

## WHY WE LOVE *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.*

Dear Reader,

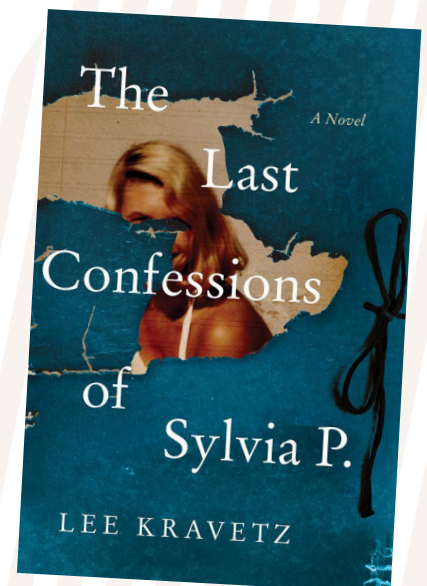
Lee Kravetz's debut novel is a shining example of how to take a well-known literary figure and give them voice in a work of fiction. Told in alternating perspectives, the book introduces three characters whose different lives intersect with writer Sylvia Plath in powerful ways: Estee, an auction house curator who acquires what appears to be Plath's handwritten manuscript for *The Bell Jar*; Boston Rhodes, the poetic rival who saw Plath as a foe wanting to destroy her career; and Dr. Ruth Barnhouse, the psychiatrist who treated Plath at an asylum when Plath was in her 20s.

Kravetz employs real, imagined, and composite characters to deftly navigate the terrain between history and fiction with an expert touch. This novel is an important and timely reminder of how deeply connected we are to the people around us—and how each of our choices can greatly affect the lives of others. Readers will think about the story long after they have finished the book.

As you read along with us, let us know what you think about *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.* on social @hoopladigital and find fellow readers using #hooplabookclub. When you are done, check out the discussion questions to start a conversation with family and friends.

Happy reading!

Andi Paris, hoopla digital



## WHY WE LOVE

*The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.*

### About the Author

---

Lee Kravetz is the author of acclaimed nonfiction, including *Strange Contagion* and *SuperSurvivors*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *The Atlantic*, *Psychology Today*, *The Daily Beast*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and on PBS. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and two children.



### Selected Praise for *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P.*

---

"Kravetz, a magnetizing storyteller with a satiric wit, has crafted an incisive, suspenseful, and head-spinning tale of the perils of artistic obsession, coveted objects, ferocious ambition, and tragic betrayal."

— **Booklist**

"Bold, compelling, and gorgeously written...A truly satisfying page-turner."

— **Karen Joy Fowler, Booker Prize Finalist for *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* and author of *The Jane Austen Book Club***

"An engrossing fiction debut...Kravetz brings both authority and empathy to his depictions of mental illness. He also reveals himself to be a fine novelist."

— **Publishers Weekly**

"An audacious imagining that will have readers greedy to learn more about Plath and her literary cohort." — **Paul Harding, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for *Tinkers***

"Refreshing...Some biographical novels resolve mysteries; few heighten them as Mr. Kravetz's does." — **New York Sun**

"An evocative novel sure to enchant lovers of historical fiction as well as fans of Sylvia Plath...Kravetz's debut novel is both lyrical and plot-driven, a difficult balance for any author to strike." — **Shelf Awareness**

"Kravetz's debut novel is a compelling literary mystery that explores the creation of poet Sylvia Plath's only novel...An elegantly written novel for lovers of poetry and literary history." — **Kirkus Reviews**