

VOGUE

Crying in the Carlyle and Other Secrets of Uptown New York, According to Lila Raicek

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Photos: Getty Images. Pastries: Ben Story. Cafe: Alex Stein. Collage by *Vogue*

Playwright and author Lila Raicek, who grew up in Connecticut, has left New York twice since she came to Barnard to study writing as an undergrad. A decade ago, she spent a couple of years in LA when her play *Vertebrae* was optioned, and she wrote for Darren Star's *Younger*, plus other shows like *Gossip Girl*. (She's currently adapting *Vertebrae* into an erotic thriller TV series called *Night Float with Nina Dobrev*.) And last year, she spent time in London when her play *My Master Builder* starring Ewan McGregor and Elizabeth Debicki was on the West End. Her recently published debut novel, *The Plunge* (Park Row), was informed by her post-Hollywood return to New York and the uptown apartment of a mentor. Two of her fictional characters, Liv and Damon, "fall into a tumultuous affair that plays out across museums, park walks, and sultry midnights in Manhattan," she tells *Vogue*, "specifically the Upper East Side, the neighborhood itself transforming into a furtive hideaway. In many ways, *The Plunge* is the love letter to New York that I've always wanted to write." Here, her many affections:

To see art: The gallery scene is not to be missed. In recent years, I've discovered the brilliant work of Karyn Lyons at [Turn Gallery](#), whose painting "The Imposter" became the star of my book cover, and also Vivian Springford at [Almine Rech](#). The vibrant Matisse show at [Aquavella](#) on right now is worth catching.