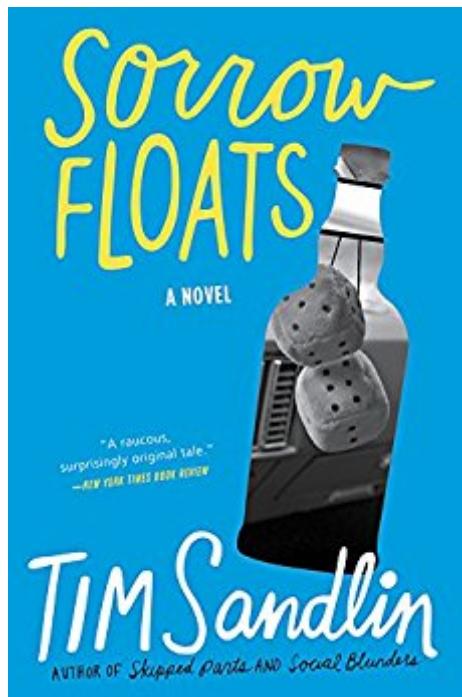


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Sorrow Floats: A Novel (GroVont Series)



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 GroVont Trilogy: Skipped Parts, Book 1 Sorrow Floats, Book 2 Social Blunders, Book 3 Lydia, Book 4 What 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 News What 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

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Customer Reviews

You sort of knew that the Maurey Pierce that Sam Callahan described in his first-person narrative in Skipped Parts wasn't as together and perfect as he made her out to be. In Sorrow Floats, Maurey takes up the narrative herself, and we see not only the sadness and insecurity that Sam missed, but the guilt she felt about how her life had gone and her inability and unwillingness to parent the daughter she had on her 14th birthday and eventually over her father's untimely death, while riding her own beloved show horse. This has led Maurey to pursue a marriage with Dothan Talbot, her high school boyfriend, that she knew would be disastrous, and to drink. The real love of her life, she thinks, is Yukon Jack, and she nearly kills her infant son Auburn (all Talbots are named for Alabama towns) and loses her marriage, self-respect and her standing in her hometown of Gro Vont, Wyoming. To begin her redemption, she begins a picaresque journey with two unlikely characters, Lloyd, pursuing a lost wife who is never found, and Shane, wheelchair-bound but hardly wheelchair-ridden, and given to apparent exaggeration of his personal exploits, which included bedding Katharine Hepburn in unusual circumstances and dating Priscilla Beaulieu before Elvis, to whom he introduced her. Both are recovering alcoholics who never miss a meeting, but the mission of their trip, besides finding Lloyd's wife and saving Shane's sister, is to sell Coors beer east of Arkansas for a large profit. Maurey can provide money and a horse trailer to drag behind the hearse

named Moby Dick, and on they go, headed to Shane's grandmother in North Carolina, which is also where Sam now lives with Shannon.

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.

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