



Dancing Queen: The Bawdy Adventures of Lisa Crystal Carver

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Come join literary provocateur Lisa Carver on a hilarious, poignant search for truth and meaning at the end of the "American Century." With the same outrageous humor, piercing insight and racy flair that have made her 'zine Rollerderby such a phenomenal counterculture sensation, this idiosyncratic observer digs into her own life and shines the spotlight on Lawrence Welk and Anna Nicole Smith, white trash and beauty queens, teenage sexual yearnings and Tonya Harding, and other markers of our times. The result? A thoroughly provocative exploration of the pretensions, joys, and absurdities of modern American life - a wildly entertaining book that will leave you dizzy with delight and intoxicated by this striking new voice.

Dancing Queen: The Bawdy Adventures of Lisa Crystal Carver Details

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Camille says

well, there's the "Manifest Destiny of Anna Nicole Smith"...then the hilarious revelation of a pubescent fantasy of being attacked by a horny bear (you know, the old warning about camping on your period)...her suggestion that if you think you're a loser cause you're not even good at your vacuuming job because you get distracted by the lusty dreamy thoughts in your head...do what she did, say fuck it and write a book about it.

Stacy Fettters says

Lisa Suckdog Carver, the white trash sex crazed she-devil.

"Theres nothing sexier than peeling off ladies panties to find.....more panties. Oo la la!"

Every chapter is a rant or rave from lady suckdog herself. Hilarious and she pulls no punches. If she hates you, you better fucking believe that everyone knows.

From her love of ladies, horrible romance novels, Lawrence Welk and Kmart. She goes for the jugular and doesnt stop.

Did I forget to mention she wants to make out with Russian leaders and masturbate against tables?

Thats why her name is Suckdog. It fits perfectly.

Julene says

Some essays were funny, some less so... and name-dropping Boyd Rice is a strong no-no. "The Manifest Destiny of Anna Nicole Smith" is, in my mind, the best in the book.

Schizophelia says

I give this book only to women that I love. It is so funny and intelligently written without a trace of ego. The influence that Lisa Carver has had on me and my life is unfathomable. Truly, one of the few people in the world who doesn't seem to have a cynical bone in her narrative body. In world where taking ourselves seriously has become a means to social survival, this woman is welcome breath of fresh air.

Joy says

I'm tired of looking at this.

Jayne Lamb says

Lisa 'Suckdog' Carver is the crazy antidote to Gen X apathy. She is excited by, and loves, everything, up to and including pap smears and Russian politicians. This very slight tome is a selection of writings from her zine 'Rollerderby' (nothing to do with the sport, more her crazy love of all things late 70's/80's). She may have made some very questionable life choices - shacking up and having a baby with a guy who has an - ahem - unhealthy obsession with the losing side of World War II - but that's a whole different book. ("Drugs Are Nice", to be specific.) She is one passionate, positive and lusty chick who sounds like she'd be great fun to watch horror movies and go shoplifting with.

Bethtub says

Really not politically correct at moments, but given the context of the book as from 'white trash' roots, it's not surprising. So refreshing in the 'what's with all the acting like yer poop don't smell?' attitude.

Jesse says

I'm a longtime Lisa Carver fan but only just now got around to this book. If i'd read this in the '90s i'd almost certainly have liked it more, as it reads as though it were taken direct from disconnected Rollerderby reflections. However since she's been writing longform books (both her excellent memoir Drugs Are Nice and her subsequent excellent self-published works), I've come to appreciate her thorough devotion to form. This collection of little essays about this and that feels like it needed more risk, more focus.

S M-B says

I liked "Rollerderby", I liked "Drugs Are Nice" and I like this.

Ron says

Lisa Carver once had dreams of writing a modern masterpiece that evoked her favorites throughout history, and her main themes and that ambition makes her a literary soul mate to me (I too dreamed of being like Umberto Eco, suddenly appearing on the scene at age 50 with a first masterpiece in tow). The problem for both of us is that we grew up as Gen Xers in the most crass and commercial age in human history, and as such are probably not going to drop the wisdom of the ages on an unsuspecting world.

Carver writes neither badly nor excellently, and she does have some small insights into our culture, but the blurbs from Peter Bagge and the Utne Reader go way too far in their praise of her and this first effort. It's not really as bawdy as the title would suggest, merely the tepid expression of some of her bolder fantasies (which

do run the gamut toward being fairly outrageous and defy the PC culture of the time in a way that turns me on to a great degree). She IS trying to get to our animal roots, but she is neither the literary light that is Angela Carter nor the extreme provocateur that is Kathy Acker (who also did her share of breaking literary boundaries). Carver sees sex everywhere, which is fine, but she sees it in tepid places like the Lawrence Welk show and often comes across as a tourist who briefly left her safe life in one of the states with the highest per capita incomes (it's really hard to believe that she was poor white trash, even if she adopts the trappings of the culture by spouting the lingo).

It's a fun read, but it's not anything life changing or lasting.

Janice Bonczek says

before reading:

i really wanted to read "drugs are nice," also by lisa carver, but the library didn't have it. so i checked this one out instead, although i don't really know what it's about... starting it now so we'll see how it goes!

after reading

well, i still don't really know what this book was about...mostly about the weird sexual fantasies she had growing up from the age of 12 and up. but there were also some cute anecdotes and the whole book was funny. it was a quick, easy read. her writing style uses a lot of exclamation points! four stars. it was cute, fun, and light, and i really liked how she has no qualms about speaking her mind, down to her last deep, dark, strange thoughts and fantasies. she was funny without seeming like she was trying too hard, and i like the way she thinks.

Jimmie says

Lisa Carver makes me want to be white trash. Not that self-consciously ironic hipster trash that spends \$120 on Melrose for a deliberately garish t-shirt you could buy for \$3 at Goodwill. No, the kind of trash she celebrates in her book: the gum-popping, Tonya-Harding-and-Anna-Nicole-Smith-lovin', K-Mart-shopping, romance-novel-devouring kind of trash. But then again, *wanting* to be that kind of trash would make me the self-conscious ironic kind of trash. So nevermind. But the book is funny anyway.

And lest you think this woman doesn't have "deep" thought in her head... She posits quite a theory: Lawrence Welk is Adolf Hitler's foil. Having enjoyed support for his artistic inclination, this German immigrant became a successful entertainer adored the world over, whereas Hitler, also an artistically inclined German, was frustrated at every turn and channeled that frustration into other, altogether more sinister pursuits. Whodathunk? One more reason to support the arts in education, I think.

P.E. Tottenham says

Some great essays in here! I really love the bit about camping and the bear attack...

--P.E. Tottenham

Diana says

I love Lisa Crystal Carver and her intense intellect combined with heart. She is not afraid of what YOU think about what SHE thinks, and her thoughts on pop culture are original and entertaining.

Mark Stalcup says

The mighty Lisa of Rollerderby zine fame and the punk band Suckdog makes me smile in the same way the Vaselines made Kurt Cobain smile; she writes an unapologetic, distinctly feminine and overwhelmingly happy book of essays about growing up in the 1970s and, as she puts it, unabashedly "liking stuff," whether it is trashy and tacky or just underappreciated. She shops at K-Mart, reads trashy novels, idolizes Anna Nicole Smith and Olivia Newton John, and can find virtue in many things most trash, i.e. Fabio and the Bee Gees. Imagine a far sexier Tonya Harding with a brain and a wicked wit, or Amy Fisher without the gun and the porn career, but with a MFA and a Black Flag record collection. All I know is, she's one of my unabashed literary crushes, up there with Liz Phair as a musical crush.
