



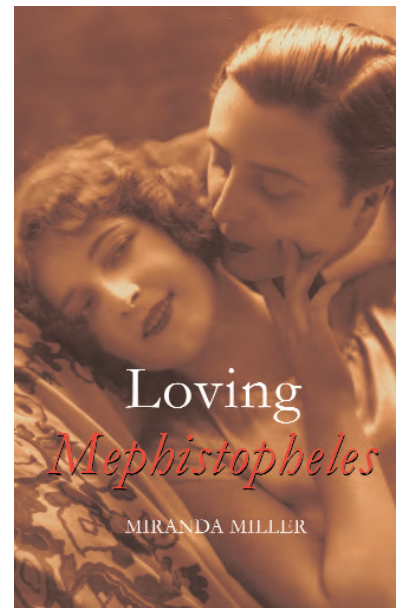
# Loving Mephistopheles

Miranda Miller

FICTION

112,000 WORDS

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**Jenny is a third-rate music-hall chanteuse living in London in the early part of the twentieth century. When she remarks to her mentor and lover Leo that she never wants to grow old, she has no idea that she is, in fact, making a pact with the devil, Mephistopheles himself, and that her contract to love him will reside at the Metaphysical Bank in High Street Kensington – for ever.**

Leo has lived through thousands of years in numerous incarnations. As he gleefully exploits what twentieth-century London has to offer – as a stage magician ('the Great Pantoffsky'), World War II fighter pilot, coke dealer, City banker – Jenny finds that the joy of eternal youth is short-lived. Showing no signs of aging begins to provoke questions, and Jenny has to move abroad or constantly reinvent herself, even passing herself off as her own daughter and granddaughter. When Jenny bears a real daughter, who may or may not be Leo's, his destructive nature comes to the fore. She flees from him and destroys the contract regardless of the consequences. At the same time Leo understands that Jenny is the one woman that he has ever truly loved and that perhaps it is time the devil made a stab at family life . . .

A compelling journey through twentieth-century Europe and beyond, Miranda Miller's ingenious take on the Faust story is by turns humorous, erotic and terrifying.

*Praise for Miranda Miller's previous work:*

***Under the Rainbow***

**'Sensitive and Imaginative' – *Sunday Times***

***Smiles and the Millenium***

**'Her vision is frighteningly plausible.' – *Literary Review***

***A Thousand and One Coffee Mornings***

**'Pointed, spirited, and ironic . . . Miranda Miller is sensitive, exact and often very funny.'**

**– Hilary Mantel, *Daily Telegraph***

**'A wonderfully rounded character, capable equally of observation and compassion . . .**

**brilliant at voices.' – *Independent***

**'Poignant and haunting' – *Guardian***

Miranda Miller was born in London in 1950. After leaving university she moved to Rome, where she combined writing her first novel with a variety of jobs. Later she lived in Libya and Saudi Arabia. She has published five novels and a work of non-fiction that examines the effects of homelessness on women.