



Fender Lizards

Joe R. Lansdale

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The unmistakable accent of the Piney Woods of East Texas rolls from the pages of *Fender Lizards*, Joe R. Lansdale's tale of the life and love and work of one Dot Sherman, who delivers on her promise that her story is "the real thing from beginning to end."

Dot waitresses on roller skates at the Dairy Bob, doesn't care for smoking at least partly on account of her dad having never returned from a cigarette run, and carries on the family tradition of philosophizing. Life hasn't done her any favors in her seventeen years so far. But if there was ever a heroine built for turning things upside down and seeing what shakes out, it's Dot. Determined to find out who she is and why she's the way she is, an opportunity presents itself when her heretofore-unknown uncle suddenly moves his camper into the front yard.

As in his classic novels *The Bottoms* and *The Magic Wagon*, multiple-award-winning Lansdale instills place with character and character with place. Here is an overlooked world and a cast of real folks that prove unforgettable, all rendered in one of American fiction's most authentic voices.

Fender Lizards Details

Date : Published November 2015 by Subterranean Press

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Author : Joe R. Lansdale

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From Reader Review Fender Lizards for online ebook

Ellana Thornton-Wheybrew says

This is a book in which nothing happens. All conflicts are tiny, and are resolved in a paragraph or two.

Despite that, it was a charming read. This is a great story to devour when you just want to put your feet up and enjoy a good book. That's all it is. It is just a good book. Nothing happens, but the characters are all charming and wonderful.

Dot signs up to a roller derby with some of the other women from work, and I didn't care if they won or lost, just that they took part.

James says

Great coming-of-age tale. Not at all what I expected, but that's certainly not a bad thing!

Cheryl says

Another great Lansdale offering

Joe Lansdale is one of my favorite authors. Two of his books - THE BOTTOMS and A FINE DARK LINE are in my top ten books of all time.

He does especially well with coming-of-age books, filling them with believable dialogue and storylines.

Dorothy (known as Dot to her friends) is a 17 year-old high school dropout. She lives a hardscrabble life, living with her Mom, little brother and Grandma in a single-wide trailer in East Texas. She works at the local Dairy Bob, delivering food orders on roller skates (thus the title FENDER LIZARDS).

Her father went to the store for cigarettes when Dot was 12 years old and never came back and now his brother just showed up and is living in front of the trailer in his Dodge Caravan.

A 2"x4" figures strongly into the story. There's a roller derby coming to town. And there's a touch of romance in the air.

I loved the characters, even the unlikable ones. Dialogue is stellar as always in Lansdale tales. I always finish his books feeling like I've made new friends and this book is no exception.

And the cover of the book is perfect.

Dan Schwent says

High school dropout Dot Sherman's life was going nowhere, working at the Dairy Bob and living with her mother, grandmother, and siblings, until her uncle started living in a van in the front yard. Now, she's forming a roller derby team and searching for her long lost father...

As I've said many times before, Joe Lansdale is one of top five favorite authors. He brings the usual mojo to the table in this one.

Fender Lizards is the story of a roller-skating waitress trying to get her shit together before she ends up like her mother and her older sister. Dot plasters her older sister's no good drunk boyfriend with a 2x4 pretty early in the proceedings, setting off an interesting chain of events.

I liken Joe Lansdale's writing to sitting on tailgate having a conversation with the man and this tale is no different. However, I felt like I've read it before. It felt like pieces of other Lansdale books at times. Hell, the man writes books as often as a dog licks its asshole so it's no wonder he treads familiar territory a time or two.

I've got some mixed feelings about this book. On one hand, it's par for the course Joe Lansdale, prominently featuring interesting characters, white trash awesomeness, hilarity, and Joe's trademark front porch wisdom. On the other hand, I feel like it's nothing new. How many coming of age tales does Joe need to write? 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Michael Sellars says

A sweet Texas tale demonstrating that Mr Lansdale can turn his hand to any genre and none at all. I picked it up without reading any reviews, so I kept expecting a sudden outbreak of violent crime. But it never came. There's a little of the bumbling, inept criminality which is Lansdale's hallmark, but that's about it. But it doesn't hurt the book one bit. I loved it.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

I had some notes highlighted, but I just fired up the ol' Kindle and **poof** they aren't there anymore so Imma have to wing it. I will flat out admit I wanted this one for the title alone – and also because Joe Lansdale stories pretty much equate this for me

(Too soon? Sorry, Coach K.)

But regarding that title: I mean what **is** a Fender Lizard and how can I be one? Are they recruiting? Would I have to jump someone in an alley with a shiv to get in? I'm pretty much up for whatever it might take. Luckily I didn't have to wait long to find out thanks to my Good Buddy Dan and the power of the "lend" feature.

As for the story itself, Lansdale is known for his ability to spin a good coming of age yarn, but in books that are clearly written for adults. That being said, although I'm fairly comfortable in saying *Fender Lizards* would **NOT** probably reside in the Young Adult section of your local bookstore – that is precisely where it should be. Adults like me will happily lap the story up as it dishes up some surefire **YES PLEASE!** features such as high school dropouts with a daddy who went out for a pack of smokes and never came back and a sister with multiple deadbeat baby daddy and I was just like

And don't get offended because those are **TOTALLY** my people and could probably be most of my relatives.

Also they lived in a place like this

Which is practically a *dare* to me to see if I can resist giving it an auto 5 Star rating.

They also worked at a super high-end establishment known as the

Where they had to do **THIS**

And maybe, just *maaaaaaaaaaybe* their chance at getting ahead in life would come from winning one of these

Not to mention

To which the answer is: A little bit!!!

Can you hear me squeaking all across the country? Not even sorry.

This was super fun even though I'm an old geezer. If I had a teenage daughter I'd ~~hold her down and sit on her until she finished reading~~ this recommend this one to her.

Thanks again for the lend, Original Dan. You're one of the good'uns!

Zoeytron says

Dot, 17 years old, high school dropout. She lives in a trailer park with her mama, her grandma, and her little

brother, the booger-picking Frank. Uncle Elbert lives in his van out in front of their trailer. Dot works as a roller skating carhop at the Dairy Bob, thus the term "fender lizard".

In this story, you can find a bit of roller derby action, kids with weed-eater haircuts, crawly jailhouse tats, and plenty of wry humor to make you snort. The long and the short of it is that Dot just wants to matter, and not end up like her mama. This is slice of life fare, served up East Texas style.

Joe R. Lansdale can write a little bit of everything. Although I much prefer his horror offerings, this was a quick enjoyable read.

Rumfuddle says

Even in a novella about a teen girl coming of age, someone is still being whooped with a 2 by 4, well done Mr Lansdale. Excellently read by his daughter.

Ralph Carlson says

A nice simple, straight forward read. Loved it.

Alfonso D'agostino says

Dot è un personaggio alla Joe R. Lansdale: di più, ha proprio il timbro dell'autore texano, così amato in Italia per i suoi romanzi ricchi di umorismo, venature magnificamente crime, ambientazioni indimenticabili. Nella sua forma narrativa biografica in prima (primissima) persona, Io sono Dot non delude in nessuna delle sue pagine, righe, parole chiunque abbia apprezzato le storie di Hap e Leonard o qualunque altra produzione narrativa del buon Joe.

Dot è una diciassettenne che ha dovuto saltare l'adolescenza. Il padre uscito per comprare le sigarette (...) e mai rientrato, una sorella ragazza-madre, una nonna ingombrante in tutti i sensi, un lavoro sottopagato come cameriera sui pattini (splendida, a proposito, la copertina dell'edizione Einaudi).

"Era facile per gli altri dire cosa potevo o non potevo fare, molto più difficile per me farlo davvero. A volte mi sentivo come un topo in una di quelle gabbie con dentro la ruota, e io ero dentro la ruota. Correvo, sempre più veloce ma proprio come quel topo non andavo da nessuna parte. E il topo, se non altro, non aveva un appuntamento con un giudice.

(Joe Lansdale, Io sono Dot)"

Inaspettatamente, proprio quando le cose sembrano mettersi (ancora) peggio, Dot raccoglie una sfida: in palio ci sono 10.000 dollari e – soprattutto – l'evidenza che anche le sue giornate valgono la pena, che la sua vita può prendere una direzione, che la rabbia repressa può essere indirizzata. Non vi farò il torto di raccontarvi come.

A me Dot manca già un po', e ho appena finito di ascoltarla. Non capita poi così spesso.

Karl says

"Fender Lizards" is a coming of age story, something Mr. Lansdale has done a number of times. The story is well told though it lacked the punch and adventure of his previous tales.

I really did not care if Dot, the main character in "Fender Lizards" who works at the Dairy Bob. She wants to become a Roller Derby queen and if she is successful or not is almost trite. The book seems so much less that has become expected of Mr. Lansdale's writing.

This could perhaps be a book of his to read if you have never read anything else by Lansdale. The saving grace were the three short Hap and Leonard stories after the title story.

Contents:

- 009 - "Fender Lizards"
- 237 - "The Bottom Of The World"
- 247 - "Down By The Riverside"
- 251 - "Tire Fire"

This is copy 41 of 400 signed numbered leather bound copies, signed by Joe R. Lansdale.

Mary says

This novel is written in the accent of the Piney Woods of East Texas. It tells of a 17 yr. old girl named Dot Sherman. Dot's job is to waitress on roller skates at Dairy Bob. She doesn't smoke. One reason being her Dad went out for a pack of cigarettes one night and never returned home.

An unknown 'Uncle' drives a camper into their front yard and parks. This in itself is a mystery in the making.

I love the cast of characters that you will never forget. This book is one of Mr. Lansdale's best!
"Lansdale instills place with character and character with place"

Pamela says

Warning: NEVER download a sample of a Joe Lansdale book!

You may *think* you are going to read just a bit to see how it is, but trust me, this is not what happens. You read a couple of pages of the sample and BAM! You are hooked and have to pay for the entire book.

No, this book--like most of his--is not great fiction. It is not going to change your life or your perspective on life or anything in your life. However, like ALL of his books, it is a great read that grabs you from the beginning and doesn't let go until the very end. I can't remember a single one of his books I have started and not finished. I can't remember a single one of his books I have started and haven't put everything aside to

finish.* Yes, he's that good.

*Except for his Hap and Leonard. Those aren't up to snuff.

Jen (Book Den) says

Fender Lizards is the story of how Dot came to be in the roller derby.

Reading about roller derby is like reading about quidditch in Harry Potter or stopping in the middle of Twilight for a long game of baseball. It's not an exciting time. (Is it taboo to make references to Twilight? Sorry.) Some of you will know what I mean.

I'm from Southeast Texas so Lansdale automatically puts me at home. I can hear and feel East Texas in his writing. This is a big plus for me.

I loved the characters in Fender Lizards. Dot was definitely the heart of the story. Fender Lizards is much more about Dot and her family than it is about her joining the roller derby, but that aspect bored me so I'm harping on it.

Overall, Fender Lizards was a decent read. I didn't love it. I felt like I wanted more to be happening. It was easy to put down, and it took longer than it should have for me to finish it. I didn't dislike it, either, though. It reinforced the fact that I need to be reading a lot more Lansdale outside of my Hap and Leonard binges.

2.5 stars

Moudry says

Serious words of advice: NEVER open a book by this guy if you want to do anything else for the day.

The Subterranean limited contains three shorts about Hap (including the duo's "origin" story).
