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For fans of Lisa Owens, Maria Semple
and Zoe Heller...

THE THREAT LEVEL REMAINS SEVERE

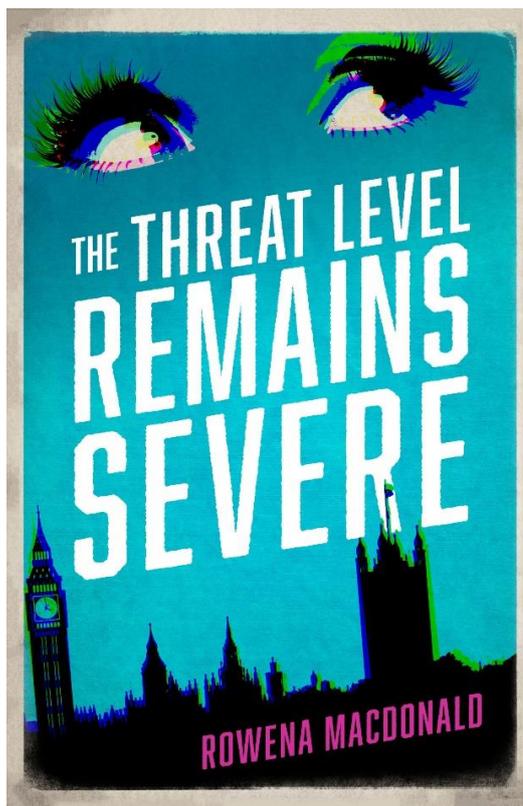
by Rowena Macdonald

To be published by Aardvark Bureau on 10th July,
price £8.99 paperback original.

This year's smart summer read....

A committee assistant who has worked at the House of Commons for 16 years is set to reveal the secret passions behind the closed doors of the corridors of power in her debut novel, *The Threat Level Remains Severe*.

Part thriller and part observation on the worlds of work and dating, *The Threat Level Remains Severe* is a smart summer read with a Bridget Jones-esque heroine but also a satirical behind-the-scenes look at Westminster.



'Sharp and entertaining' Carys Bray, author of *A Song for Issy Bradley*

'A stylish, bleakly funny and sad, acutely observed contemporary drama' Shena Mackay

About the Book:

Grace Ambrose, Brett Beamish and Reuben Swift appear to have little in common. For arty, liberal-minded House of Commons Secretary Grace, working life is cosy but dull and she knows she can do something better...but what? New recruit, Brett, an ambitious Australian, is on a mission to shake up the dusty backrooms of power but quickly irritates Grace with his brand of smooth-talking, fast-paced charm. And into the mix comes Reuben Swift; Grace's secret 'email' admirer. Soulful, enigmatic and possessed of many talents....is he too good to be true?

For fans of *Bridget Jones* everywhere...*The Threat Level Remains Severe* is a smart, funny, black comedy about working life and the perils of dating in the 21st century.

About the Author:

Rowena Macdonald lives with her family in East London and has worked at the House of Commons for 16 years. After studying at Sussex University, she trained as a journalist but won a short story competition run by the Asham Award in 1998 and decided to turn her attention to fiction. She lived in Montreal whilst writing her first (as-yet unpublished) novel and worked variously as a waitress, bartender and life-model before moving back to London and securing a job as a secretary at the House of Commons. She wrote her debut short story collection, *Smoked Meat* (Flambard Press), during her first few years back in London. This was shortlisted for the 2012 Edge Hill Prize.

***The Threat Level Remains Severe* is published by Aardvark Bureau on 10th July 2017, price £8.99 paperback original. For proof copies, more information or to interview Rowena please contact Emma Draude at 020 7732 4796 or email emma@edpr.co.uk**