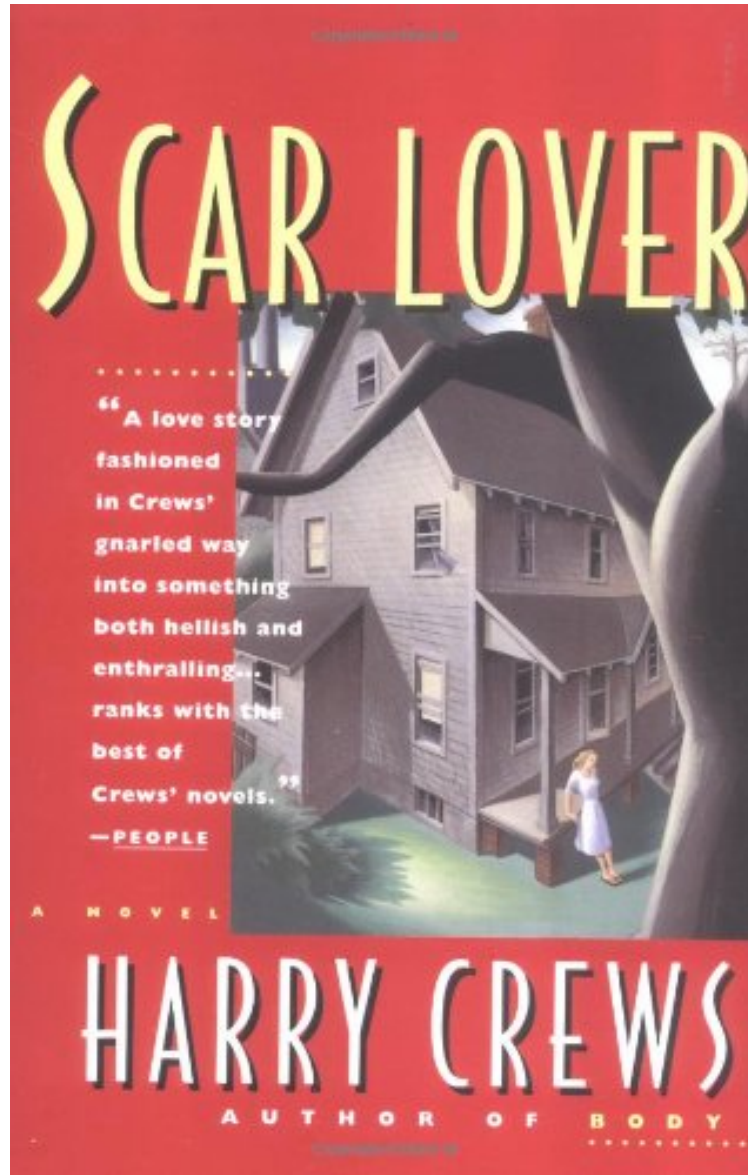


(Ebook free) Scar Lover

Scar Lover

Harry Crews

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Harry Crews : Scar Lover before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scar Lover:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Come back, Harry Crews By Nolan Winkler What's an avid Crews reader to do but reread his work? If there is any justice in the publishing world, they will republish all of this now gone writer's works. Worth it and some of his are now way too pricey to purchase and libraries don't seem to know who this

wonderful and unique writer is/was. Only one of the best writers to come out of America in many decades. Your head will spin...you won't believe his characters....then, read on...you fall in love with every one of the strange and unique people.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you're a romantic, this will be your favoriteBy ProfessorHarry has a romantic streak, and it's most apparent in this book. The ending of this book made me cry. It's the only novel that has ever done that to me.Read it and laugh; read it and cringe; read it and weep.This man is a great writer. He tells the unvarnished truth about human experience, with all of its pain, agony, joy, cruelty, compassion, hate, and love.Harry's literary history has been somewhat inconsistent, but the same can be said of Nathaniel Hawthorne and scores of other writers. I think this is his greatest novel. I guess people expect a lot of gruesome and grotesque stuff from Harry, but in this book, he really focuses on the power of love.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Deep Southern whackosBy A. DrugayTwisted Southern gothic, this time with Rastas. Crews' usual gang of swampland nutjobs trying in whacked-out ways to make sense of things. The writing is slow-moving in parts, which only underscores the boggy, ganja-filled world of death and magic. Tries a little too hard to work the "scars" theme throughout. Not my favorite Crews book but better than meh. Try Feast of Snakes if you're looking for an intro to his writing.

Scar Lover is a miraculous, true-to-the-bone story of love and redemption, at once a classic southern novel and purely, unmistakably, Harry Crews.Running from a past that has scarred and blamed him, and a tragic accident that has destroyed his family, Pete Butcher avoids all personal contact. Then Sarah Leemer, the oddly beautiful girl next door, walks into his life. Slowly, sweetly, and with a determination almost Faulknerian in its ferocity, Sarah pulls Pete back into life and into the ever increasing complications of love, family, death, and deliverance. For Sarah has made Pete her own, and as she takes her claim, we see the miraculous power of love without boundaries or fear.

From Publishers WeeklyAlthough this demented and darkly humorous tale is billed as Crews's (Body) "most mainstream" novel, rest assured he hasn't gotten there quite yet. Acerbic college-dropout Pete Butcher loathes himself for accidentally causing his little brother brain damage with a claw hammer, and he is haunted by the sight of the dual dents on the child's forehead. On his way to a Jacksonville, Fla., warehouse--where he works with a Rastafarian whose wife repeatedly brands him to commemorate each year they are together--Pete encounters Sarah Leemer, a handsome, mesmerizing young woman with a golfball-like lump in her breast. Against his better judgment, he and Sarah become lovers and he is welcomed into her family, which includes a mentally unhinged mother who has just had a radical mastectomy and a father who complains of a bad heart "the size of a watermelon." The suffering foursome have just achieved an uneasy peace when tragedy strikes them anew, launching its survivors into a gruesome, comical, grimly poetic night of graphic death and Rasta remedies. Pete's sudden responsibility to the Leemers serves to expiate his guilt over his brother; Crews admirably sustains his theme of disfigurement and healing, and if the finale is slightly ambiguous it still bears its author's trademark perverse twist. Author tour. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWhen Pete Butcher ends up in Jacksonville, Florida, he carries with him emotional scars from a devastated family life that cause him to recoil from the strangers he meets daily. Pete just wants to be left alone, but he has landed himself in the middle of a carnival of characters, especially Sarah Leamer, who has staked a claim to Pete. Pete is thus reluctantly drawn into her family's own tragic affairs. Through Sarah, Pete confronts life, death, and, ultimately, his own greatest scar. In the meantime, Pete befriends Burnt George, a co-worker and Rastafarian who carries his own horseshoe-shaped scars seared into his back. Crews darkly comic tale gives a disturbingly accurate portrayal of characters from the rural South, each fiercely shaped by sweat, grit, and cruel hardship. Although the plot becomes very strained at points, Scar Lover will not disappoint Crews's fans. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/15/91.-Brack Stovall, Carrollton P.L., Tex.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sThe latest novel by this former master of true grit southern fiction smartly steers away from the slapstick antics that so marred his last (Body, 1990). Even so, Crews still can't re-create the redneck eloquence of his early work. All the losers and weirdos who people this off-kilter book bear some kind of scar, literal or metaphoric. Pete Butcher, boxcar worker and former Marine, carries the heaviest burden--three years earlier he accidentally slammed his four-year-old brother in the forehead with a hammer, turning the bright and affectionate boy into a slobbering vegetable. Shortly thereafter, his parents die in a flaming car wreck, his brother is institutionalized, and the rest of Pete's family rejects him. This Georgia boy quits the University of Florida after four days and finds himself busting his hump in Jacksonville, trying to forget the past. Only no one will let him. Not his co-worker George, a bulking Rastafarian from Jamaica whose back is branded annually by his woman, Linga, a voodoo goddess with an elaborate design of scars on her beautiful mulatto face. When the family across the street from Pete's boardinghouse learns his story from a busybody neighbor, they too join the effort to redeem Pete, who feels ``cursed before man and God." The Leemers themselves are also part of the ``walking wounded"--mother Gertrude has just had a radical mastectomy; father Henry is a hard-working, overly cautious fellow; and daughter Sarah, who captures Pete's heart, fears the lump in her breast may be a legacy from her mother. After Henry dies from a heart attack, things take a turn for the bizarre, sucking Pete into a wild plot of corpse-snatching, cremation, and Rasta hocus-pocus. Only the strong and patient Sarah (`a woman to be reckoned

with") can pull Pete from this "quagmire of craziness," and also reunite his family. A roomful of farting corpses indicates the depths to which Crews sinks here for comic relief. From sin to redemption, this highly improbable tale of hope and affirmation just doesn't cut it- it's as belabored as the awkward title. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.