



MENU

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Best fiction books of the year 2020

A Theatre for Dreamers by Polly Samson

Leonard Cohen's love affair with Marianne Ihlen on the Greek island of Hydra inspired one of his greatest songs, *So Long, Marianne*. Now it has inspired a novel. But what novelist could resist the story and its glorious setting? [*A Theatre for Dreamers*](#) — a coming-of-age novel about 18-year-old Erica, who heads off to the island in 1960 to join the hip crowd — brings to life this world of silver-spangled seas, scrumptious food and bohemian bed-hopping. But there are also rows, drunkenness, rejection and neglected children. And what of Marianne? Is she merely a skivvy and a “ministering angel” to male egos? RM