



Dream Boy: A Novel

By Jim Grimsley

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Struggling with sexual abuse from his father and his mother's denial of the situation, Nathan dreams of a life free from his family while fantasizing about a relationship with the young man next door, whose home represents a safe haven to Nathan.

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Dream Boy: A Novel By Jim Grimsley Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

With this heartbreak story of first love, Grimsley, recipient of the 1995 Sue Kaufman Prize for his first novel, *Winter Birds*, has crafted another potential award winner. Here he works that novel's theme?a father's abuse of his son?into his sensitive depiction of a love affair between two high-school boys in the rural South. Nathan, a sophomore and the only child of an abusive, scripture-quoting, booze-guzzling father and a nearly invisible mother, becomes smitten with Roy, a senior who lives next door. Almost without realizing it (and with some reluctance on both sides), they begin an achingly tender romance. Ultimately, peer pressure leads to tragedy, and to a sort of metaphysical denouement that may strike some readers as over-the-top. But by that time, Grimsley's scenario has become so poignant and credible that the ending seems almost inevitable. He clearly understands the pain and confusion of budding love, and his present-tense narrative adds urgency and a touching immediacy to his tale. Without ever succumbing to cliche, Grimsley cuts with surgical precision to the heart of these characters' inchoate longings and barely repressed fears. Deceptively simple descriptive passages are hauntingly elegiac, and things left unsaid become as important as words expressed: these players' silences speak volumes. Romantic passion, violence and ultimate liberation coalesce in this singular display of literary craftsmanship.

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From Library Journal

For collections desirous of a "problem" coming-of-age story with a gay theme, this might be a good bet. Grimsley, a Pen/Hemingway finalist for *Winter Birds* (LJ 8/94), writes smoothly, his Southern settings are evocative, and the dysfunctional family (with an abusive, alcoholic, Bible-toting father) of young Nathan rings true, as does the violence that pervades *Dream Boy*. Psychologically, what draws Nathan to Roy, the older-boy-baseball-star-with-a-girlfriend, makes sense; but, sexual orientation aside, Roy's interest in Nathan makes much less sense?as if it's supposed to be magic or chemistry. Whatever it is, the treatment is too perfunctory. Similarly, settings can tend toward the formulaic (farm pond flanked by overgrown cemetery?check; deserted, picturesque, haunted plantation mansion?check), and the plot is too subservient to atmosphere and theme. Still, this interesting effort will undoubtedly collect some rave reviews and therefore deserves consideration.?Robert E. Brown, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, N.Y.

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From Booklist

Nathan moves with mother and father to a farm. Roy lives next door with his mother and father. Slightly younger than Roy, Nathan is bookish and slight, whereas Roy is outgoing, popular, and a real farm boy. Nathan falls in love with Roy, and Roy falls in love with Nathan. They have sex. Meanwhile, Nathan's alcoholic father has sexually abused Nathan; Nathan's mother sighs about it all but seems helpless to do anything. Nathan starts sleeping in the woods and Roy's barn but eats at home when his father isn't there as his mother watches and says little. Nathan, Roy, and two of Roy's friends start swimming together, then go hiking to a place where there's an abandoned house, where malice in the interactions among them leads to Nathan's being raped. Wimsley tells this story as if it were a dream: the diction, pacing, and details all have a distant, almost fuzzy quality. This very unusual novel is a truly unique addition to gay literature. *Charles Harmon*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Cabrera:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Dream Boy: A Novel as the daily resource information.

Melinda Anderson:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this Dream Boy: A Novel.

Robert Mayo:

The actual book Dream Boy: A Novel has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Jamila Coles:

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