it takes to be a successful Latinx? Half stand-up, half freestyle, this fun, politically incorrect seminar will correct the audience on how to be a good immigrant. This one-hour show merges spoken word and music, comedy and poetry to explore both what the Latinx label means in the UK and, on a more personal level, the lengths we go to to fit in.



SANTI & NAZ
 The Thelmas, The Pleasance, in Association with Sarah Verghese Productions
 Pleasance Courtyard - Pleasance Two (Venue 33)
 2-8, 10-22, 24-28 August, 1.30pm

Best friends Santi and Naz live in pre-partition India. One Sikh, one Muslim, they have little understanding of how religion will divide them. As the political situation in their country worsens, and the threat of separation looms large on the horizon, they decide to take drastic action. Award-winning company The Thelmas explore queer love, identity and loyalty, as well as the backdrop of a country soon to be changed forever.



FOOL'S PARADISE
 Britti Plummer
 Summerhall - Old Lab (Venue 26)
 2-13, 15-20, 22-27 August, 5.50pm

Have you ever fallen in love with someone across the globe only to be held captive in your own country? From award-winning artist Britti Plummer comes a painfully relatable and heart-breaking hilarious autobiographical new work. An adventurer, dreamer and professional problem-solver, Britti sets out on an emotionally charged quest of romantic revelation and raw resilience to defy bureaucracy, hurdling the intricacies of modern relationships whilst attempting to maintain what remains of her sanity.



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