

**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 is the author of three critically acclaimed books – *The Possessed*, *The Idiot*, and *Either/Or*. Her debut novel, *The Idiot*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2018.**

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. Her collection, *The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them*, consists 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.”

*Either/Or*, the much-anticipated sequel to Elif's Pulitzer Prize-nominated book, *The Idiot*, was released in 2022 – of which the *Washington Post* writes, “‘Either/Or’ is a sequel that amplifies the meaning of its predecessor while expanding its philosophical ambit – in short, the best kind.”

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, where she is a staff writer for the *New Yorker*.