

REVIEWS OF *CHEERLEADERS CAN'T AFFORD TO BE NICE*

"Cheerleaders Can't Afford To Be Nice is a funny, compassionate, and often painful account of the ways eccentricity and failure conspire to shape Crosby and threaten to shipwreck her conventional life." ***The Washington Post***

"A rollicking first novel about what shrinks call a dysfunctional family...Crosby is a heroine who immediately captures our sympathy; she's a survivor and though she's tempted by more selfish goals, she's overtaken by a need to do the right thing." ***New Woman***

"The kind of book no one will ever forget. It's about the end of innocence and the loss of family. It's about a group of people who were thrown together because of a biological accident and damaged each other without intending hard...a condemnation on modern life and an explanation of the misfits in today's world...brilliant as it chronicles the ageless search for the great American Dream." ***Ocala Star Banner***

"An impressive fiction debut...narrator, Crosby Rawson, whose '50s upbringing gives way to a West Coast 90s savvy""paints a portrait of real life through her credible characters who, like most of us, are merely reaching for that sweet bird of happiness." ***San Antonio Express-News***

"Former Chicago Sun-Times reporter shows so smartly in her captivating first novel, Crosby has nowhere to go until she forgives her parents...Heartrending and sharply ironic...a powerful, well-drawn portrait of the American Dream gone tragically awry." ***The Norfolk Virginian Pilot***

"This sensitive first novel...explores the relationship between a brother and sister and their family. Crosby Rawson receives a letter telling her that her brother Ben is missing from the shelter he usually frequents in New York. Through Crosby Saiter takes us through the dark side of the American dream." **Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection**

"Saiter walks a thin line in characterizing the initially endearing Crosby; her survival requires that she learn to take what she needs and push away anyone who threatens what she has attained. Ben is both a charmer and an inexplicably deadly menace, rendering this novel an intense and compelling experience." ***Publishers Weekly***

"A serious novel about families, mental illness and commitment....there's another story here that first-time author Saiter weaves in and out—and it's the juice that keeps this book going.

The story is about Ben and Crosby's childhood in the Midwest. The father is an itinerant salesman and the mother is a cross between Auntie Mame and Jayne Mansfield...The story is thick –almost clotted—with great images and descriptions when Crosby flashes back to her childhood.” ***San Diego Tribune***

“Crosby has inched her way to middle class, and is making plans to enter law school. But her brother, Ben, is living on the streets of New York...As she walks the streets, checking the shelters, hospitals and parks, she recalls the strange childhood she and Ben shared.” ***The Sunday Oklahoman***

“Throughout, the reminiscences of Midwestern youth alternate with the complexities of Crosby's adult life—and it is all skillfully done.” ***Erie Times-News***

“An appealing, well-written novel that sensitively explores the nuances of family love.”
Newport News Daily Press

“It's a refreshing view of the clichéd Midwestern family of the 1950s. Its depiction of the homeless as somebody's brother also goes a long way toward humanizing this often faceless and tragic population.” ***Library Journal***

“Excellent first novel about a young woman caught on snags of a wild family past at a time when her ambitions finally seem to be achievable.” ***Amarillo News-Globe***

REVIEWS FOR MOIRA'S WAY

“A realistic, seamy story of adolescence in the household of a mixed-up family, this novel will appeal to anyone who ever felt like a loser in high school.” ***Booklist***

“A promising premise—tracking a bright girl's rebellion...offers some vivid, compelling insights into life as the scapegoated child of an alcoholic family.” ***Kirkus Reviews***