

ELIF BATUMAN

“Batuman's writing waltzes in a space in which books and life reflect each other.” — Los Angeles Times

Elif Batuman's writing has been described as helplessly witty and concise. She's a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and has published two critically acclaimed books – *The Possessed* and *The Idiot*.

Elif graduated from Harvard College and has a PhD in comparative literature from Stanford University. During graduate school she studied in Uzbekistan, and from 2010 to 2013, she was a writer-in-residence at Koç University, in Istanbul.

The Possessed is a collection of comic interconnected non-fiction essays about the pursuit of Russian literature. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *The New York Times* praises the book as, “hilarious, wide-ranging, erudite, and memorable, *The Possessed* is a sui generis feast for the mind and the fancy, ants and all.” *The Idiot* is a novel set in 1995 that observes the rise of internet culture and language's inability to communicate feelings or ideas accurately. Author Mary Karl praises *The Idiot*, saying, “this book is a bold, unforgettable, un-put-downable read by a new master stylist. Best book I've read in years.”

Elif is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, and a Paris Review Terry Southern Prize for Humor. She lives in Brooklyn, New York where she continues her love affair with Russian Literature.