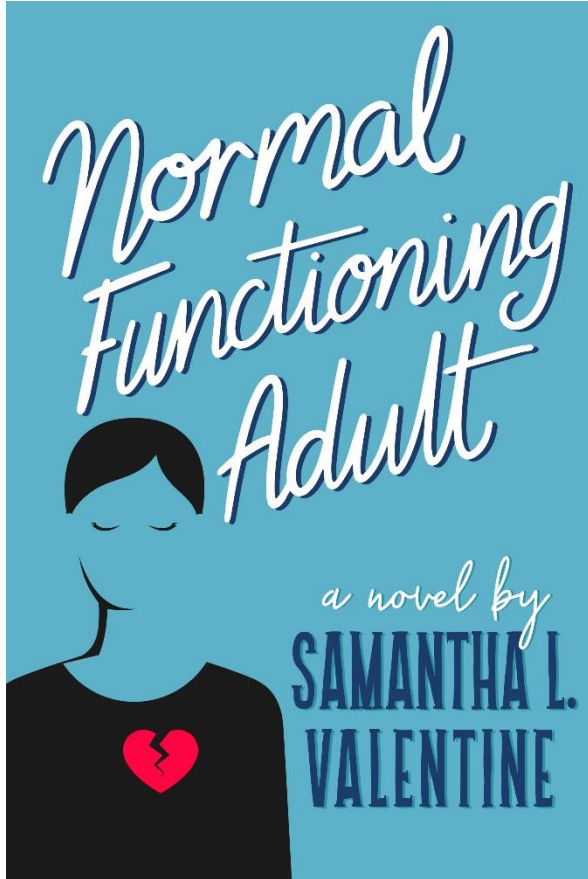


Normal Functioning Adult

a novel by

SAMANTHA L. VALENTINE



LIFE FOR AMY WAS NORMAL ONCE...

A year ago, Amy Campbell had the best life – a beautiful wife, a good career and great friends. Now, she’s a broken thirty-five-year-old widow who copes with her grief through a blur of sex and alcoholic indulgences.

With the encouragement of friends and family, Amy reluctantly attends group therapy in the hopes of mending her shattered soul.

As Amy strives to become a normal functioning adult again, work pressures, challenges of a new relationship and strains on close friendships she once thought unbreakable throw her recovery off course and create new heartache.

The more Amy tries to redefine herself, the more she’s forced to find the strength to confront her reality...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Samantha’s love of fictional worlds began as a young child, and she has since spent a lifetime reading across all genres. She is passionate about women’s and LGBTIQ+ fiction and wants the world to read more diverse Australian stories. She graduated with first class honours in English Language and Linguistics from the University of Westminster and holds a Master of Arts in Writing, Editing and Publishing from the University of Queensland. In her late teens, Samantha left North Queensland and lived in the Northern Territory and Western Australian for several years before heading to the UK for a one year working holiday that turned into a twelve-year stint living in London and Oxford. Samantha eventually returned to Australia and now lives in Brisbane with her wife and their two Boston terriers. *Normal Functioning Adult* is her first novel.

ISBN	9781922993038
Publication Date	25 MAY 2023
Genre	Adult & Contemporary Romance
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Author Location	Brisbane, QLD

Price available on our website

www.shawlinepublishing.com.au



Publisher contact: Bradley Shaw
Email: orders@shawlinepublishing.com.au

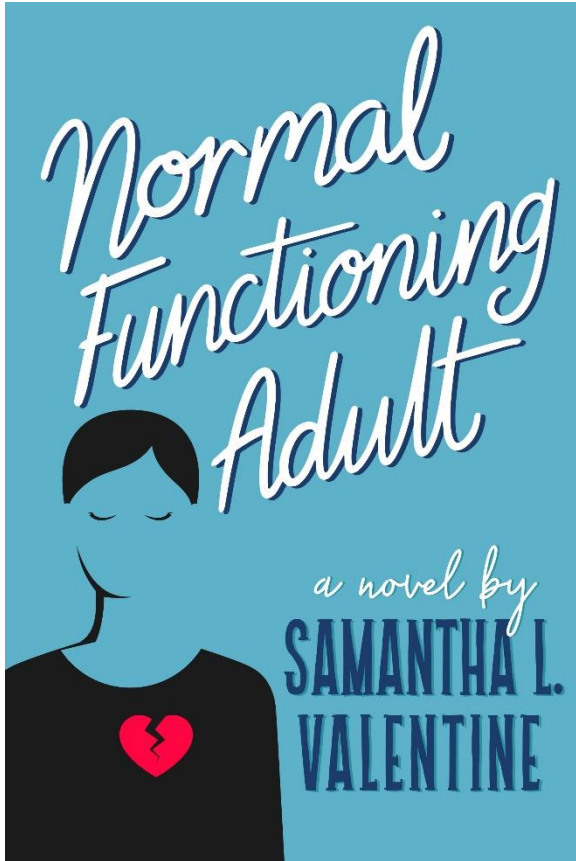
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND ALSO THESE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

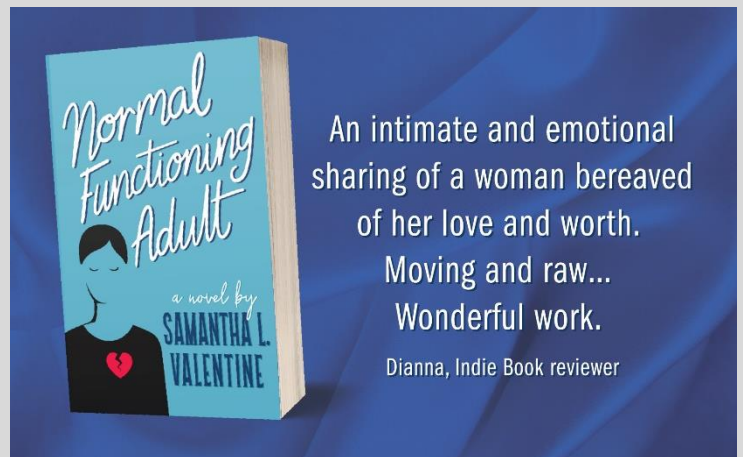
I'm a big fan of contemporary women's fiction, particularly novels I can escape into and forget about everything else for a while. I just want to relax, fall in love with the characters, enjoy the writing and get lost in the story and in all the feelings that might bring – laughter, tears, frustration – but I also love a happy ending. So that was the type of book I wanted to write.

WHAT DOES LITERARY SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Publishing my stories and finding a readership, even if it's small. For me, it's always been about writing a novel and having it published rather than winning awards or competitions or selling millions of copies. All of that would be nice, of course, but it's not what motivates me to write or what motivated me to publish.

IF YOU COULD TELL YOUR YOUNGER WRITER SELF ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Believe in yourself and don't wait so long to get started. Also, keep all the early stories you wrote as a kid. I remember writing a story when I was in grade six and my teacher asking me if I really wrote it. She pinned it up for everyone to read and now I wish I still had it!



An intimate and emotional sharing of a woman bereaved of her love and worth.

Moving and raw...

Wonderful work.

Dianna, Indie Book reviewer

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