



Cherry

By Mary Karr

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From Mary Karr comes this gorgeously written, often hilarious story of her tumultuous teens and sexual coming-of-age. Picking up where the bestselling **The Liars' Club** left off, Karr dashes down the trail of her teen years with customary sass, only to run up against the paralyzing self-doubt of a girl in bloom. Fleeing the thrills and terrors of adolescence, she clashes against authority in all its forms and hooks up with an unforgettable band of heads and bona-fide geniuses. Parts of **Cherry** will leave you gasping with laughter. Karr assembles a self from the smokiest beginnings, delivering a long-awaited sequel that is both "bawdy and wise" (**San Francisco Chronicle**).

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Cherry By Mary Karr Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #50785 in Books
- Published on: 2001-09-01
- Released on: 2001-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.69" h x .50" w x 5.05" l, .41 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 276 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As a girl idling her way through long, toxically boring summer afternoons in Leechfield, Texas, Mary Karr dreamed up an unusual career for herself, "to write one-half poetry and one-half autobiography." She has since done both, and even when she's recounting a dirty joke, she can't help but employ a poet's precise and musical vision. Her first memoir, *The Liar's Club*, was as searing a chronicle of family life as can be imagined--tough, funny, and crackling with sorrow and wit. Against all odds, its sequel doesn't disappoint. *Cherry* finds the teenage Mary still marooned in a family whose behavior ranges from charmingly eccentric to dangerously crazy. (This, for instance, is the Karr version of a note from home: "Lecia Karr's leprosy kicked in, and I had to wrap her limbs in balm and hyssop. Please excuse her.") But here the focus has shifted to Mary herself, furiously engaged in pissing off authority at every turn: flouting the dress code, dropping acid, running from the cops, falling in love.

First love, you may say, heart sinking in chest: what more can possibly be said about such a subject? Actually, a great deal. To read *Cherry* is to realize how rare it is to find a teenage girl portrayed on her own terms. As a chronicle of female adolescence with all its longings, fantasies, cruelties, and fears, Karr's memoir goes darker and deeper than any book in which the protagonist doesn't end up dead. She turns a savage eye on her own hypocrisies and failings, and we like her all the more for them. We even end up fond of Leechfield, easily the toughest, smelliest, nastiest little burg ever to appear between the covers of a book--"a town too ugly not to love," her father called it in *The Liar's Club*. Growing up in such a place is necessarily about getting the hell out, but it's also about inventing a new identity with which to make your escape. That's the blessing Karr's wise friend Meredith bestows after a particularly harrowing (and harrowingly funny) acid trip: "I see big adventures for Mary. Big adventures, long roads, great oceans: same self." *Cherry* is the story of how Karr begins to acquire that self, however fumblingly--a big adventure for Mary, as it is for all of us, and one we never finish as long as we live. Perhaps that's the book's greatest pleasure of all: it hints there's more to come. --*Mary Park*

From Publishers Weekly

Readers seduced by Karr's canny memoir of a childhood spent under the spell of a volatile, defiantly loving family in the Liar's Club can look forward to more exquisite writing in this sequel focusing on her adolescence in a dusty Texas town. Karr struggles as the talented child of a sullen, dismissive father and an ethereal, unstable mother who studies art and disappears from time to time, functioning more as an ally than as a mother to young Mary, who she encourages to be sexually active. When Mary is locked up in a drug raid, her mother rescues her by charming the judge, an old admirer. Writing in the second person, Karr recounts with disarming immediacy her tenuous childhood friendships, her rocky move into adolescence and sexual experimentation (she describes teenage kisses as "delicate as origami in their folds and bendings"); her troubles with school authority and her early escape into books and language. In one funny and poignant episode, Mary despairs over her dysfunctional family life in a dull town and, influence by the literature she is reading, makes a half-hearted attempt at suicide, before she resolves to live "as long as there are plums to eat and somebody - anybody who gives enough of a damn to haul them for you." Moving effortlessly from breathtaking to heart stabbing to laugh out loud raucous, the precision and sheer beauty of Karr's writing remains astounding. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

The child of *The Liars' Club* (1995) recaptures her teenage years, starting with her leaving home at 17 in

1972, taking off from her tiny Texas town with a handful of boys and a beat-up truck heading for Los Angeles. That prologue then spirals back to earlier days in high school. Mary is dazed and confused by her lethargy in the face of her friends' needs and by her own inchoate desires, usually drowned in cheap drugs and kisses. Her friends Clarice and Meredith have heft and breadth on these pages, more so than the boys who wander through, but the true landscape is not that of friendship or lust or even Texas; it's the landscape of Mary's own thoughts. The plodding dullness of adolescent existence is punctuated by slivers and flashes of blinding illumination-- indeed, Karr uses metaphors of light like carving knives. The fevered need of teens to do things that are bad for them, over and over, lies twinned at the heart of this fiercely recalled memoir, alongside a slippery, cloudy, thick delineation of desire. Few people have written so luxuriantly about kissing as Karr, or what kissing could be and do all by itself. She allows us glimpses of what happened later to these people, in small doses, just enough to remind us what memory and time can do. *GraceAnne DeCandido*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Calderon:

The actual book Cherry will bring you to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to read, this book very suited to you. The book Cherry is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Todd Jacob:

The publication untitled Cherry is the guide that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, therefore the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Cherry from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Alexander Goodman:

The reason why? Because this Cherry is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

James Voyles:

Reading can be called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Cherry your brain will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The Cherry giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

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