



Problems

By Jade Sharma

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Problems By Jade Sharma

Dark, raw, and very funny, *Problems* introduces us to Maya, a young woman with a smart mouth, time to kill, and a heroin hobby that isn't much fun anymore. Maya's been able to get by in New York on her wits and a dead-end bookstore job for years, but when her husband leaves her and her favorite professor ends their affair, her barely-calibrated life descends into chaos, and she has to make some choices. Maya's struggle to be alone, to be a woman, and to be thoughtful and imperfect and alive in a world that doesn't really care what happens to her is rendered with dead-eyed clarity and unnerving charm. This book takes every tired trope about addiction and recovery, "likeable" characters, and redemption narratives, and blows them to pieces.

Emily Books is a publishing project and ebook subscription service whose focus is on transgressive writers of the past, present and future, with an emphasis on the writing of women, trans and queer people, writing that blurs genre distinctions and is funny, challenging, and provocative.

Jade Sharma is a writer living in New York. She has an MFA from the New School.

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Problems By Jade Sharma Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Maya is not polite, and although I found her captivating and charming, Sharma's goal is not to make her likable. Maya is as horrible, and as fully human, as men in literature have always been allowed to be."

—*New York Times Sunday Book Review*

"Sharma's lucid intelligence makes this story of the death throes of a marriage between a junkie and an alcoholic impossible to get out of your mind." —*Vulture*

"Debut novelist Jade Sharma writes in a voice that is equal parts irreverent and hilarious, depressive and hopeful, and *Problems* was by far one of the most interesting and uncommon books I read this year."

—*Bustle*

"With searing honesty and an unflinching gaze, Sharma brilliantly dismantles the brittle structures that so many young women today have built around themselves in the hopes that eventually the interior will match what's on the outside." —*Nylon*

"Sharma's debut is an uncompromising and unforgettable depiction of the corrosive loop of addiction, and with Maya, she has crafted a momentous and painfully honest voice." —*Publishers Weekly, Best Books of 2016*

"Sharma's debut novel is an uncompromising and unforgettable depiction of the corrosive loop of addiction. . . . there is a propulsive energy in Maya's story, guided by her askew yet precise perspective . . . in Maya's voice, Sharma has crafted a momentous force that never flags and feels painfully honest." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

"The novel is written so well that the relentless and destructive rhythm of heroin abuse seems calming, metaphysical, and occasionally even funny. Sharma's descriptions are vivid and sage . . . lulling readers into a similarly opiate state to which they will readily succumb and from which, like the protagonist, it will take some time to recover. An absorbing novel carried by a seemingly hopeless protagonist you will want to befriend and save." —*Kirkus*

"Sharma laces her prose with a particularly strong strain of dark humor, leaving elegant signatures on every page with the abandon of a drunk hostess who's been handed a blank prescription pad, granted immunity, and charged with a divine imperative to make sure everyone has a good time." —*The Rumpus, interview*

"Maya's inner world is raw and repulsive, but astutely rendered by Sharma. The book is simultaneously hard to read and hard to put down." —*Publishers Weekly*

"[Maya's] problems could fill a book — and in fact, they do, in a brisk, mordantly funny, fragmented narrative that is refreshingly honest, despite the fact that Maya is a liar." —*Los Angeles Times*

"[Maya is] by turns raunchy, clever, spunky, sage, funny and forlorn as she barrels through the vicissitudes of a life of addiction grasping for an escape hatch--such a fresh voice that we can't help but hope she finds one. . . . Jade Sharma's debut novel of a young New York City junkie is on the money, harrowing,

perspicacious, funny and somehow still uplifting.” —*Shelf Awareness*

“Problems, told in fragments of Maya’s thoughts, avoids the clichés of addiction and recovery narratives to speak to something dark, hilarious and deeply real.”—*Autostraddle*

“Jade Sharma’s debut is a darkly funny character study of an unhappy yet witty-as-hell woman whose self-destructive streak is as appalling as it is somehow understandable. Problems challenges readers to forget traditional redemption stories and yet to still find empathy for the messiest of heroines.”—*Esquire*

“Problems tells Maya’s story of heroin abuse, personal flailing and recovery in raw, razor-sharp prose, painting an unromanticized yet witty and profound portrait of addiction.”—*Huffington Post*

“Maya’s complex blend of vulnerability and ennui is enthralling, and her abiding fascination with bodies—sex, sensations, shortcomings—keeps her commentary lively even as her life careens out of control. Given such diversions, it’s perhaps easy to miss the big picture: the invitation that Sharma is extending to readers to reimagine the possibilities for what a ‘heroin novel’ can be.” —*Critical Mass*

“The end of *Problems* presents a glimmer of hope that she may finally be able to crawl out of it and evolve into the person she wants to be.” —*Star Tribune*

“Raw, unrepentant, and biting with dark humor, *Problems* turns the addiction-redemption narrative inside out, as Sharma follows heroin hobbyist Maya through her increasingly chaotic life after both the end of her marriage and an affair.” —*Poets and Writers*

“The problem with Jade Sharma’s novel, *Problems*, is that it ends. The narrator, Maya, is a hot mess with zero percent of her shit together, and yet as I got to know her through the Sharma’s inventive narrative voice, I saw her as—or perhaps wanted her to be—my friend.” —*The Rumpus*

“Maya’s reflections on being Indian American when ‘the whole world wants young white girls’ do more to show the damage of internalized white supremacy than many of today’s internet-published hot takes.” —*Bitch Magazine*

“Problems is a book that wrestles with you; you will try to put it down but you’ll be unsuccessful. And when you finish reading, it will feel like a masochistic act. But like any great character, Maya will linger with you, so you can struggle together.”—*Bust*

“Maya, with her bodily neuroses and impulses and lusts and bolts of cleverly crafted philosophical insight, is the novel. And she’s hard to stop watching and caring about and even, optimistically, rooting for. . . . A psychologically astute portrait of a woman’s cycle of addiction, the ebb and flow of her life around it, and her own hilarious, bittersweet and brilliant inner monologue through it all.” —*Huffington Post*

“Problems unnerves in its facility to careen between acidic humor and frank depictions of desperation, as well as in its refusal to disavow completely the allure of the high.”—*Literary Hub*

“I love how raw this book is. It’s very stream of consciousness, and it’s told with a mordant sense of humor too.” —*Word of Mouth*

“Binging and purging, a bad relationship with her MS-afflicted mother, a bad relationship with most people: Sharma smartly treats these as things to endure rather than as things to address.” —*Electric Literature*

"[*Problems* is] complex and unflinching, but it's among those messy ruins of her self-made life that I found myself feeling oddly and genuinely uplifted." —*Guernica*

"There's very little ease to start in *Problems*, a debut novel about addiction from the deceptively sober perspective of a bona fide anti-heroine." —*Bookforum*

"Jade Sharma's *Problems* is one of the year's strongest debut novels, a powerful book that deals with addiction and gender politics through the eyes of its unforgettable and vividly drawn protagonist." —*Largehearted Boy*

"First out of the gate for the new venture is the utterly ambitious and unique *Problems*, a debut novel from Jade Sharma that offers a disturbing, but also humorous, glimpse into heroin addiction and the end of a crumbling marriage. . . . Thanks to Sharma's quick, episodic style, Maya's fall from grace blisters off the page. It's electric writing." —*Brooklyn Magazine*,

"Few books feel as honest as *Problems*, Jade Sharma's debut novel." —*The Influence*

"Rest assured that Sharma succeeds in breaking every cliché about redemption narratives." —*Largehearted Boy*

"Bold and honest, *Problems* is a fresh look at recovery, redemption, and one woman's increasing nest of problems." —*Buzzfeed*

"Dark, funny, relentless." —*Elle*

"Few debuts manage to be as forceful and commanding as this one." —*Rain Taxi*

"Believe it or not, it is possible to infuse a bit of wit into a novel about heroin addiction." —*StyleCaster*

"Unsettling, aware, self-conscious, vivid, honest, gorgeous – *Problems* does it all, all while eschewing traditional expectations of story, plot, and character." —*Vol. 1 Brooklyn*

"*Problems* isn't your typical addiction story, because it isn't your typical narrator, written by someone who blows the usual heroin narratives out of the water. Sentence by sentence, it coils around you, then tightens. It's a compulsively readable trap." —*The Fanzine*

"Sharma gives us Maya, a fresh voice. She's vulgar, she's funny, she's bold, bawdy, insightful, and she has the voice of a woman, a twist to the usual heroin-narrative with thoughts and worries that are unique to women and to a woman's experience with addiction." —*NewPages*

"It's a darkly funny tale of addiction, recovery, and redemption for every person, whether they're "likeable" or not. . . . *Problems* drags its readers so deep into Maya's psyche that you can't help but feel her self-consciousness, addiction, and pain." —*Fusion*

"Jade Sharma's *Problems* is one of the year's strongest debut novels, a powerful book that deals with addiction and gender politics through the eyes of its unforgettable and vividly drawn protagonist." —*Largehearted Boy*

"*Problems* is a book that wrestles with you; you will try to put it down but you'll be unsuccessful. And when

you finish reading, it will feel like a masochistic act. But like any great character, Maya will linger with you, so you can struggle together.” — **Bust**

“One of the best books I’ve read this year, if not one of the best books I’ve read in a long time. . . . A stunning novel.” —**Book Riot Podcast**

“The voice is incredibly funny, offhandedly insightful, and captivating.” —**LitHub**

“It’s a powerfully told novel, brisk and harrowing in equal measure.” —**Vol. 1 Brooklyn, "July 2016 Books Preview"**

“‘Somewhere along the way, there stopped being new days,’ reads the first sentence, and the book’s structure echoes this repetitive flow of time, largely eschewing chapters and page breaks and instead allowing its narrative to develop through a series of short paragraphs. The result is a novel that carries the reader along with its protagonist on her uneven journey, making every descent along the way seem even more avoidable in hindsight.” —**Google Play**

“Jade Sharma is the appalling, hilarious love child of Denis Johnson and Maggie Estep, and *Problems* is as unrepentant and transgressive a novel as they come. Every coming-of-age story except this one is a lie.”—**Elisa Albert**

“Searing. Brutal. Sublime. Hysterical. Terrifying. Exacting. Essential. Indelible. Unforgettable.” —**Dale Peck**

“The self-degrading, self-knowing narrator of Jade Sharma’s *Problems* dares to recount her beyond messy life in clean, lucid—and often funny—prose. She’d never be so glib as to call herself a survivor, but even at this dark novel’s darkest moments her voice itself makes the case for her resilience and her humanity.”
—**David Gates**

“*Problems* unnerves in its facility to careen between acidic humor and frank depictions of desperation, as well as in its refusal to disavow completely the allure of the high.” —**Literary Hub**

About the Author

Jade Sharma: Jade Sharma is a writer living in New York. She has an MFA from The New School.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Collis:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book *Problems* had been making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The publication *Problems* is not only giving you far more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book *Problems*. You never sense lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

William Sebastian:

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Problems book is readable by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer associated with Problems content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you nevertheless thinking Problems is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Rachel Louviere:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information presently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Problems as your daily resource information.

Michael Lucius:

Precisely why? Because this Problems is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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