

Everyone's Burning: A Novel



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Reviews

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(Audrey Lowe I)

EVERYONE'S BURNING: A NOVEL



Westminster, Maryland, U.S.A.: Villard Books, 2003. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Edition. Product Description: A young man without prospects finds his place in the universe--as a young woman's slave. Poised somewhere between high school and adulthood, Leon Koch roams the bars and bedrooms of Bayside, Queens, twenty minutes and a thousand psychic miles from Manhattan--a multicultural landscape where the line dividing the middle class from the street gangs has been obliterated. With his two best friends just out of prison for pipe-bombing a house, Koch discovers that cocaine and alcohol have imbued him with "superpowers," twisting his mind into a plexus where love, fear, violence, and intimacy are indistinguishable. As life becomes a waking nightmare spent fighting with police, predators, and the law-abiding, unscarred citizens he dismisses as "normals," Koch drives relentlessly toward a fantasy zone. What he finds is a fetishistic realm of worship and ritual where people are never quite certain whether they're role-playing or getting played by their roles. Testing the bounds of sensation under the constant threat of violence, Koch explores a world that is a slave to its own secrets, where freedom exists only in a 911 call from the brink of self-annihilation. Told in a hallucinatory, street-poetic voice, Everyone's Burning depicts the lives and deaths of a generation that raised itself on Star Wars, talk shows, and Charles Manson interviews. Koch is a bleary yet gimlet-eyed tour guide through one of their neighborhoods. From the Back Cover: "This is a body-slam of a first novel. The writing is rough and rich, a shaken-and-stirred blend of Pete Dexter, Hubert Selby, Jr. and Richard Price. The characters are sadly all-too-real, scraping past the underbelly of the outer boroughs of New York City, looking no further than the next drink, score and sunrise...."



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