



Yesteryear

A Novel

Caro Claire Burke · 2026

WHAT IT'S ABOUT

Natalie is a tradwife influencer. Online, her farmhouse life with her cowboy husband and five kids looks effortless. Off camera, nannies, producers and modern equipment do a lot of the work.

Then she wakes up on a farm in 1855, with a husband and children who feel like strangers, living the life she has been selling for real. Caro Claire Burke's debut novel is a dark, funny satire about performed authenticity, nostalgia, and who gets to define "the good old days."

WHY WE PICKED IT

It is a fun read that opens up real conversations about gender, power, and how much of what we see online is staged.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TABLE

- 01 Natalie's online life depends on what stays off camera. What does the book say about authenticity online?
- 02 Why do you think the tradwife aesthetic appeals to so many people right now?
- 03 How does life in 1855 actually compare to the version Natalie sells?

CONNECT IT TO RIGHT NOW

The 2025 federal tax law created "Trump Accounts," which put \$1,000 into an investment account for babies born from 2025 through 2028, part of a wider push by some policymakers to encourage people to have more children.

Natalie sells an idealized version of family life. What do you think actually helps families: cash incentives, child care, paid leave, or something else?

South Carolina's Social Media Regulation Act took effect in February 2026. Platforms must give users under 18 ways to turn off features like infinite scroll and autoplay, and must limit targeted ads to them.

Influencers like Natalie depend on attention. Should any of the protections SC now requires for kids apply to adults' feeds too?