

The Opposite Of ROMANTIC



A BELLE ÉPOQUE NOVEL

MELINDA COPP

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Is he something she can get out of her system? Or is he going to destroy everything she thought she knew about life... and herself?

Fiercely independent Vanessa Marnet is determined to advance her career as the first woman reporter at L'Entreprise newspaper. Orphaned as a teenager, she's relied largely on her own persistence to rise from a secretarial position to the culture section's star writer. Just when the next step up seems to be within reach, a competitor purchases the paper and begins a hasty and messy merger of the two publications, throwing everything Vanessa has worked for into jeopardy.

To make matters worse, her new coworker is the object of her greatest professional rivalry. Benoit Levin is handsome and infuriating, and he's her direct competitor in what's becoming a hostile workplace. Vanessa goes to great personal lengths to shine next to Benoit. But instead of beating him, they're forced to team up on a reporting trip to a popular summer getaway on the northern coast.

Thrown together, they experience a series of very unromantic travel mishaps. And slowly Benoit begins to loosen Vanessa's uptight professionalism. Soon, competitive tension changes into something humilatingly close to romance. But before true love can win Vanessa over, she has to learn that sometimes depending on others actually makes a person stronger.

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Melinda Copp is a writer based in South Carolina. Her work has been published in newspapers, magazines, and literary journals, including HuffPost, The Rumpus, and The Petigru Review. She regularly writes about books for the Post and Courier. She has an MFA in creative writing from Goucher College and a BS in journalism from West Virginia University. She believes that people are never funnier than when they make fools of themselves in love. Subscribe to her free monthly email newsletter about books, culture, and life at <https://www.melinda-copp.com/newsletter>.

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