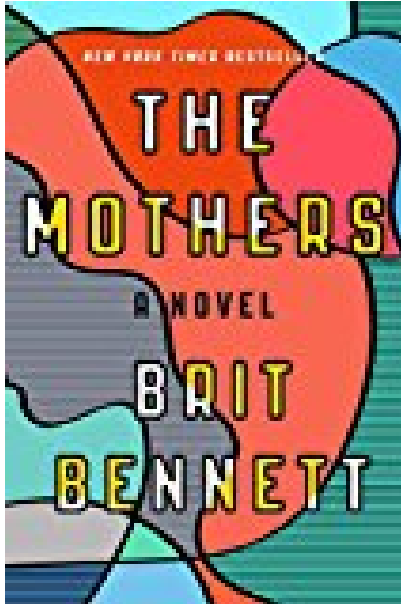


# The Mothers A Novel

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Brit Bennett
- Pages : 288 Pages
- Publisher : Riverhead Books
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0399184511

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NBCC John Leonard First Novel Prize Finalist PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction Finalist An NPR Best Book of 2016 An Entertainment Weekly Best Book of 2016 A Vogue Magazine Best Book of the Year A Goodreads Choice Award Finalist One of Elle.coms Best Books of the Year "Ferociously moving ... despite Bennett's thrumming plot, despite the snap of her pacing, it's the always deepening complexity of her characters that provides the book's urgency." -The New York Times Book Review "Luminous... engrossing and poignant, this is one not to miss." -People, Pick of the Week "Fantastic... a book that feels alive on the page." -The Washington Post A dazzling debut novel from an exciting new voice, *The Mothers* is a surprising story about young love, a big secret in a small community—and the things that ultimately haunt us most. Set within a contemporary black community in Southern California, Brit Bennetts mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love, and ambition. It begins with a secret. "All good secrets have a taste before you tell them, and if wed taken a moment to swish this one around our mouths, we might have noticed the sourness of an unripe secret, plucked too soon, stolen and passed around before its season." It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mothers recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastors son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; its not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? The possibilities of the road not taken are a relentless haunt. In entrancing, lyrical prose, *The Mothers* asks whether a "what if" can be more powerful than an experience itself. If, as time passes, we must always live in servitude to the decisions of our younger selves, to the communities that have parented us, and to the decisions we make that shape our lives forever.

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