

NEW FROM RIVERHEAD BOOKS

"A story of secrets, impossible choices, and how we negotiate the uneasy space between our personal and public lives. Like Curtis Sittenfeld's *American Wife*, *The Majority* transforms the life of a singular woman into a compelling narrative that illuminates the most important themes playing out in America today."

—AMANDA EYRE WARD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Jetsetters*

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg is hammering her heavenly gavel in approval. *The Majority* is replete with raw emotional context, perception, and humanity that resonates far beyond the page."

—SARAH MCCOY, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Marilla of Green Gables*

"Incisive... Ginsburg's many admirers will be captivated by her literary counterpart."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

THE MAJORITY ELIZABETH L. SILVER

"With the story of one remarkable woman's life, *The Majority* reveals how the lives of all women have been altered over the course of the last eighty-some years. Exploring important questions about the sacrifices we both should and shouldn't make for those we care about, Silver has written a novel at once intimate and epic, about how we are changed by experience, and how the people we love are central to these transformations."

—EDAN LEPUCKI, *New York Times* bestselling author of *California*

"*The Majority* is the great American novel you will urge your daughters and sisters and friends to read... The story of Sylvia Olin Bernstein is rendered with such clarity and compassion that readers will reconsider everything they thought they knew about the remarkable women who transformed American history."

—JULIA FIERRO, author of *Cutting Teeth* and *The Gypsy Moth Summer*

"This book should be required reading. I was literally lost in *The Majority* and it changed me"

—NATASHIA DÉON, NAACP-nominated author of *The Perishing*

"Surprisingly personal ... The complexity of Sylvia's background and the personal cost of her commitment make for a thought-provoking read with many echoes of a certain departed Supreme Court Justice also known by three initials."

—JANET FITCH, *New York Times* bestselling author of *White Oleander* and *The Revolution of Marina M.*

"Restored my faith in justice. I loved this novel."

—LYNN STEGER STRONG, author of *Flight*

"Readers will, of necessity, think of real-life trailblazers Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, but Silver wisely brings a universality to Sylvia's story of sacrifice and determination, making it recognizable to women of every era, background, and profession who battle to forge their own paths against society's limiting expectations."

—BOOKLIST

Riverhead Books is delighted to share an evocative and sweeping novel of sacrifice, heartache, and the complex emotional life of a powerful woman ahead of her time. **THE MAJORITY** by Elizabeth L. Silver (on sale July 11, 2023) has been called “*required reading*” (Natashia Déon), a novel that “*illuminates the most important themes playing out in America today*” (Amanda Eyre Ward) and leads readers to “*reconsider everything they thought they knew about the remarkable women who transformed American history*” (Julia Fierro).

Illuminating and compassionate, **THE MAJORITY** reimagines the life of a fictional first female Supreme Court Justice in the United States: Sylvia Olin Bernstein (or “S.O.B”). Sylvia steadily climbs to the top of her class at Harvard and beyond, until—caught in a dramatic tug of war between career and family, truth and convenience, progress and patience—she is given a chance to change the course of American history and give voice, at last, to an overlooked majority. Written as a fictional memoir and told over fifty years—from losing her mother at a young age, to falling in love, to navigating an unplanned pregnancy and motherhood, to learning how to spar with a sexist mentor—the novel tells the unlikely story of the love, loss, and regret Sylvia suffered, and the barriers she broke along the way.

Set against the rich sweep of the 20th century, **THE MAJORITY** brings to light huge questions that remain at the center of American life: What is the role of the Supreme Court? How much power should these nine justices have? How are women treated within the law? Elizabeth L. Silver has worked as an attorney and a judicial clerk, and her experience in court is evident in the intimacy and insights on each page, and in the lasting, powerful effect of the read. Touching on timeless themes of marriage, morality, mentors, mother-daughter dynamics, and female friendship, **THE MAJORITY** is also Silver’s attempt to make sense of the ways in which our legal system fails us, the blindness we too often allow in the face of power and influence, and the changing face of one of our most significant institutions.



Elizabeth L. Silver is the author of two previous books; *The Execution of Noa P. Singleton*, a novel, which was published in seven languages, and the memoir, *The Tincture of Time: A Memoir of (Medical) Uncertainty*. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of East Anglia’s Creative Writing MA, and Temple University Beasley School of Law, Elizabeth has also written for *New York Magazine*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *The Washington Post*, and *McSweeney’s*. She currently teaches creative writing with UCLA and is the founder and director of Onward Literary. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

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THE MAJORITY: A NOVEL BY ELIZABETH L. SILVER
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