

"Robin's Blue" is a brilliantly vivid time capsule of blank generation 80s decadence fused with a poignant and sensitive coming of age tale that's totally timeless."

—Erik Himmelsbach, Contributor, *Los Angeles Times*

Choosing between a life and love.

# ROBIN'S BLUE

A NOVEL

Pam Alster



## Robin's Blue

*Pam Alster*

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## **Robin's Blue** Pam Alster

Robin's Blue is an epic story set amidst the disco 70's through the Reagan-era 80's, when divorce was the norm and casual sex and recreational drugs were ubiquitous. Robin Daniels, a runaway from a violent and emotionally desolate upper middle-class home, repeatedly navigates her world without guidance. After a failed marriage, she discounts love as an option and moves through a series of jobs and men. A futile attempt to live as a kept woman compels her to become a high-class call girl. She searches unsuccessfully through the resulting transient experiences and escalating drug use for the one lesson that will resolve her omnipresent question of purpose. Before AIDS and addiction became household words, Robin's Blue speaks to a generation that basically raised itself. Robin's journey takes her from suburban Philadelphia to Miami to the South of France and ultimately to New York City where she is obliged to make peace with the girl inside she left dormant at sixteen.

Pam Alster is a former television writer and studied Master Fiction Writing at UCLA. She is a contributing blogger to 85broads.com and BlogHer.com. She lives in LA with her patient husband, old-soul daughter and two well-fed mutts. Robin's Blue is her first novel.

## **Robin's Blue Details**

Date : Published October 24th 2012 by Plexigirl Media (first published October 22nd 2012)

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Author : Pam Alster

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# **From Reader Review Robin's Blue for online ebook**

## **Terri says**

Robin's Blue by Pam Alster is a hard look at a young woman growing up in the eighties, trying to find her place in the world. She has a variety of issues from the beginning--her mother is dead, her father is always a bit distant, her sister is a sociopath. The novel begins when Robin is just sixteen, partying it up with all of her friends, coworkers and a host of bad influences.

The novel continues to follow Robin through her love and marriage to Jeff, her turn to prostitution, and her eventual recovery from drug addiction.

While the story was intriguing, the narrator was anything but a sympathetic character. In fact, she's downright conceited until the last page of the novel. It was frustrating to constantly read how she thought she was better and prettier than everyone, yet she had no real redeeming moment, even after she admitted to a drug problem. While the setting and supporting characters may have changed, her attitude did not.

The novel also had some show and tell issues. I would have loved to read much more about the two years with Jeff and their marriage, yet these vital events were mostly glossed over to make room for more than a dozen other characters that come and go faster than the reader can figure out who they are. Adding more about Jeff may have made the difference on understanding why she was the way she was.

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## **Kylie says**

Robin's Blue is an interesting journey with a young girl as she moves from runaway teen to a self sufficient adult through the turbulence of the late 70's and early 80's. Her journey takes her through a loveless, controlling marriage, drug addiction, partying, losing friends to AIDS, and mindless sex for hire.

I loved the writing style of the book. Short, sharp sentences that took you into Robin's head, her vulnerability and her toughness combining to make her a unique woman.

The problem with this book is that there are no real highs and lows. Everything that happens to Robin seems to be on the same emotional level. I'm not sure if that is a deliberate representation of her emotional state, or if it is just how this author wrote, but for me it took away from what would otherwise have been an amazing walk through this era.

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## **Paula Margulies says**

I liked this book -- the writing is clean and crisp and the main character, while a bit hard-edged and forgiving of her own foibles, manages to keep our interest, and even some of our sympathy, throughout the novel. I didn't really understand why Robin spiraled down the path of prostitution and drugs; she had a tougher upbringing than most (dead mother, emotionally absent and sometimes abusive father), but I didn't get the sense that her childhood demons were driving her actions. It almost seemed as if she acted more out of a lack of personal drive and ambition, than from the typical self-destructive impulses that push many drug addicts

and prostitutes into their lifestyle choices.

But choice is a key word in this novel -- Robin speaks in an honest voice and pulls no punches about her decisions or why she chooses the fast life: this is a young woman who wants to support herself in style and knows she has the looks and wherewithal to do it. I kept feeling that she was exceptionally lucky that her decisions didn't land her in any truly dangerous situations -- there is one near-rape scene, but otherwise, Robin manages to dance around the edges of the emotionally empty and ruthless world of high-priced escort services and cocaine-fueled partying in Florida and New York.

An interesting read, and an honest one, so expect a narrative that is compellingly direct and candid.

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### **Pam Alster says**

As the author, I am biased. I worked very hard on many drafts of Robin's Blue. My feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Please read the reviews. Book club discussions will follow, as I am just entering this data to be built upon. Thank you for considering my book to add to your "to read" shelf, you will not be disappointed.

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### **Dana says**

Zesty and Exciting. Just the right cocktail of heartfelt drama and sensuality. If you enjoyed "Sex &the City" it's time for you to graduate to "Robin's Blue."

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### **Arra Abella says**

I'm speechless and it's not always a good thing. I wasn't able to connect to the story. It was dull and dragging. I thought it was just slow paced, but it wasn't. Although I have to give it to the author for trying and writing a book with a plot. Since the protagonist was a female, I thought that she would eventually emerged from her issues (drugs, sex and men, fear and insecurities) and become a better and empowered woman. But that was not the case, and that made me so disappointed and indifferent towards Robin. I tried to give hope to her character especially towards the end when this supposed turning point of her life happened but Robin's development had a u-turn and went down the drain. The story could have shown how a woman could change the impressions toward her especially during that period but it failed to do so. Robin could have had an inspiring story but it made me want to hit her on the head. She had no dreams or goals to begin with. She always self-pity and relies on others to decide for herself. How can others love her if she doesn't love herself first? I think that's what I've wanted for her to realize. I'm sorry for the bad rating but I always root for strong women who inspire me and/or underdogs who want and *will* prove something.

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

\*I received a free ARC of Robin's Blue from Plexigirl Media via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\*

### **Esmeralda says**

In the story Robin's life goes from bad to worse after her mother dies. She is left with an indifferent and sometimes abusive father, a cold stepmother, and a critical older sister. She tries to comfort herself with sex and drugs and winds up as an escort who is addicted to cocaine. She keeps trying to win her father's approval with little success. She is afraid to get close to people and is devastated when her best friend dies of AIDS. Robin tries to change her lifestyle but keeps being drawn back into her old ways.

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### **Heather says**

I really enjoyed this book a lot. I found it hard to put down. The biggest reason is that I really enjoyed the way it was written. The author has a great way with words.

The storyline is not new - girl feels abandoned by family, girl goes on her own, girl allows herself to be used by others, girl doesn't know how to make changes, girl gets it in the end.

It didn't bother me that this wasn't a new story because the main character, Robin, is interesting. She is aware of her poor choices and she is aware of her lack of direction in life. But just when she starts to make a positive change, she allows something else to take her back down. Her struggles to connect with her family ring true, as well as her need to feel accepted even though she knows her lifestyle choices are wrong.

I never felt sorry for Robin because she was making her choices and owning them. She lived with regret and then self-punished, but she kept living and kept trying. 3 events finally help her realize that she needs to love herself before she can actually make that change. Family won't help her, friends won't help her, she has to do it herself. Isn't this true for all 20-somethings? I remember being 20 and waiting for someone to tell me what to do. But being an adult doesn't work that way. I was a little older than Robin when I realized I had the power to make the changes I needed. I was also a lot older when I realized that you have to love yourself before you can truly accept someone else's love.

The only thing I will criticize about the writing is that some of the language used doesn't work for a young woman who is a high school drop out. There are some pretty big words used that I don't think her character would know. As much as I appreciate the diverse use of the English language and the author's beautiful descriptions, and her way of explaining the storyline...some of it would be over the head of Robin. At least, that's what I think.

Give this book a try!

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### **Kandy Johnson says**

Pretty good. It makes you feel so sorry for Robin and the way her life goes.

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## Jane says

Robin's Blue is a depressing look at Robin as she goes through life. Every time she seems to be on the verge of happiness circumstances change and she falls deeper into despair. She always seems to bounce back but between her family, her friends and her own self she ends up worse off than before. The book could be taken as a cautionary tale on drugs but in truth it is Robin herself who sabotages any hope of happiness she may have. The amazing part of the story is that she survives no matter what life throws at her. I am not sure I would want to survive in the life she created for herself.

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## Christy Mcbrayer says

"Robin's Blue Is a Juicy Page Turner". Pam Alster's "Robin's Blue" is a beautifully detailed journey of an ambitious young woman's wildly colorful experiences throughout the decadent seventies and eighties with a magnificent balance of poignancy and pathos. I couldn't put it down until I read the last juicy page! I absolutely loved it!

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## Anncleire says

BLOG TOUR 26 GIUGNO sul mio blog PLEASE ANOTHER BOOK  
<http://pleaseanotherbook.tumblr.com/p...>

Traveling was how I saw myself. Away. Further. Could it only be viewed through the window of luxury?

“Robin’s blue” lo avevo scelto casualmente su Netgalley, colpita dalla copertina e dalla storia, insolita per me. Non ho mai letto niente del genere e ne sono rimasta affascinata, perché a qualche anno di distanza la vita non è cambiata. Ci sono tante giovani che si spengono per trovare la felicità e l’affetto che non hanno mai ricevuto e che si gettano via. E mi dispiace sapere che tante mie coetanee non riescono a vivere serenamente senza fare ricorso a mezzi molto spesso rischiosi per la salute. Quando poi sono stata contattata da Lynn N. Coppotelli per partecipare al blog tour, ho colto l’occasione al volo, perché voglio davvero dare visibilità ad un libro del genere molto affascinante.

Questa è una storia epica ambientata tra la fine degli anni ‘70 e l’era di Reagan degli anni ‘80 quando il divorzio era la norma, e il sesso casuale e le droghe ricreative erano un luogo comune. Robin Daniels, scappata da una casa violenta e emozionalmente desolata dell’alta borghesia, si ritrova a navigare il mondo senza una guida. Dopo un matrimonio fallito, rinuncia all’amore come un’opzione e si imbatte in una serie di uomini e lavori. Un futile tentativo di vivere come una donna mantenuta la porta a diventare una Escort di alto livello. Ricerca senza successo attraverso le esperienze che risultano senza significato e l’uso della droga sempre più senza controllo per una lezione che le risolva la sua onnipresente questione del suo scopo. Prima che AIDS e la dipendenza diventassero parole di uso comune, questo libro parla di una generazione che

praticamente si è cresciuta da sola. Il viaggio di Robin la porta dalla Philadelphia suburbana a Miami fino al Sud della Francia e alla fine a New York dove è obbligata a far pace con la ragazza dentro di lei che è rimasta una sedicenne.

Sono rimasta affascinata da questo romanzo, davvero insolito e diverso da tutto quello che ho sempre letto. Sono anni lontani diversi dai miei, ma la vita di Robin è incredibilmente interessante. La storia inizia con Robin sedicenne che è via per le vacanze e condivide un appartamento con la sorella e un'amica che la inizia ad una vita dissoluta. Robin è una ragazza che ha sofferto, che ha visto portarsi via la madre e questo l'ha vista sempre in difetto, e l'ha privata di quell'appoggio femminile importantissimo per gli anni di formazione di una ragazzina. Il padre, un uomo freddo e incapace di connettersi emozionalmente con lei, e la punisce severamente perché non si conforma alla sua idea di figlia e la paragona continuamente alla sorella, che invece è tutto quello che ci si aspetta da lei. Robin invece è in qualche modo uno spirito libero, insoddisfatta e incredibilmente frustrata da una vita che non le si confà. La ragazza è alla ricerca di stabilità, ma soprattutto di facili guadagni e di divertimento senza fine, senza troppo impegno e che si va a riflettere sulla sua sregolatezza. Si abbandona a rapporti occasionali con uomini di cui non le importa nulla, che non le lasciano niente se non un vago senso di disgusto e sensi di colpa per essersi gettata via. E la sua è una vita instabile, che si consuma d'estate e brucia di inverno, quando i turisti vanno via e abbandonano la città di mare dove soggiorna Robin e la lasciano a sopravvivere, ad arrancare per avere un pezzo di felicità. Si ingarbuglia in situazioni più grandi di lei, come il matrimonio con Jeff. Jeff è un uomo che incontra una sera per caso, con cui inizia una convivenza che le metterà le catene e la costringerà a chiudersi, ma soprattutto a perdere l'innocenza. Aprire gli occhi sarà difficile, ma lo sarà soprattutto cercare di farcela da sola. Un altro personaggio che segnerà una svolta nella vita di Robin è sicuramente Athena, una sua coinquilina, con cui partirà per la California durante un inverno e con cui in breve la situazione precipiterà per gelosie e ripicche. È un libro molto complesso, che tratta con lucidità e cognizione di causa un tema pregnante, soprattutto in un momento come quello di oggi in cui ci sono molti giovani persi, che cercano la loro strada e si lasciano prendere dallo sconforto e da un appagamento facile e incospicuo.

Robin racconta la sua vicenda in prima persona e ci lascia entrare nella sua mente, nella sua sfiducia, nel suo essere persa e senza punti di riferimento. La durezza del padre, il divorzio in giovane età contribuiscono a farle perdere la speranza in un mondo migliore e nella possibilità di trovare la felicità in un rapporto d'amore. Ci sono momenti in cui il lettore trema con lei e la si vorrebbe tenere stretta. È una ragazza spaventata che si lascia condizionare facilmente proprio perché sconnessa da un sistema di supporto. Lasciata a sé stessa, senza dei sani valori su cui appoggiarsi, Robin è una foglia al vento. Tutti gli uomini che incontra sono solo comparse, la vera e unica protagonista è lei che riempie la scena con la sua ingenuità, incoscienza e solitudine. Perché nonostante sia sempre circondata da persone che la adulano per il suo aspetto fisico, alla fin fine si ritrova sola, di una solitudine malata e spiazzante che la lascia anche più sconfitta.

Il particolare da non dimenticare? Una vestaglia rosa.

Scritto egregiamente, di un realismo sconcertante e vibrante, Robin's Blue è uno di quei libri che vanno letti per immergersi in un mondo, quello dell'America degli anni ottanta, interessante e che parla al cuore. senza lasciare niente in sospeso, senza addolcire la pillola, ma regalando al lettore uno scorcio vero e pieno e una protagonista ben studiata e descritta. Meraviglioso.

Buona lettura guys!

Ringrazio immensamente Netgalley Smith Publicity - Plexigirl Media per avermi concesso l'opportunità di leggere questo libro in cambio della mia recensione e Lynn N. Coppotelli per avermi permesso di partecipare al Blog Tour.

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### **Indiebrag says**

We are proud to announce that ROBIN'S BLUE by Pam Alster is a B.R.A.G. Medallion Honoree. This tells a reader that this book is well worth their time and money

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### **Karen Davidov says**

Robin's Blue by Pam Alster is a grand adventure that chronicles a young woman's coming of age between the sexual revolution and the AIDS era, in a sharp and smart look at what it means to become your own person. Robin's difficult journey is turned into a highly entertaining read by Alster's vivid writing and eye for period detail. I loved it!

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