

Sugarless: A Novel - James Magruder

James Magruder



Sugarless
A NOVEL

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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. "Sugarless is the rough chutes and ladders of adolescence against a realistic and

hilarious evocation of the 1970s. If you ever wondered what makes boys tick, or you™ve been in danger of forgetting, this is the book you™ve been looking for.Â•Â”Amy Bloom, author of Away"Author: Magruder, James Publisher: University of Wisconsin Press Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Sugarless: A Novel Pages: 00274 (Encrypted PDF) On Sale: 2009-10-22 SKU-13/ISBN: 9780299233808 Lib Category: Bildungsromans Lib Category: Coming out (Sexual orientation) - Illinois Category: Fiction : Gay

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