



If Sylvie Had Nine Lives

LEONA THEIS

\$22.95 · FICTION

ISBN 978-1-988298-71-9

5.5" x 8.5" · 306 PAGES

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 2020



IF SYLVIE HAD NINE LIVES

BY LEONA THEIS

*Do you ever look back and wonder,
What if . . . ?*

Meet Sylvie — funny, sly, sensual and flawed. She can't always count on herself to make good choices. Like all of us, Sylvie must make decisions that have reverberations for years to come. Unlike the rest of us, Sylvie gets to live more than one life.

"Sylvie, the engaging heart of this inventive novel-in-stories, is a woman who truly contains multitudes. With these tales of rash decisions, romance, mishaps and missteps, Leona Theis delves deeply into the layers that make up a life, many times over. Readers will be surprised and entertained as they get to know a new Sylvie in each chapter, every one a gem."

— Julie Paul, author of *Rules of the Kingdom*
and *The Pull of the Moon*

"*If Sylvie Had Nine Lives* is a remarkable book, a palimpsest of different versions of a life that gives us a haunting, thrilling glimpse of the slender choices our lives hang by and the tangled threads that make even the simplest of them infinite mysteries."

— Nino Ricci, author of *Sleep*
and *The Origin of Species*

"A sharp and vibrant novel that delves with humour and humanity into the brimming possibilities of a flawed but appealing heroine. *If Sylvie Had Nine Lives* is a vivid exploration of the unexpected choices and chances that can make up a life — and a self."

— Saleema Nawaz, author of *Songs for the End of the World*
and *Bone and Bread*

LEONA THEIS's first book, *Sightlines*, linked stories that form a portrait of a town, won two Saskatchewan Book Awards. Excerpts from her novel *The Art of Salvage* were shortlisted for novella awards on both the east and west coasts of Canada. Her personal essays have been published in literary magazines in Canada and the United States, won creative nonfiction awards from the CBC and Prairie Fire Magazine, and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her stories have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *The Journey Prize Stories*, and *American Short Fiction*, where her work won the story prize. She lives in Saskatoon,



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