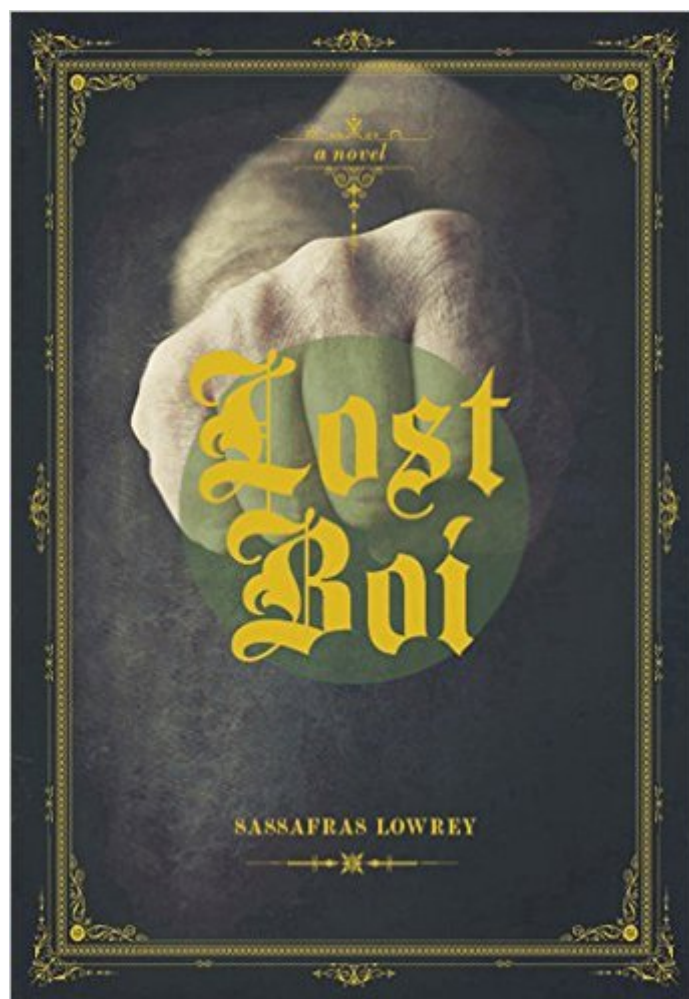


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Lost Boi



Synopsis

Lambda Literary Award finalist In Sassafras Lowrey's gorgeous queer punk reimagining of the classic Peter Pan story, prepare to be swept overboard into a world of orphaned, abandoned, and runaway bois who have sworn allegiance and service to Pan, the fearless leader of the Lost Bois brigade and the newly corrupted Mommy Wendi who, along with the tomboy John Michael, Pan convinces to join him at Neverland. Told from the point of view of Tootles, Pan's best boi, the lost bois call the Neverland squat home, creating their own idea of family, and united in their allegiance to Pan, the boi who cannot be broken, and their refusal to join ranks with Hook and the leather pirates. Like a fever-pitched dream, *Lost Boi* situates a children's fantasy within a subversive alternative reality, chronicling the lost bois' search for belonging, purpose, and their struggle against the biggest battle of all: growing up. Sassafras Lowrey is a straight-edge queer punk who won the Lambda Literary Emerging Writer Award and was named to the inaugural Trans 100 list by *We Be Trans*. Sassafras's books, *Kicked Out*, *Roving Pack*, and *Leather Ever After*, have been honored by organizations ranging from the National Leather Association to the American Library Association.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I delayed writing this review much like I delayed reading the book. Out of a deep well of longing to make it last. To savor that first time experience with as much deliberation and perfect setting as I could create. To keep my afterglow to myself for awhile. To keep it intimate. *Lost Boi* is a wickedly talented and telling re-make of the original. Dark, gritty, real. So real, in fact, that I (like many readers I'm sure) had moments of deep discomfort as well as gratitude. For how familiar it is, or

what a reality check it is on normativity and privilege. On the beauty of imagination. I am lucky enough to have never been tipped from the cradle. Ours is a family of Wendy ladies. From the guidance of a mother or sister, to femme community, to the training of a Mama, we cover a lot of ground when it comes to love and lessons and thimbles and such. I ached and desired and shook my head in exasperation and understanding, and later in sorrow, and again for the blessings of lessons, and even growing up. Or not. I know I'll be reading this book again, and out loud to a circle of creatures who long for stories they can see themselves in. If you're queer, or kinky, or poly, or are curious about it. If you've been lost, or homeless, or abused, or are curious about it. If you love a story populated by characters you'll connect with, written by an author who loves them. If you answered yes to any of that, or even no - read this book.

Ahhh! Love love love! A kinky, gender/queer, dirty gutter punk retelling of Peter Pan. What more can a girl ask for!? First, the aesthetics of the book? Oh my god, the cover image and colors are flawless but the ragged page edges!?! Gah, perfection! Sassafras is a writer who understands the power of storytelling and the way it can change and save us. She creates a world I was fully lost in and didn't want to leave. (I kept glaring at and shushing my boyfriend for interrupting my reading of it.) A fairy tale about broken people who find the beauty and magic in the ugliest and most unappreciated parts of life...which is something even the most grown up of us should aspire to.

I finished this book and wished I could forget it just so I could read it all over again! I left "some twists" because this book follows the outline of the original Peter Pan. However the gritty queer characters kept me captivated and curious as to how this was going to end! I wanted to understand and know about these characters and was not disappointed in the story development. There is no lull. There is not a single dull moment in the book, and before you know it it's over, leaving you with the taste of some wonderful magic. It is wonderfully written in a way that reminds the reader that magic is everywhere if you look hard enough.

I remember reading social media updates from Sassafras Lowrey while ze was writing this novel, updates that spoke in excited tones about the characters and the way the story was unfolding. Now I know why. Lost Boi is a retelling of Peter Pan, yes. A brilliant, imaginative, ambitious retelling that replaces pirates with Leather men and mermaids with Femmes. There is magic and kink and fairy dust and flying and through it all there is Pan, the charismatic enigma who pulls everything together. This book is a must read for anyone who cherishes creativity and good writing. It's also a

sure bet for those of us hungry for gender nonconforming characters with depth and complexity.

Lost Boi by Sassafras Lowrey flows. No, that does not sound articulate enough. It isn't nuanced enough for what I'm trying to convey about it. The book reads as if Sassafras stayed up one night writing by candlelight, after eating a spectacular home cooked dinner, and bolstered by plenty of tea to write a tale. I mean that Lost Boi is effortless and seamlessâa dramatic but gentle river of a story that carries you along from the first word to the last. It is remarkable that way. And the book itself is beautifully designed, from the lovely cover art to the deckled edges (in other words, buy the paper version rather than the ebook version)

In oldest oral tradition of story telling, each teller made the story their own, changing details and adding variations to classic themes to bring them closer to the hearts of their audience. Sassafras Lowrey does just this with Lost Boi. Yes, it is a queer punk reimagining of Peter Pan, but more than that, it is the classic story told through a different voice, one that makes us feel even more allegiance to the characters who drew us in as children, when we knew that we too were different, that the grown up world we saw around us was not where we belonged. The tender love Lowrey feels for hir characters reminds us that we all belong somewhere. A great read aloud for certain kinds of families too.

Fans of gritty queer kink will love this retelling of the classic Peter Pan! (And, as an aside, fans of the original novel will love how true the characters stay to their originals.) Lost Boi is an extremely modern interpretation of Peter Pan that seats all the characters in the dark underground world of queer homeless punks who end up finding home in each other. At times overtly kinky and sexy, and at times painfully sweet, this re-imagined world of pirates, mermaids, fairies, and lost bois may be what the queer kink world has never known it has always been missing. My partner and I couldn't put it down!

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