



Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Lorrie Moore

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"Touches and dazzles and entertains. An enchanting novel." --*The New York Times*

In this moving, poignant novel by the bestselling author of *Birds of America* we share a grown woman's bittersweet nostalgia for the wildness of her youth.

The summer Berie was fifteen, she and her best friend Sils had jobs at Storyland in upstate New York where Berie sold tickets to see the beautiful Sils portray Cinderella in a strapless evening gown. They spent their breaks smoking, joking, and gossiping. After work they followed their own reckless rules, teasing the fun out of small town life, sleeping in the family station wagon, and drinking borrowed liquor from old mayonnaise jars. But no matter how wild, they always managed to escape any real danger—until the adoring Berie sees that Sils really does need her help—and then everything changes.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A disillusioned, middle-aged woman's remembrance of an ephemeral teenage friendship is triggered by eating cervelles in a Parisian restaurant in Moore's acerbic, witty and affecting third novel (after *Like Life*). While vacationing in Paris, narrator Berie Carr, whose marriage is stuck in a bleakly funny state of suspended collapse, looks back to her girlhood in Horsehearts, an Adirondack tourist town near the Canadian border. There in the summer of 1972, she was a skinny, 15-year-old misfit who rejected her parents and idolized her sassy, sexually precocious friend Sils, who played Cinderella at a theme park called Storyland where Berie was a cashier. In a series of flashbacks, Berie recounts stealing into bars with Sils; sneaking cigarettes in the shadows of Storyland rides named Memory Lane and The Lost Mine; and how, midway through the summer, she was shipped off to Baptist camp after filching hundreds of dollars from her register to pay for an abortion for Sils. Moore's bitterly funny hymn to vanished adolescence is suffused with droll wordplay, allegorical images of lost innocence and fairy-tale witchery and a poignant awareness of how life's significant events often prove dismally anticlimactic.

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From Library Journal

Looking back at her childhood from an unsuccessful marriage, Berie Carr remembers her best friend, Sils, and their last summer together in 1972. They worked in an amusement park, Berie as a cashier, Sils as Cinderella. At 15, they were irreverent, wild, curious, and oblivious to authority, and they spent the summer testing limits. Sils's experiments led to the inevitable unwanted pregnancy, and Berie provided the genius to fund the inevitable abortion. Unfortunately, larceny became a habit for Berie, and she was eventually caught in the act and sent away to church camp. The stories of Sils and of Berie's husband seem to have little to connect them, and Berie's final commentary does not bring them together. Although the pieces are well done, the whole is disjointed. A possible candidate where Moore's works (e.g., *Anagrams*, LJ 10/1/86) are popular. *Johanna M. Burkhardt, Coll. of Continuing Education Lib., Univ. of Rhode Island*

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From [Booklist](#)

Moore isn't prolific, but she is proficient, powerful, and, to those who treasure her irony and skittish tenderness, precious. In her first novel since *Anagrams* (1986), Moore has deepened her palette and increased her discernment into the complex states of loneliness and lovingness. This tale, set in the seventies in a small upstate New York town, is about a profound friendship between two fifteen-year-old girls, Benoite-Marie Carr, Berie for short, and the beautiful and kind Silsby Chausee, called Sils. Berie narrates in a voice that reaches directly into the part of your brain that cradles your own memories of youth's fierce convictions and wild n,ivet{, }e. For Berie, Sils was a hero, and she recalls her worshipful and self-sacrificing love for her friend in long, careful flashbacks. Currently, Berie is in Paris attempting to save her severely jeopardized marriage. As a teenager, she was skinny and slow to ripen, standing loyally by as her curvaceous friend entered into her first and ultimately tragic love affair. But Berie was also passionate and daring, qualities that enabled her to transform her wounds and regrets into a sort of tapestried armor, a needlepoint narrative in which each protective word is a stitch made with precision and a flash of light.

Donna Seaman

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janet Steele:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book titled Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Thomas Evans:

This Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries) book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries) without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries) can bring when you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Who Will Run the Frog Hospital (Vintage Contemporaries) having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Michael Mitchell:

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Warren Bowers:

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