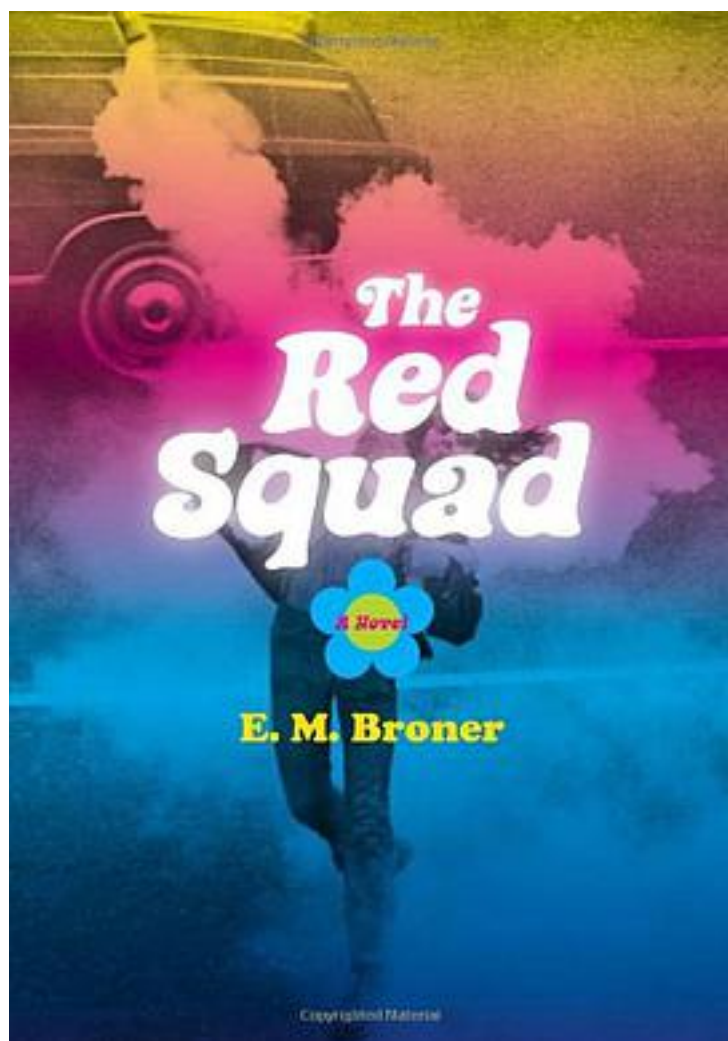


The Red Squad



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著者:Broner, Esther

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E.M. Broner brings us a wonderfully comic and moving novel about the interwoven

lives of a group of restless Midwestern grad students in the 1960s. Forty years later, gray-haired and spread around the country, they learn that they were under surveillance during their activist days.

At the center is Anka, a lively professor at an Ohio university, who receives an unsolicited Freedom of Information file charting her younger life as part of an eccentric crew who came together around politics and passion. She's plunged into suspicion (who sent the file and why?), but also into rollicking memories of her compatriots in the "bullpen" of graduate school back in those days: Kevin, the sweet young priest in the process of formally leaving the church, who was her protector and secret crush; "The Farmer," the only married man among them; the gay poet named Noble and his intimate, Ron, the black professor of Victorian studies; the irrepressible Bernstein, who yearned to start again in the promised land of Israel. One of them becomes a spy, the other a fugitive.

Filled with the rich details of the personal and political actions that solidified the group for a time and then splintered it into the 1970s, the plot is animated by Anka's longings for love and justice, and by the unfolding mystery of the Bullpenner who went underground. When their long lost comrade resurfaces, his plight brings all the pen-mates and some of their once prized students together at the glorious finale of this picaresque adventure.

Wise, funny, written in quicksilver prose, *The Red Squad* reminds us how relevant the lessons of the past still are today, and brings us a timeless message of community and hope.

作者介绍:

目录:

[The Red Squad_下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[The Red Squad_下载链接1](#)

书评

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