

Switch



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Cartwheel, Indiana, seems normal enough. But through the seamless narrative of Carol Guess, a mystical town full of unexpected secrets is exposed. The lives of Guess' characters are charged with desire and magic. The strange mingles with the commonplace until bizarre miracles are a part of the everyday. Caddie, waitress at the MandH Diner and keeper of her own secrets, also holds one for Jo. When she first saw Jo, Caddie recognized her as a woman, and understood that Jo was passing. But Jo realized that becoming a man was not enough. She burned with the need to change, and fled. When she returns to Caddie, fire at her heels, Jo isn't even human. Caddie can't figure Selena. Her impish flirtation seems restless, never falling on one customer for too long. No one guesses that she returns to the diner after closing, no one knows what she covets above the attention of men. Gwen wishes she weren't a mother. Her Mormon customers have no idea that her conversion is her means for escape. Two Cartwheel spinsters also plan to use those missionaries to sneak in salvation's back door. Marv and Helen, the diner's owners, seem a fixture in Cartwheel, but they are on the verge of disappearing.... Against a working-class, midwestern, quintessentially normal setting emerges an odd and endearing group of characters. Carol Guess unearths longings buried in the caress of wood grain, the rustle of skirts, a sip of strawberry milk. Switch is an unforgettable celebration of the variety and dignity of human desire, and the sensuality of everyday life.

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目录:

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