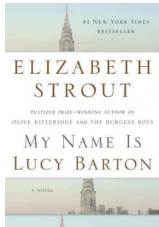


## For the Love of Reading

# My Name is Lucy Barton



[view in catalog](#)

If you ever worried as a child about bringing other children home from school and their possible reaction to your home and family life, this book will resonate with you. If you ever reconnected with a close relative after a long absence, ditto.

Lucy Barton had a pretty horrific childhood: dirt-poor for many years the family lived in an actual garage without running water. And not only was there little money, food, or clothes, but her parents provided little emotional sustenance.

Strout takes you deep into the mind and heart of her protagonist, a young mother in her twenties, recently hospitalized after an operation. Lucy is happily married with two young children whom she feels she has abandoned because of her illness. She also is a new writer, proud of her work, but still not at ease calling herself an author.

The present time of the book occurs in a New York City hospital where Lucy is amazed to see her mother, who's come all the way from Iowa to take care of her daughter. But this is so out of character for her, that Lucy can scarcely believe she has arrived. Neither parent has ever visited Lucy before and neither attended her wedding. At his one meeting with their future son-in-law, Lucy's father flipped out because her fiancée was German. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 1, 2016

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## The Nest



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Tolstoy's quote from Anna Karenina applies to this book: "All happy families are alike; each

unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.?

*The Nest* is about three generations of Plumbs: Francie, the matriarch, the middle generation that consists of Leo, Bea, Jack, and Melody, plus two of their spouses, and Melody's two girls, the twins, Nora and Louise.

At novel's opening we find Leo, the eldest, who long ago made a bundle on a trendy magazine, and has just been released from rehab, wandering through Central Park trying to score some drugs.

The twins, who are playing hooky from their senior year SAT prep class, watch as their uncle falls to the ground. They decide not to rescue him because he will most likely tell their mom, Melody, where he saw them, thus getting them into trouble.

At that very moment, Leo was supposed to be attending a family lunch. It's about the nest, which is the money their Dad set aside for them in trust that comes due at Melody's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. The elder Mr. Plumb wanted his kids to inherit something but not a grand inheritance, nothing that would create havoc in their lives or make them too dependent on his money. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 12, 2016

[The Nest](#)

[Fiction](#)

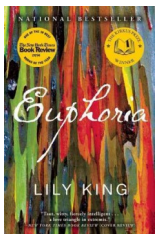
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## Euphoria



[view in catalog](#)

This compelling novel does what few do these days?it discusses subjects and ideas with intelligence and feeling. In this case the primary subject is the new field of anthropology presented through the viewpoints of three field scientists in the 1930s. It's based upon the real lives of Margaret Mead, Reo Fortune, and Gregory Bateson although the novel's ending veers far from the historical record.

What a captivating novel this is--set in exotic Papua New Guinea, where hundreds of native tribes lived, speaking different languages with vastly different cultures and customs.

It hooked me right away. Was that a baby, the Mumbanyo just threw in the water? Nell, the character based upon Margaret Mead, couldn't see because her husband had broken her glasses. When she and Fen (based upon Mead's second husband, Reo Fortune) arrive back in civilization (of a sort), her eyes are malarial and she has welts over her body as well as bruises on her ankle. Two English ladies express shock at her appearance as they guzzle liquor on the boat. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 2, 2016

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## Never Always Sometimes, Adi Alsaïd



[view in catalog](#)

Longtime best friends Dave and Julia are determined to live their lives authentically. Dead set against being cliché high school students they create a list of things they swore they'd never do. The list includes things like never dying your hair a wild color and never running for prom king and queen, to never date your best friend. But with two months left of their senior year and nothing left to prove, Julia convinces Dave to set out to break every rule on the list. Of course, things get complicated very quickly.

If you're looking for a book to help carry you through finals and the end of the school year, *Sometimes Always Never* is it! Full of crazy antics, charming characters, and a bit of romance, the book will have you looking at what rules you can break in your own life.

Posted by Jen H. on May 2, 2016

[Never Always Sometimes](#)

[Teens](#)

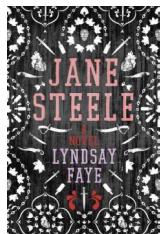
[Realistic](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Teens - The Ground Floor](#)

[Jen H.'s blog](#)[Log in](#) to post comments

## Jane Steele



[view in catalog](#)

This book retells *Jane Eyre* in the voice of a serial killer. No, the novel is not some bizarre mocking of a great classic, but a humorous, well-executed pastiche --literary even?of Charlotte Brontë's favorite book.

Jane's first killing is accidental. When Jane was only nine, her annoying first cousin, Edwin, who was thirteen, kissed Jane and then tried to force himself upon her when they were playing outside. She shoved him away, perhaps with more strength than she'd intended. His head slammed on a rock and he died.

It happened during an awful period for Jane. Her French mother had just died from a self-inflicted draught of laudanum, and her Aunt Patience, her cousin's mother, had decided to send her off to boarding school.

But according to Jane's mother, whom Jane shared a lowly cottage with, the whole vast estate belonged to Jane and she would inherit it when she came of age. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 21, 2016

[Jane Steele](#)

[Crime](#)

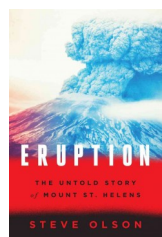
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## Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens



[view in catalog](#)

We lived in Alaska when this volcano blew spectacularly in 1980. Two months later, we flew from Seattle to the east coast, and the pilot flew over the great mountain, so everyone could get a glimpse at the destruction. Yet, it wasn't until ten years later that we made the trip to Southern Washington and visited the monument itself.

My husband and children and I stared in horror at the skeleton trees still standing, and at the grey scar that extended for miles down the mountain. In that moment we felt the cataclysmic power of nature. Other than the dead trees, the landscape looked like it could have been on the moon or some barren planet.

Ten years later my husband and I returned, and this time we were amazed by the rebirth of forests, the greenery. You could still see the damage the eruption had caused, but much of the forest was verdant again. Amazingly green and vibrant. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 11, 2016

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