



Sugarless: A Novel

James Magruder

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Things look bad for Rick Lahrem, a high school sophomore in a cookie-cutter Chicago suburb in 1976. His mother's second husband is a licensed psychologist who eats like an ape, his stepsister is a stoner slut, and his father is engaged to a Southern belle. Rick's only solace is his growing collection of original Broadway-cast LPs, bought on the sly at Wax Trax.

After he brings two girls in speech class to tears by reading a story aloud, Rick is coaxed onto the interscholastic forensics team to perform an eight-minute dramatic interpretation of *The Boys in the Band*, the controversial sixties play about homosexuality. Unexpectedly successful at this oddball event, Rick begins winning tournaments and making friends with his teammates.

Rick also discovers the joys of sex—with a speech coach from a rival school—just as his mother, reacting to a deteriorating home environment, makes an unnerving commitment to Christ. The newly confident Rick assumes this too shall pass—until the combined forces of family, sex, and faith threaten to undo him at the state meet in Peoria.

James Magruder's *Sugarless* offers a ruefully entertaining take on the simultaneous struggles of coming-out, coming-of-age, and coming-to-Jesus.

A selection of InsightOut Book Club

Finalist, Lambda Book Award for Gay Debut Fiction, Lambda Literary Foundation

Finalist, TLA Gaybie Award for Best Gay Fiction

Semi-finalist, James Branch Cabell First Novelist Award, Virginia Commonwealth University

Semi-finalist, William Saroyan International Prize For Writing, Stanford University

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Michelle Fulk:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a book. The book Sugarless: A Novel it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Stella Neal:

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William Henderson:

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