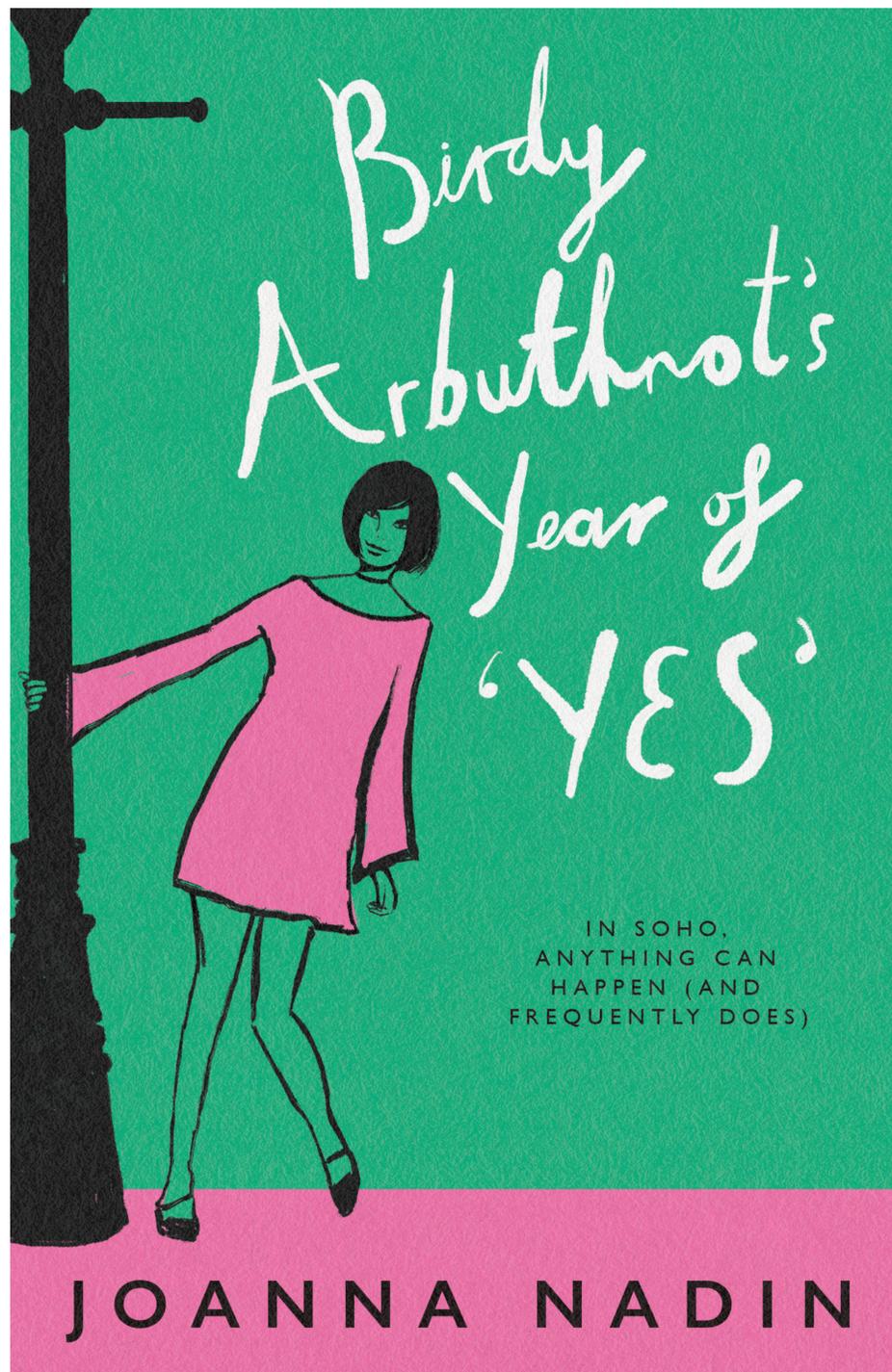


The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Birdy Arbuthnot's Year of 'Yes!'

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Joanna Nadin

Age range: 13+

Description:

Tired of suburban life, Birdy Arbuthnot resolves to spend a year saying yes to opportunities which come her way in this warm, witty coming-of-age novel. Set in Soho in the 1960s, strong-characterisation and a distinctive, stylish internal monologue that develops and matures through the novel make for a memorable read which is told with a sense of grounded grace.

Themes:

- Found family
- Rites of Passage
- Humour
- History (1960s)
- Bereavement

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Pay attention to the other books mentioned in this story (Mrs Dalloway, I Capture the Castle, Shakespeare's plays). Create a reading list, illustrate it and display it in your classroom or library.
2. What were the LGBTQ+ laws in 1959/1960? How do you think they are represented or reflected (or not!) in this story?
3. Write a review of your favourite meal as if you were a food critic writing for a newspaper, magazine or website. You might choose a dish from a restaurant or takeaway or one you and/or your family cook at home. See if you can find sample menus from some of the restaurants mentioned in the story