



Sarah: A Novel

By J. T. LeRoy

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The national bestselling first novel by a virtuosic young talent.

Cherry Vanilla, twelve years old with a penchant for short leather skirts and make-up, has one dream: to become the most famous 'lot lizard', or truck stop whore, in the business. With his blond curls and his naked ambition he is determined to be more woman than most, and to match his idol, rival, and mother, Sarah. Adopting her name and sex, he heads off into the dangerous and fantastic worlds pocketed away in the West Virginian wilds. On his journey for fame he meets with sinister pimps, luck-restoring Jack-a-lobes, superstitious prostitutes who take him for a saint, and a host of bizarre and beautiful outcasts that make up his unusual, heartbreaking world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Who would have thought that there were so many truckstop devotees of cross-dressing children in West Virginia? In this disturbing debut novel by 19-year-old LeRoy, they appear to be everywhere. The narrator, a 12-year-old boy, has renamed himself Sarah after his whorish mother because he has learned from her example that "Most anything you want in this world is easier when you're a pretty girl." Following in her footsteps, he plies his trade at the Doves, a truckstop/gourmet restaurant run by Glad, a despotic pimp with a heart of gold. When his mother rejects him, Sarah runs away from the Doves and finds his way to the hellish Three Crutches, a rival truckstop run by the evil Le Loup. Taken for a girl, and then advertised as Saint Sarah in a money-making ploy by Le Loup, Sarah is expected to bless truckers and then walk on water. Will these experiences convince Sarah to resume the life of a full-time boy? And will he discover that there's no place like home? Sometimes Sarah's masochistic attention-getting strategies and desperate need to be loved are genuinely moving, but the freak-show world LeRoy conjures up never quite gels. In the self-consciously bizarre gallery of misfits and fetishes he assembles, potentially resonant themes like the interchangeability of saints and whores are obscured, and the novel remains but a curiosity. (Apr.) FYI: LeRoy has edited several anthologies under the pseudonym Terminator.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Scary, sad, and way, way out there, Leroy's picaresque debut novel follows a young boy through southern truckstops, where lot lizards turn tricks for drivers whose tastes run from women to transvestites to boys in jeans. Sarah is actually the name of our heros mother, and in the beginning they both work for Glad, a fairly nice pimp who treats his whores decently and serves them up to a not-too-rough clientele. But when the boy appropriates his mothers name and gender (at least in appearance) to go wandering, he winds up in the clutches of a really bad guy named Le Loup. The gory details of how Sarah is abused by this monster and his cohorts will come as no surprise to those familiar with Leroy's journalistic pieces (in Spin, Nerve, New York Press) under the pseudonym Terminator, some of which dealt with his own experiences. Its disturbing to encounter a 20-year-old who knows this much about lifes seamy side, but Leroy depicts his damaged, degraded characters with considerable tenderness. Not exactly a laugh riot, but not as unrelievedly sordid as a plot synopsis might suggest. -- *Copyright ©2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

'A deft and imaginative first novel.' -*The New York Times Book Review* -- *The New York Times Book Review*

'[LeRoy is] a hungry writer with the instincts of a person who fishes to eat. Once he hooks the reader he doesn't let go...quick, lively, and fascinating.' -- *Bookforum*

'[an] edgy but thoroughly engaging first novel...larger than life...comically Dickensian.' --*San Francisco Chronicle*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sybil Moore:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for people. The book Sarah: A Novel ended up being making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The e-book Sarah: A Novel is not only giving you considerably more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship while using book Sarah: A Novel. You never feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Tameika Ahmed:

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Peter Pitts:

The guide with title Sarah: A Novel contains a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This particular book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you inside new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

George Eichner:

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