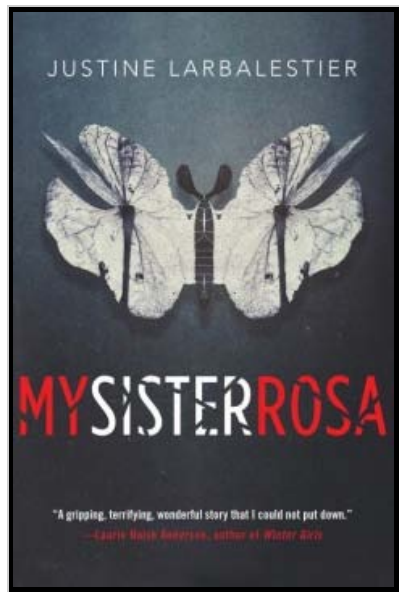


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# My Sister Rosa

by Justine Larbalestier

**Price: \$18.99**(Hardcover)

Published: November 15, 2016

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** "Beats *The Silence of the Lambs* for suspense—it's the kind of book that had me literally gasping aloud as it rattled to its incredible conclusion."

—Cory Doctorow, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Homeland*

**What if the most terrifying person you know is your ten-year-old sister?**

Seventeen-year-old Aussie Che Taylor loves his younger sister, Rosa. But he's also certain that she's a psychopath—clinically, threateningly, dangerously. Recently Rosa has been making trouble, hurting things. Che is the only one who knows; he's the only one his sister trusts. Rosa is smart, talented, pretty, and very good at hiding what she is and the manipulation she's capable of.

Their parents, whose business takes the family from place to place, brush off the warning signs as Rosa's "acting out." Now that they have moved again—from...

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## What We Say

What if your little sister was Dexter, you know, the lovable serial killer from the Showtime series? That's the hook of this young adult novel that is both more complex and real but less engaging than that premise suggests. It's ultimately not a thriller or even a "raising Dexter" backstory, despite watching the teenager Che try to train his little sister (who lacks empathy to the level of being a psychopath) how to live in the world and not harm others. What it proves to be is a fairly complicated novel that gets less and less interesting the more and more it devolves into "The Bad Seed." (A novel name-

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## About The Author

Justine Larbalestier

Justine Larbalestier is the Australian-American author of many novels, including the award-winning *Razorhurst* and *Liar*, which both received four starred reviews. Justine lives in Sydney, Australia, and New York City, though not at the same time. You can find her on Twitter @JustineLavaworm...

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## Release Info

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checked by the author at the end.) Here's the gist: Che is a teenage kid who is mostly homeschooled and moves all over the world with his do-gooding parents and his little sister Rosa. Che has self-diagnosed Rosa as a psychopath and is learning everything he can in order to try and keep her from hurting others. Rosa consumes much of his attention. But when the family moves -- again -- to New York City, Che sees the wide open world of Manhattan as his biggest challenge yet in keeping an eye on his budding evil villain sibling. Now put all that aside. The novel is on much firmer ground when author Larbalestier focuses on Che, his love of boxing, his budding romance with a free-love Christian female boxer named Sojourner and his friendship with an online celebrity friend of the family who is one of the few to realize Che's little sister is weirdly robotic. The simpler the story, the better. Che debating with Rosa and trying to "trap" her with promises is effective. An escalating series of Rosa-engineered tragedies? Not so interesting. For a book whose high concept plot will be the reason most people pick it up, "My Sister Rosa" is at its best when Rosa fades into the background. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

### Praise for *My Sister Rosa*

#### *Publishers Weekly* Best Young Adult Books of 2016

"Not one to shy away from tough subject matter, Larbalestier addresses issues related to gender, sexual orientation, religion, identity, and race with tact . . . This dark thriller is the 1956 film *The Bad Seed* meets 2016; readers will be simultaneously terrified when Rosa's present and afraid to let her out of their sight."  
—*Kirkus*, *Starred Review*

"A chilling contemplation on human morality—Che’s physical sparring in the ring has nothing on his go-arounds with Rosa... [incorporates] sharp commentary on privilege, faith, gender identity, and race. The tension of wondering where and how Rosa will strike next will keep readers riveted from start to finish."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, *Starred Review*

"Larbalestier reminds readers of her masterful gift for slippery, unreliable characters... thriller fans will devour this suspenseful, chilling meditation on the roles of nature and nurture in creating dangerous criminals."  
—*ShelfAwareness*, *Starred Review*

"A tense, thrilling rumination on the psychology..."

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