

APPENDIX

Biography of the Author

André Aciman born 2 January 1951 is an Egyptian-born writer, currently a distinguished professor at the Graduate Center of City University of New York, where he teaches the history of literary theory and the works of Marcel Proust. He is the author of several novels, including the 2007 Lambda Literary Award winner for Gay Fiction *Call Me by Your Name* and his 1995 memoir, *Out of Egypt* which won a Whiting Award. Aciman previously taught creative writing at New York University and French literature at Princeton. In 2009 he was Visiting Distinguished Writer at Wesleyan University.

Aciman was born in Alexandria, Egypt, the son of Regine and Henri N. Aciman, who owned a knitting factory. His mother was deaf. Aciman was raised in a French-speaking home where family members also spoke Italian, Greek, Ladino, and Arabic. His parents were Jewish, of Turkish and Italian origin, from families that had settled in Alexandria in 1905. Aciman moved with his family to Italy when he was a teenager and a few years later to New York. He obtained a B.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Lehman College and an A.M. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University.

Aciman's 1995 memoir, *Out of Egypt*, was reviewed widely. In *The New York Times*, Michiko Kakutani described the volume as a "remarkable memoir...that leaves the reader with a mesmerizing portrait of a now vanished world." She compared his work with that of Lawrence Durrell and also wrote: "There are some wonderfully vivid scenes here, as strange and marvelous as something in Garcia Marquez, as comical and surprising as something in Chekhov."

Call Me by Your Name is a 2007 novel by American writer André Aciman that centers on a blossoming romantic relationship between an intellectually precocious and curious 17 years old American-Italian Jewish boy named Elio Perlman and a visiting 24 years old American Jewish scholar named Oliver in 1980s Italy. The novel chronicles their summer romance and the 20 years that follow. A sequel to the novel *Find Me*, was released in October 2019

The Synopsis of the Story

The narrator, Elio Perlman, recalls the events of the summer of about 1983, when he was seventeen and living with his parents in Italy. Each summer, his parents would take in a doctoral student as a guest house for six weeks, who would revise a manuscript book while assisting his father with academic paperwork. Elio resents the tradition, as it requires him to vacate his bedroom so the guest can use it for the duration of their stay.

Oliver, the guest for the summer, is carefree and detached a stark contrast to Elio's introversion. Elio selected Oliver as a guest in the hopes of "instant affinities" between them and acts as his tour guide, even though Elio's attempts to impress Oliver are met with indifference. When Oliver grabs Elio's arm after a volleyball match, Elio retracts in fear. Though Elio recognizes his bisexuality and his attraction to Oliver he is particularly excited by his discovery that Oliver is Jewish, seeing it as a bond between them he doubts that Oliver reciprocates his feelings.

One day, Elio sneaks into Oliver's room, and masturbates while wearing Oliver's swimming trunks. Later, Elio confesses his attraction to Oliver, and they kiss on a berm where Claude Monet had supposedly painted some of his pictures. When Elio touches Oliver's penis through his clothes, Oliver pushes him away. Oliver and Elio grow distant in the subsequent days. Elio begins an affair with Marzia, a local girl around his age. Seeking reconciliation, Elio slips a note under Oliver's bedroom door, with a plan to meet at midnight. At midnight, Elio enters Oliver's room, where they have sex. Elio feels guilty about the encounter, and decides that he cannot continue his relationship with Oliver.

The next morning, Oliver wears Elio's bathing suit to breakfast mirroring Elio's earlier fetishistic behavior and later performs oral sex on Elio. Elio realizes that his attraction to Oliver persists, and that he wishes to continue their relationship. Elio visits Marzia's house, and the two have sex; in the afternoon he masturbates with a cut peach, and ejaculates inside of it. Oliver later visits Elio's room, eats the peach and its contents, and again has sex with Elio.

Before returning to the United States, Oliver decides to spend three days in Rome, where he is accompanied by Elio. Upon returning from the trip, Elio is saddened to find that his belongings have already been returned to his original bedroom, and that all traces of Oliver's visit have vanished. Elio has a discussion with his father, who says that he approves of the friendship (and relationship) between Elio and Oliver.

That Christmas, Oliver again visits the Perlman family, and announces that he intends to marry next summer. Oliver and Elio fall out of touch, and don't

communicate with each other for many years. Fifteen years later, Elio visits Oliver in the United States, where Oliver is now a professor. Elio is unwilling to meet Oliver's wife and children, admitting that he still feels an attraction towards Oliver and jealousy towards his new family. Oliver admits that he has followed Elio's academic career, and shows him a postcard that he brought with him when he left Italy and has kept over the years. During a final meeting at a bar, Elio and Oliver muse that people can lead two parallel lives one in reality, and one a fantasy that is denied to them by external forces.

Twenty years after their first meeting and one year before the narrator's present, Oliver visits Elio's family home in Italy. They recall their time together; Elio informs Oliver that his father has been edited, and that he has spread his ashes all over the world. The novel concludes with Elio, as the narrator, remarking to the reader that if Oliver remembered everything as he said he did, he should once more "look me in the face, hold my gaze, and call me by your name."