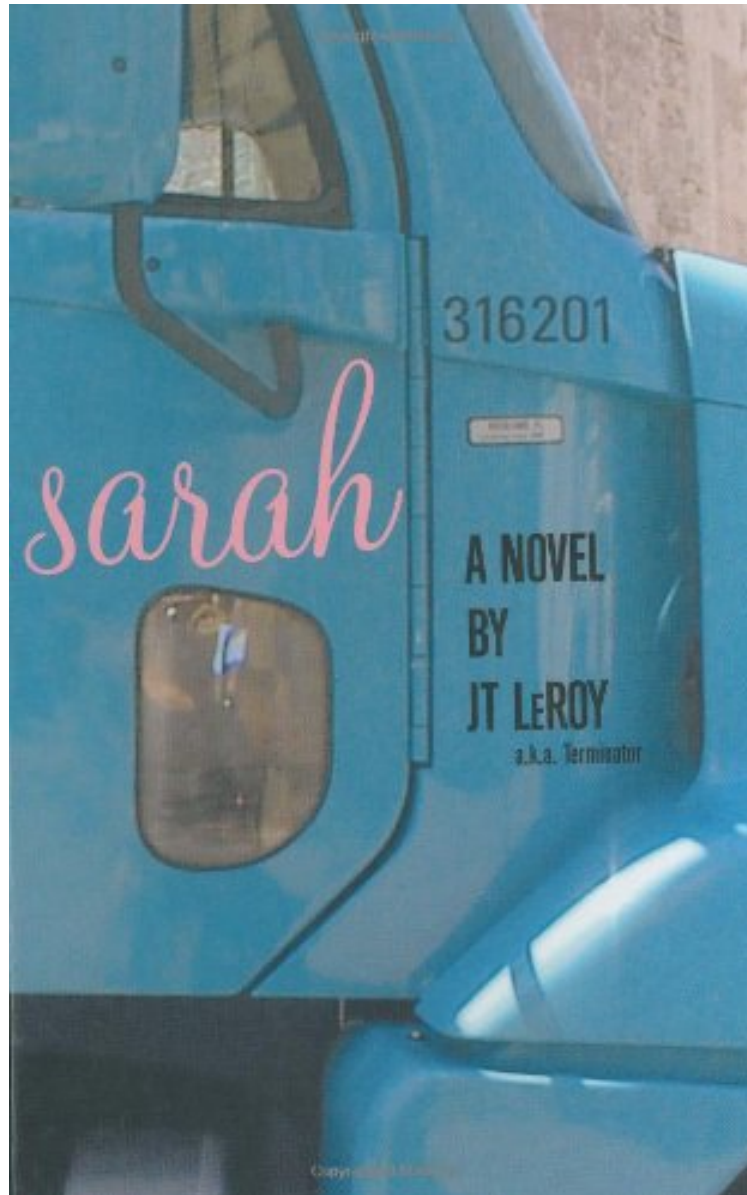


[Library ebook] Sarah: A Novel

## Sarah: A Novel

*J. T. Leroy*

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#754845 in Books BLOOMSBURY USA 2000-04-24 2000-04-24Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.54 x .76 x 6.38l, #File Name: 1582340765166 pages | File size: 45.Mb

**J. T. Leroy : Sarah: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sarah: A Novel:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. SubversiveBy Adam HobbinsI realize that Sarah isn't a novel meant for every kind of reader, but no one can call it unoriginal. Sarah is a piece that transports you to a surreal dimension. There are moments that are sickening, moments that are tender, and moments that are both. Sarah does

what the best kind of novel does by being subversive. It makes you empathize with despicable people and relate to horrifying circumstances. I'm very pleased to say that the book's characters and events consistently surprised me, albeit sometimes in disappointing ways. Sarah belongs to a genre of its own making. I would never say that it's perfect, but I will say that it does things that no book I've ever read does. For that, it's an indispensable book and one hell of a ride. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Dark YABY duke lemoynelIt's weird, but this feels almost like S.E. Hinton meets Hubert Selby, Jr. A lot of sick, sad images that make up the kids reality until you come to understand his "normal." It reads quickly, not very long, again like the YA form. Compelling, enjoyable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting NovellaBy Hanover\_FistI read this because of the Documentary on Netflix about the JT Leroy scandal with Hollywood elites..It's an ok novel that jumps around a bit in timeline with no clear motivation in some parts.The cast of characters seem carnival like in their behavior/appearance and the closest thing that I could compare it to would be Oliver Twist.As I recalled the Documentary it struck me as very odd that someone/anyone would think that this was written by a 14/15 year old that seemingly had no formal education.

Sarah is the story of the prodigal son recast in the carnivalesque world of the highway truck stop and its environs. The narrator, an androgynous twelve year old boy, idolizes his mother Sarah, a "lot lizard", or truck-stop whore. He leaves the safety of the lot-a perversely idyllic kingdom ruled by Gladening Grateful Etc., a benevolent pimp who sent one of his boys to chef's school to cook gourmet meals at the truckstop diner-on a quest to become as famous as his mother. Adopting her name and sex, "Sarah" stumbles into dangerous and fantastic worlds pocketed away in the West Virginian wilds. He hitches a ride to the famous luck-restoring Jack-a-lope, is mistaken for a saint and must prove himself by walking on water. When he is captured by LeLoup, Glad's violent rival, "Sarah"'s life is all but over. Will he perish at the hands of LeLoup, or will "Sarah" find his way home?J.T. LeRoy has created a hauntingly memorable world, strangely reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland. Heartwarming as it is bizarre, beautiful and stunningly original, Sarah heralds the debut of an inimitable new talent.

From Publishers WeeklyWho 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. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sScary, 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. "J.T. LeRoy's deft and imaginative first novel is astonishingly confident. His language is always fresh, his soul never corrupt." -- The New York Times, Sunday Book , 5/7/00, ed by Catherine Texier:"Wildly imagined, but described with a quiet surenessSarah's considerable originalitytestify to LeRoy's wonderful ability to make up beautiful things." -- The Village Voice, Lit Supplement, 5/00, reviewed by Jonathan TaylorCalled JT: "Literary Wonderboy." -- Spin Magazine, May 2000For a first novelist, J.T. LeRoy is astonishingly confident. -- The New York Times Book , Catherine Texier JT LeRoy's masterful imagination, command of story, and easy sense of the mythological are a rare combination that demands attention -- The Toronto Star, Sunday book Section, 5/14/00, reviewed by Bert Archer