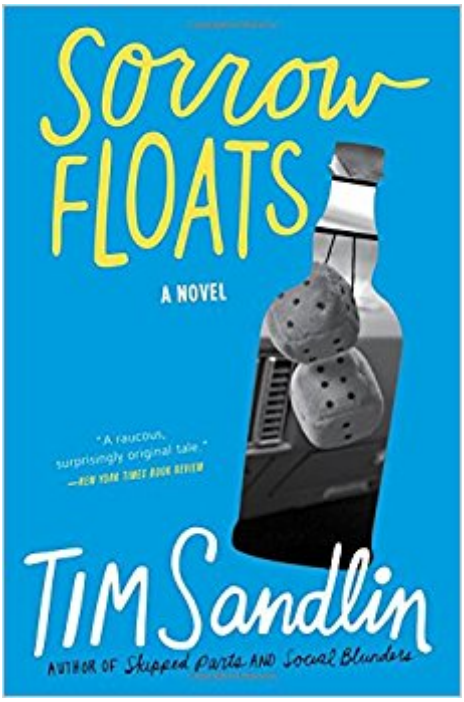
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Sorrow Floats: A Novel (GroVont Series)



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Synopsis

"Tim Sandlin’s stuff is as tight and funny as anyone doing this comedy novel thing." -Christopher Moore Maurey has hit rock bottom, with a bottle of whiskey and an infamous reputation, she’ll do anything to get out of town. Even drive two ex-drunks cross-country hauling a trailer full of illegal beer. Everyone in GroVont, Wyoming, knows everybody else’s business, but Maurey Pierce Talbot is practically famous around town. Sunk low since her father died, whiskey - specifically Yukon Jack - is her best friend. When she makes the mistake of a lifetime, Maurey finds herself looking up from rock bottom. So when two bumbling ex-drunks need to get cross-country with a trailer full of illegal beer, Maurey takes the wheel. Sometimes you just need to get out of town. And sometimes you need to get lost in order to get found. The dark comedy and heartfelt revelations will appeal to fans of Jack Kerouac, Tom Robbins, Larry McMurtry, Joseph Heller, John Irving, Kurt Vonnegut, and Carl Hiaasen. Other books in Tim Sandlin’s GroVant Trilogy:Skipped Parts, Book 1 Sorrow Floats, Book 2Social Blunders, Book 3Lydia, Book 4What readers are saying about Sorrow Floats:"I’ve never cheered harder for a fictional character.""Maurey is an appealing character; her voice is strong and clear even if her path forward isn’t.""Being a huge fan of ROAD TRIPS AND RAUNCHINESS, I absolutely loved this book." "Sandlin really allows you to feel her anger, pain, confusion and tenderness.""Funny, kind of wise and sentimental at the end." "It’s required reading for women, alcoholics, tortured writers""Maurey Pierce is a flawed, broken, beautiful character... it’s a NOVEL ABOUT BEING ALIVE.""cathartic and deep""Favorite. Book. Ever."What reviewers are saying about Sorrow Floats:"Able storytelling and an engaging cast of dysfunctional modern American pilgrims..." -Publishers Weekly (STARRED REVIEW)"A rousing piece of Americana...rowdy, raunchy...A TOTAL DELIGHT." -Library Journal"Tim Sandlin’s fiction packs a punch. The writer’s fictional Wyoming town is a grungier version of Garrison Keillor’s Lake Wobegon." -Denver Post"A zany road trip across America" -Cosmopolitan"Sandlin understands that black comedy is only a tiny slip away from despair, and he handles this walk without a misstep." -Dallas Morning NewsWhat everyone is saying about Tim Sandlin:"Tim Sandlin’s stuff is as tight and funny as anyone doing this comedy novel thing." -Christopher Moore "His prose, his characters, all amazing.""A story of grand faux pas and dazzling dysfunction...a wildly satirical look at the absurdities of modern life." -The New York Times Book Review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Able storytelling and an engaging cast of dysfunctional modern American pilgrims animate this winning tale of the road. When tipsy, 23-year-old Maurey Pierce Talbot accidentally drives through her Wyoming town with her baby on the roof of her car, she realizes just how far she has sunk since her father's death left her distraught and almost unhinged. (She writes him daily picture postcards, knowing full well he is gone but unable to come to terms with her loss.) After attempting suicide and being thrown out by her philandering husband, she meets Lloyd and Shane, two recovering alcoholics who have devised a scheme to smuggle Coors beer to the East Coast. Longing to be reunited with her eight-year-old daughter Shannon in North Carolina (Sandlin chronicled Shannon's birth in Skipped Parts), Maurey decamps on an unlikely odyssey, pulling a horse trailer full of beer behind a broken-down old ambulance, sipping Yukon Jack from the bottle as her companions search for AA meetings. Maurey is not yet ready to deal with her alcoholism or her reluctance to be loved, but the hardships of the road and the bonds that unite this group of refugees (others join them along the way) will change that. Maurey's wry, cocksure voice evokes both her cowgirl roots and the novel's '70s setting. Despite the bickering, sarcasm, cynicism and personal tragedy that season the lives of his colorful, credible characters, Sandlin fashions a convincing tale of redemption. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Another yahoo yarn from Sandlin (Skipped Parts, 1991; Western Swing, 1988), who steps out in narrative drag this time as Maury Talbot, a dipso Wyoming cowgirl who hits the road, dries out, and grows up en route to North Carolina. Like all good drifters, Maury heads away on a pretext because

she hasn’t any choice: The eight-month binge that started at her Daddy’s funeral has left her living in a tent behind what used to be her home, while a local bimbo nurses her baby inside and waits for the Talbot divorce to come through. Under the circumstances, then, an opportunity to drive a hundred cases of Coors cross- country in a derelict ambulance with an obese cripple and his unlicensed friend appears as an attractive alternative to suicide- -which has already been tried without much success. Maury’s road companions, as it happens, are both reformed alcoholics who plot out their itinerary along an uneven line that touches every A.A. meeting on the way. Poor Maury. She knows that sooner or later she’ll have to relent, but she’s too tough to give in without a fight, and it takes a string of catastrophes reminiscent of the Pharaonic plagues to beat her eyes open. Robbery, rape, and mutilation conspire to show her what life is like down below, and her friends in the backseat help her make the causal connections and work out an alternative. Once that has happened, her story suddenly seems a lot less intriguing, but fortunately (for us) it doesn’t happen until the very end. Readable and obvious: Sandlin doesn’t have much of a tale here, but plays it with panache. Good for your next long flight. -- Copyright Ã Â©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the second novel of the GroVont Trilogy. If you haven’t read the first novel, Skipped Parts, I would highly recommend doing that first. I actually got it for free on Kindle a while back, but I’m sure that deal is over. In any case, it definitely got me spending money on the next few books!This book is told from the viewpoint of Maurey from the first book, almost 10 years later. It’s such a good read and I’m not sure how he does it, but Sandlin nails the alcoholic on the brink of bottom near flawlessly. I laughed at Maurey’s thoughts throughout the book relating to her very much, as I was at a similar point in life when I was her age. =)I especially love the way he captures the characters’ personalities. My favorite was Lloyd, for sure.A good read for anyone, a fantastic read for the recovering alcoholic. You’ll laugh a lot! (If you’re not an alcoholic, you’ll gasp over and over and wonder how in the hell someone in a review could ever say they laughed a lot at Maurey!)Now I’m off to buy the third of the trilogy on my Kindle!

I think it is one that makes you laugh AND cry. The characters are so well written that you are totally inside Maurey’s head and feel her pain as she tells the story, and I’m sure we all know people that are like Lloyd & Shane. There were times towards the end where I had to stop and set the book down & walk away because it was so emotional. This is a great road trip book about a bunch of odd characters, all the crazy mishaps along the way and how they grow to be like a family. Even though

this is book 2 in a series of 4 it is a great "stand alone" book. I am glad I bought all 4 books at once so I can immediately dig into book 3 - Social Blunders.

I was hesitant to read Sorrow Floats when I found out it begins with Maurey leaving her baby on the roof--how much more depressing can you get? In true Sandlin fashion it turns tragedy into comedy, and Maurey's character development is just fantastic. As a 22-year-old woman myself, I can attest that Sandlin manages to write from the perspective of a 22-year-old woman with astounding accuracy. Maurey is a good example of someone who screws up her life and then somehow manages to learn that she is worth saving. I went through that too, and so did you I bet. Read this book if you are curious about what happened in the spring of 1973 in a very memorable young woman's head.

Sandlin has a such unexpected sens of humor, you cannot stop laughing, at almost every line. I started reading "Rowdy in Paris", so funny I decided to buy all of the series which "Sorrow Floats" is part of. Read all of his book, you will be surprised with every page, it will keep you in good moods for days!

The book is a great read, as are the rest in the series, but there is one thing that drive me nuts: it is not Carolina, it is NORTH Carolina (or South, if that's where Greensboro was). I've lived most of my life in either North or South Carolina and the only times people say just "Carolina" is when they are referring to the school (UNC or USC) or in songs/poems.

Being based in the Rockies I run across a fair number of books that fall into a category you could call "cowgirl noir". Sure, you have your hard bitten East Coast medical examiners and your hard bitten West Coast P.I.'s, and the occasional tough as nails fallen southern belle, but I'm still partial to the sadder but wiser cowgirl. Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona have each given birth to such characters, and here we get one from Wyoming; 23 year old Maurey Pierce Talbot is a welcome addition indeed.These cowgirl heroines have a lot in common. Usually they are partial to drink and have a few alcohol fueled missteps in their pasts. Some have a busted marriage; most have at least a failed relationship or three. There can be a kid in the mix, but usually not. Lots of times they're between jobs, often because of one too many DUI's. Waitressing and bartending show up a lot on their resumes.They are marked by a tough exterior, hearts of varying degrees of softness, a wicked sense of humor, a certain rueful pessimism about their immediate prospects, and

yet a certain gimlet eyed hope for a happier future. They are in charge of their own sexuality. They don't suffer fools, and pretty much everybody seems to be a fool. There is usually one person they can trust and in whom they can confide. They do not have good relationships with their mothers or their ex mothers-in-law. They are often reckless and almost always armed.I mention all of this because that describes the narrator of this book pretty well. She's hit the bottom of the bottle since her Daddy died, and it's going to take a cross-country beer-hauling road trip with two colorful ex-drunks to get her on the right path. Maurey is an appealing character; her voice is strong and clear even if her path forward isn't. While there are plenty of catastrophes along the road the author treats his characters with a generous and forgiving spirit that keeps the drama inside the lines and balances sorrow with tenderness. A good find.

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