

Meet the Author of Perfectly Good White Boy

Meet the Author Event

[About the Book](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Reviews of the Book](#)

[Format of Event](#)

Event Details

Date: Friday, March 20th, 2015

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Memorial Library, Casual Learning Lab (ML45)

Live Stream: <http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

Admission: FREE

Event Sponsorship

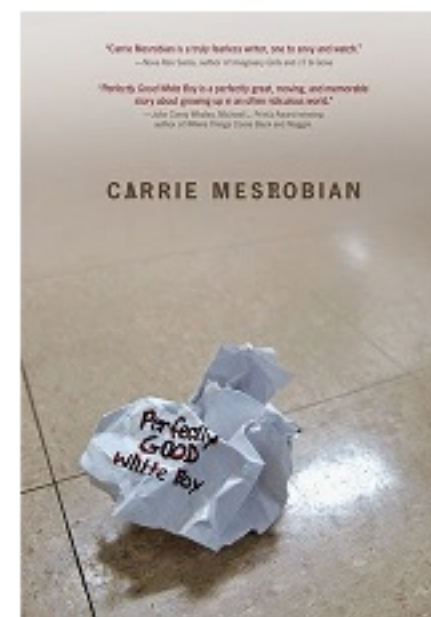
Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

Meet the Author--Carrie Mesrobian

Come and spend an hour with the young adult author **Carrie Mesrobian** and embark on a literary journey that delves into the world of adolescent boys. Her first book entitled *Sex & Violence* garnered many accolades—she was the recipient of the 2014 Minnesota Book Award for Young People's Literature, a nominee for Young Adult Library Services Association's 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults, and a finalist for both the 2014 William C. Morris YA and Cybils Best Young Adult Fiction awards. During this interview, Ms. Mesrobian's most recently published book entitled *Perfectly Good White Boy* will be discussed. A character driven story, it is told from the perspective of a high school boy who is confronting life's challenges as he decides what to do after he graduates from high school.

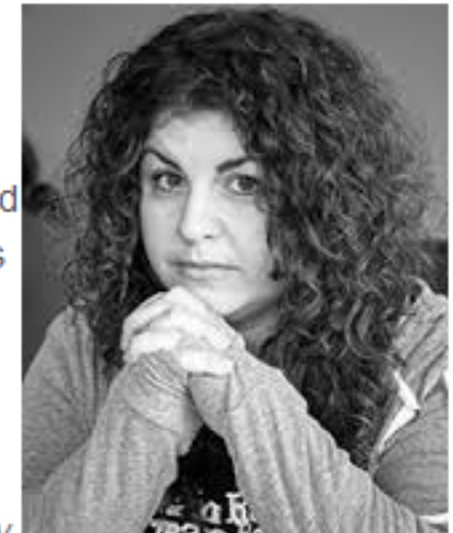


The event is scheduled for **Friday, March 20th at 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Library Casual Learning Lab (ML 45).**

Live streaming of the event can be accessed here--<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

At the end of the event, drawings will be held to give away one copy of *Sex & Violence* and *Perfectly Good White Boy*.

Copies of the two book titles can be purchased about a half hour before and after the event. Carrie will be available to sign books following the drawings.



Campus Maps and Directions

Campus Maps

- [University area map \(layered/interactive map\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] 3D perspective map \(785 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Accessibility map \(303 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Aerial view map \(3 MiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Parking map \(484 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Bus map \(492 KiB\)](#)

Driving Directions

- [\[PDF\] Highways to Mankato \(125 KiB\)](#)

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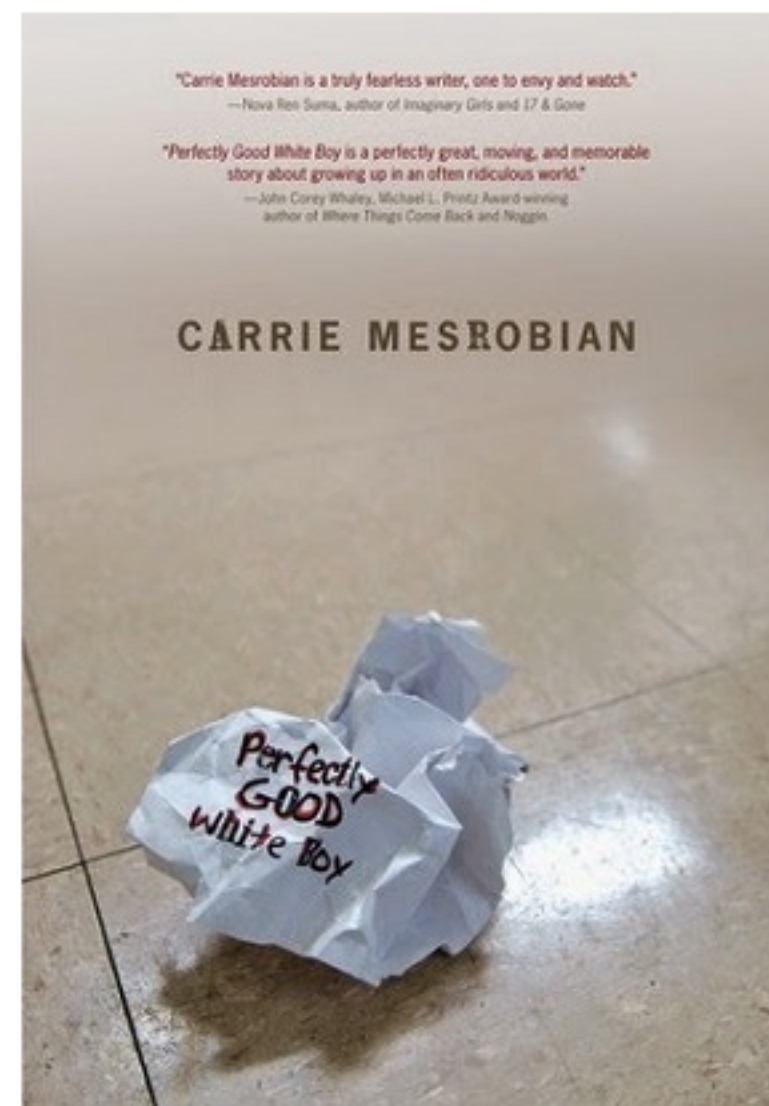
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Introduction to the Book Perfectly Good White Boy



Sean Norwhalt can read between the lines.

"You never know where we'll end up. There's so much possibility in life, you know?" Hallie said.

He knows she just dumped him. He was a perfectly good summer boyfriend, but now she's off to college, and he's still got another year to go. Her pep talk about futures and "possibilities" isn't exactly comforting. Sean's pretty sure he's seen his future and its "possibilities," and they all look

Disposable.

Like the crappy rental his family moved into when his dad left.

Like all the unwanted filthy old clothes he stuffs into the rag baler at his thrift-store job.

Like everything good he's ever known.

The only hopeful possibilities in Sean's life are the Marine Corps, where no one expected he'd go, and Neechie Albertson, whom he never expected to care about.

"We're something else. Some other thing. I don't know what you'd call it. Maybe there's a word, though. Maybe I'll think of it tomorrow, when it won't matter," Neechie said.

Carrie Mesrobian follows her critically acclaimed debut, **SEX & VIOLENCE**, with another powerful and wrenching portrait of a teenage boy on the precipice of the new American future.

Extracted from the Learner Books publisher's discussion guide for the book

- [Read chapter 1 of the book](#)
- [Discussion Guide](#)

Checkout the Book from the MSU, Mankato Memorial Library



Perfectly Good White Boy by Carrie Mesrobian

Call Number: Lower Level--ERC Juvenile Collection--PZ7.M5493 Pe 2014

ISBN: 9781467734806

Publication Date: 2014-10-01

Sean was a perfectly good summer boyfriend, but Hallie dumped him before leaving for college. To Sean, the future's seems disposable. His only possibilities: the Marine Corps, where no one expected he'd go, and Neechie, whom he never expected to care about.

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Biographical Sketch

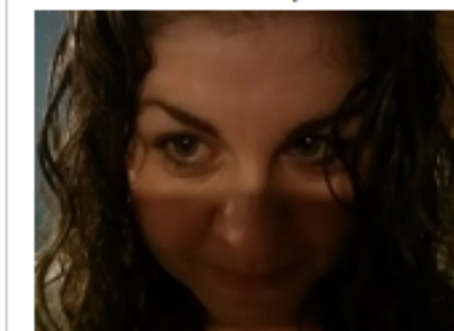
I've worked as a teacher in both public and private schools; my writing has appeared in the *StarTribune*, *Brain*, *Child magazine*, *Calyx*, and other web and print publications. I teach teenagers about writing at The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. However, the best job I ever had was when I worked in a thrift store pawing through donations of cast-off junk. Loved that job so much.

My first two books, *Sex & Violence* & *Perfectly Good White Boy* were published by Carolrhoda LAB.

My third book, *Cut Both Ways*, (HarperCollins), will be released September 2015.

All these books are young adult novels with male narrators. Maybe I will do a girl narrator next? Who the hell knows?

I wish I could report all sorts of cute quirky things that I do, but really, I'm kind of boring. I read a lot and never really go anywhere and don't see that changing ever.



Probably I should get some hobbies or something? Sometimes I crochet stuff.

Oh, wait! Here is a picture of me looking dastardly! But it's really just because my hair's wet and I just busted out a new beautiful Benefit Brow pencil. I kind of have a thing about cosmetics and beauty products, if you want to know the truth.

I live with Adrian, my husband, Matilda, my daughter, and Pablo, my dog. All of whom are super interesting, actually. Built-in entertainment, really.

Extracted from the author's website (17 February 2015)

- [Link to Carrie Mesrobian 's Website](#)



Interviews

- [An Interview with 2014 Morris Award Finalist Carrie Mesrobian](#)
YALSA, The Hub--December 19, 2013
- [Cuts Both Ways by Carrie Mesrobian: Exclusive Cover Reveal and Interview](#)
GayYA--February 6, 2015
- [Local YA author takes on sex and consequences](#)
The Daily Circuit--December 9, 2013
- [Q & A With Author Carrie Mesrobian](#)
Pacific Lutheran University--September 25, 2014
- [Q & A with Carrie Mesrobian, Author of Sex & Violence](#)
The Flyleaf Review--September 19, 2013
- [A View From the Loft: Interview with Carrie Mesrobian and Laura Bradley Rede](#)
The Writers' Blog--October 3, 2012
- [Why are fewer teens reading?](#)
The Daily Circuit--June 6, 2014

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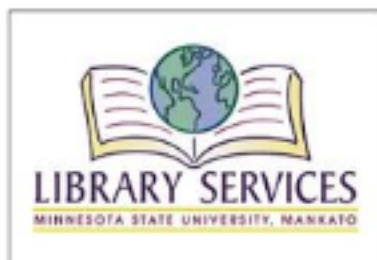
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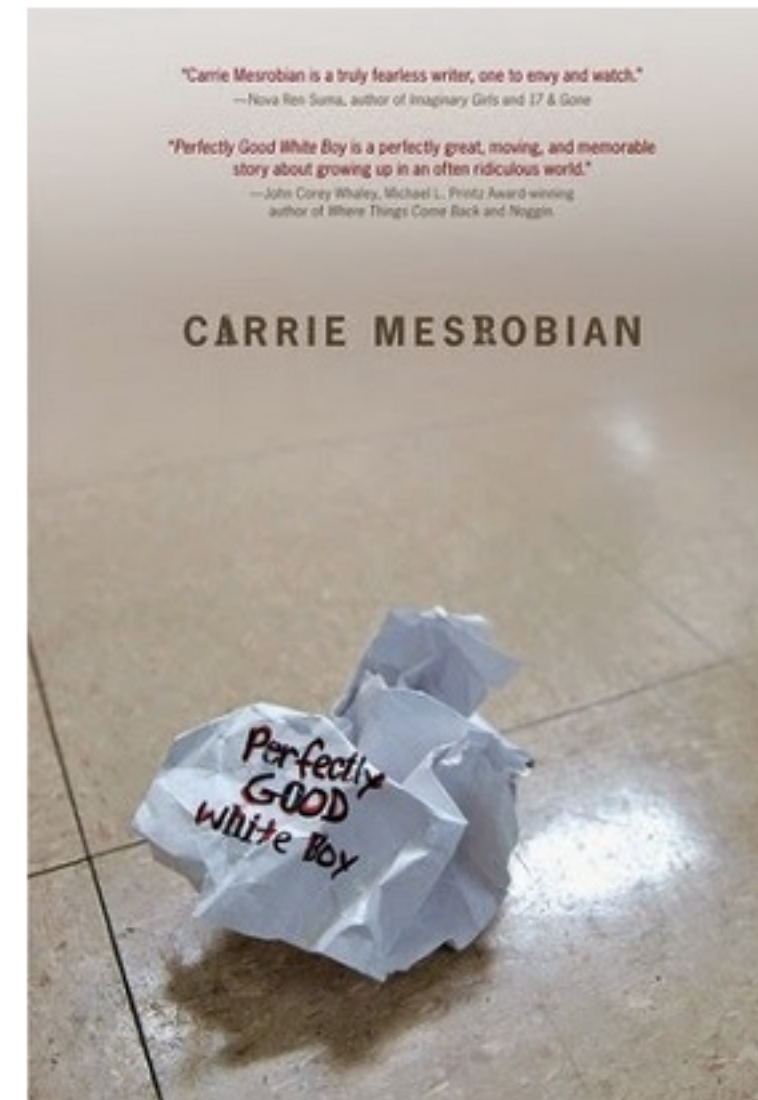
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Perfectly Good White Boy Book Reviews



Available Electronically

- [Review from Kirkus Reviews](#)
- [Review from Publishers Weekly](#)
- [Review from Star Tribune](#)
- [Review from teenreads](#)

Available in Print

Colson, D. (2014). Perfectly Good White Boy. *Booklist*, 111(3), 80.

Wilkes, S. (2014). Perfectly Good White Boy. *Voice Of Youth Advocates*, 37(4), 71.

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Enter Search Words	Search
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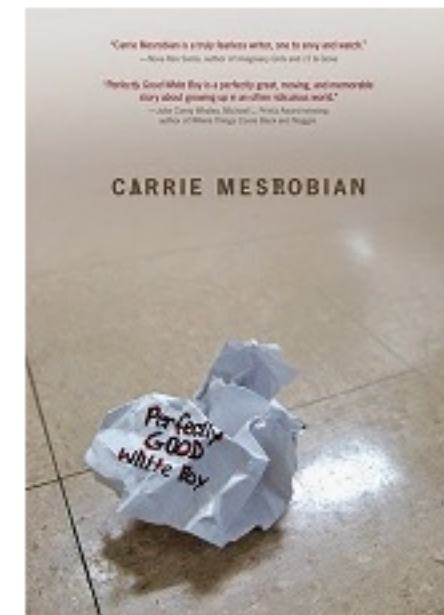


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Overview

After welcoming attendees, brief introductions will be made. The author will then read a passage of her choosing from the book. This will be followed by a few questions on the writing process, as well as questions about the book. The discussion will conclude with questions about future books and activities. Throughout the question and answer period, attendees are encouraged to ask their own questions of the author. The event will end with a drawing for a copy of *Sex & Violence* and another for *Perfectly Good White Boy*.

Copies of the books *Sex & Violence* and *Perfectly Good White Boy* will be available for purchase before and after the event.



Questions About the Writing Process

1. How long did it take you to write the book and then how much longer did it take to get published?

2. What is your preferred routine for writing?

- Do you sit down at a desk to write for a period of time or do you wait until the mood strikes you?
- Do you have a designated area for writing?
- Do you write in longhand or on a computer or laptop?
- What research do you usually conduct either before or during the writing process?

3. What inspired you to write young adult fiction?

- What author or authors serve as a source of inspiration for you?

4. What aspect of writing is the most challenging for you?

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.

Questions About the Book

1. Could you tell us a little about the title?

2. Where did the character Sean come from? How did he arrive?

3. Did you have to do a lot of research on Marine recruiting?

4. Sean's experience of his own sexuality seems very real. How do you get into the head of a teenage boy?

5. How do you develop and hone a voice? Your protagonists are both big voiced, but very different.

6. This is not a book built on the conventions of plot, but it's still compelling and dramatic. When you wrote this book, how did you choose the beginning and ending?

7. How did you choose the main events of the story?

8. Sex is of critical importance in both your published works. What drives you to write about sex in this context?

9. How do you develop your side characters? Hallie, Neecie and Brad are of particular interest!

10. What's your favorite thing about the book?

11. Is there anything you'd like to change?

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.

Questions About Future Books

1. You're now on the book a year train YA authors often climb aboard. Describe your process for drafting.

2. So, looking into the future. It's bright, right?

3. You're now represented by one of the great agents in YA. Can you describe how that relationship came about?

4. How do you work together?

5. Tell us a little about what books we can look forward to reading from you.

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.