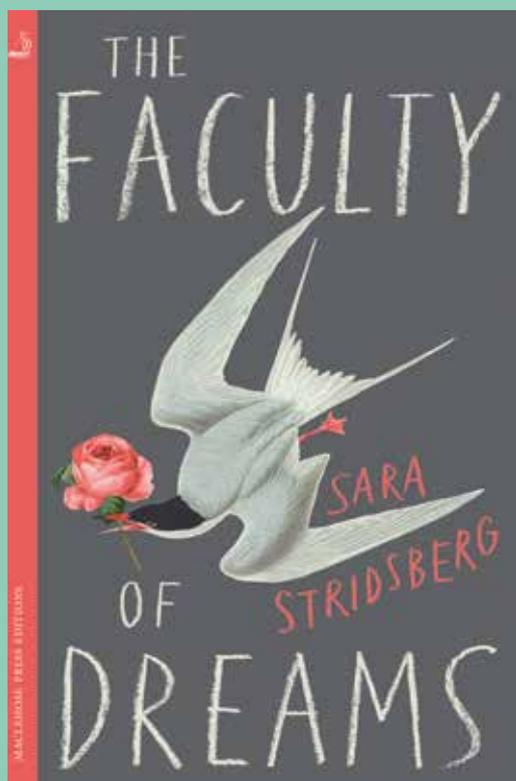




Reader's Guide



Other books by Sara Stridsberg
The Gravity of Love (2016)

The Faculty of Dreams Sara Stridsberg

Translated by Deborah Bragan-Turner

MacLehose Press

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About the author	Sara Stridsberg was born in Solna, Sweden, in August 1972. She is a writer and playwright, and was the youngest member of the Swedish Academy, until she resigned her chair in 2018. Her second novel, <i>The Faculty of Dreams</i> , won the Nordic Council Literature Prize, and her novels have four times been shortlisted for Sweden's August Prize. Her novel <i>The Gravity of Love</i> , has been sold in 15 languages and was the 2015 Swedish winner of the European Prize for Literature. Her most recent novel, <i>The Antarctica of Love</i> , was published in 2018. She lives in Stockholm.
About the translator	Deborah Bragan-Turner was born in Middlesbrough, UK, in February 1953. She is a translator of Swedish literature, and a former bookseller and academic librarian. Her previous translations include literary fiction and biographies and she has translated works by Per Olov Enquist and Anne Swärd. She has a degree in Scandinavian languages from University College, London. She lives in Faversham, UK.
About the book	<p>In April 1988, Valerie Solanas - the writer, radical feminist and would-be assassin of Andy Warhol - was discovered dead in her hotel room, in a grimy corner of San Francisco. She was only fifty-two; alone, penniless and surrounded by the typed pages of her last writings. A postscript in the lives of other, more famous, more powerful 20th-century figures.</p> <p><i>The Faculty of Dreams</i>, revisits and rebuilds the seedy hotel room where Solanas died, the Factory in New York where she met Warhol, the Manhattan courtroom where she was tried and convicted of attempted murder, the Georgia wastelands where she spent her poverty-stricken childhood, and the mental hospitals in which she was interned.</p> <p>Through imagined conversations and monologues, reminiscences and rantings, Sara Stridsberg reconstructs this most intriguing and enigmatic of women, articulating the thoughts and fears that she struggled to express in life and giving a powerful, heart-breaking voice to the writer of the infamous <i>SCUM Manifesto</i>.</p>
What the judges thought	'An acute exploration of the imminent possibility of tragedy in all our lives - performative, exhilarating, searing.'
Discussion points	<p>How do events in the world around her, such as the Vietnam War, impact on Valerie's life?</p> <p>What role do you think the different writing forms have in telling the story?</p> <p>Why is the abuse Valerie experienced as a child important in her life?</p> <p>Valeria Solanas became a martyr symbol for the growing feminist movement in 1960s America. Do you think she would still be seen in this way today?</p>
Themed reading	<p><i>SCUM Manifesto</i> by Valerie Solanas Considered one of the most outrageous, violence and certifiably crazy tracts when it first appeared in 1968, the SCUM Manifesto argues that men have ruined the world, and that it is up to women to fix it. It suggests the formation of SCUM, an organisation dedicated to overthrowing society and eliminating men.</p> <p><i>Valerie Solanas</i> by Breanne Fahs Biographer Fahs explores the fascinating back story of an infamous feminist whose actions shocked 1960s New York.</p> <p><i>Shedding</i> by Verena Stefan The transformation of a young woman's consciousness against the background of the rising women's movement of early 1970s Germany, portraying women living together in rural setting, independent of men.</p> <p><i>The Feminine Mystique</i> by Betty Friedan Sparking the second-wave of the Women's Movement in the USA, <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> discusses a wide variety of issues such as sexuality, reproductive rights, the workplace, and more.</p>
Useful links	<p>Review in <i>Swedish Book Review</i></p> <p>The Poetry of Exclusion in the Writings of Sara Stridsberg in <i>The History of Nordic Women's Literature</i></p> <p>She shot Andy Warhol: The story behind actress Valerie Solanas' attempt to assassinate a NYC icon, 6 sqft</p>