



# **Daredevils**

Shawn Vestal

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From the winner of 2014's PEN Robert W. Bingham Prize, an unforgettable debut novel about Loretta, a teenager married off as a "sister wife," who makes a break for freedom

At the heart of this exciting debut novel, set in Arizona and Idaho in the mid-1970s, is fifteen-year-old Loretta, who slips out of her bedroom every evening to meet her so-called gentile boyfriend. Her strict Mormon parents catch her returning one night, and promptly marry her off to Dean Harder, a devout yet materialistic fundamentalist who already has a wife and a brood of kids. The Harders relocate to his native Idaho, where Dean's teenage nephew Jason falls hard for Loretta. A Zeppelin and Tolkien fan, Jason worships Evel Knievel and longs to leave his close-minded community. He and Loretta make a break for it. They drive all night, stay in hotels, and relish their dizzying burst of teenage freedom as they seek to recover Dean's cache of "Mormon gold." But someone Loretta left behind is on their trail...

A riveting story of desire and escape, *Daredevils* boasts memorable set pieces and a rich cast of secondary characters. There's Dean's other wife, Ruth, who as a child in the 1950s was separated from her parents during the notorious Short Creek raid, when federal agents descended on a Mormon fundamentalist community. There's Jason's best friend, Boyd, part Native American and caught up in the activist spirit of the time, who comes along for the ride, with disastrous results. And Vestal's ultimate creation is a superbly sleazy chatterbox—a man who might or might not be Evel Knievel himself—who works his charms on Loretta at a casino in Elko, Nevada.

A lifelong journalist whose Spokesman column is a fixture in Spokane, WA, Shawn has honed his fiction over many years, publishing in journals like McSweeney's and Tin House. His stunning first collection, Godforsaken Idaho, burrowed into history as it engaged with masculinity and crime, faith and apostasy, and the West that he knows so well. Daredevils shows what he can do on a broader canvas--a fascinating, wideangle portrait of a time and place that's both a classic coming of age tale and a plunge into the myths of America, sacred and profane.



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#### **Tracie Wright:**

Daredevils can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Daredevils yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

#### James Dorman:

The book untitled Daredevils contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice learn.

#### **Steven Whitney:**

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