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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Victoria Redel in conversation with Robin MacArthur at
2 Next Stage

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, presents an evening
6 with ~~acclaimed~~ author Victoria Redel in conversation with
7 award-winning writer Robin MacArthur Friday, May 8, at 7:30
8 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.) The event will also be available
9 via livestream.

10 Redel will discuss her ~~highly-anticipated~~ new novel, *I*
11 *Am You*, a ~~richly~~ imagined story set in 17th-century Amsterdam.

12 Inspired by historical fact, the novel follows Gerta
13 Pieters, a young girl raised as a boy in service to a Dutch
14 household, and Maria van Oosterwijck, a gifted painter
15 navigating the constraints of the Dutch Golden Age. Through their
16 intertwined lives, Redel explores themes of love, artistic
17 ambition, gender, and identity, illuminating the often-overlooked
18 struggles faced by women in history.

19 | ***I Am You*** has garnered widespread attention, including
20 recognition as a Bustle Most Anticipated Book of Fall 2025, a
21 Zibby Books Most Anticipated Book of Fall 2025, and a Book
22 Riot LGBTQ historical fiction highlight, as well as several other
23 awards.

24 | ~~The novel also received a starred review from *Publisher's*
25 *Weekly*, was named an Amazon Editors' Best Book in Literature
26 & Fiction, and selected as a People magazine Best New Book.~~

27 Foreign rights have sold in multiple international markets.

28 | The conversation will be led by ~~Robin~~ MacArthur, whose
29 debut short story collection ***Half Wild*** won the PEN New England
30 Award. MacArthur's work has appeared in ***Orion***, LitHub, The
31 ***Washington Post***, and on NPR, "and she brings a thoughtful and
32 engaging perspective to discussions of literature and craft," event
33 organizers wrote in a news release.

34 This event offers audiences an opportunity to hear
35 directly from Redel about the inspiration and research behind her
36 novel, as well as the broader questions it raises about identity,
37 history, and artistic expression.

38 Tickets are \$10 for in-person attendance and \$5 for
39 livestream access. For more information and to purchase tickets,
40 visit nextstagearts.org. ByWay Books & More of Brattleboro will
41 be on site with copies of ***I Am You*** and select titles by both
42 authors available for purchase.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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