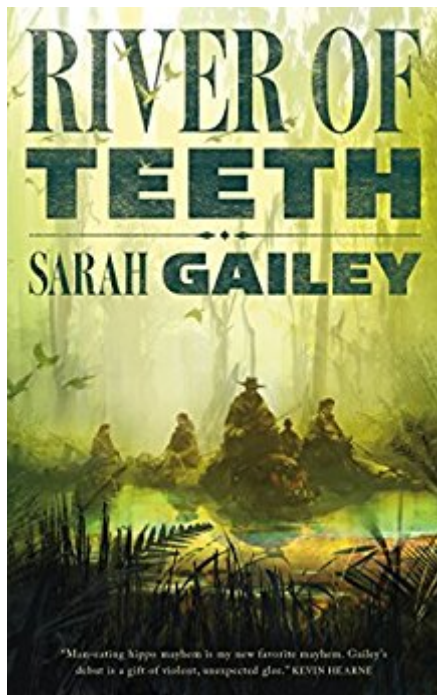


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River Of Teeth



Synopsis

Sarah Gailey's wildfire debut *River of Teeth* is a rollicking alternate history adventure that Charlie Jane Anders calls "preposterously fun." In the early 20th Century, the United States government concocted a plan to import hippopotamuses into the marshlands of Louisiana to be bred and slaughtered as an alternative meat source. This is true. Other true things about hippos: they are savage, they are fast, and their jaws can snap a man in two. This was a terrible plan. Contained within this volume is an 1890s America that might have been: a bayou overrun by feral hippos and mercenary hippo wranglers from around the globe. It is the story of Winslow Houndstooth and his crew. It is the story of their fortunes. It is the story of his revenge. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After hearing about this book on a podcast, I decided to give it a whirl even though it is not in my usual wheelhouse. The person who recommended it gave it very high marks and I thought the premise sounded interesting. *River of Teeth* is about a time in Louisiana during the early 1900's when the

government thought it would be a good idea to import hippopotamuses to clean out the rivers and be an additional meat source. Thankfully, this is something that never came to fruition, but River of Teeth postulates what it could have been like if it did. The feral hippos end up being quite violent and destructive and people also became savage trying to control them. It may be an interesting read for some, but I unfortunately did not enjoy it. I didn't care for the author's writing style and it seemed a little disjointed to me. It was only a novella so maybe that is the reason why I felt it was disjointed, but I thought some better character development would have been beneficial.

This was absolutely so fun and action paced. There's a lovely cast of colorful and diverse characters. Tons of history exists between them and behind their stories. Can you believe that this was ALMOST even a reality? I cannot lie the hippos were my constant favorite part, even they had such cute character stories. This is just overall, an entertaining read that has so much promise for the next one

I bought this book for the concept of ranching hippos for meat. I thought that was very original and interesting. And it was! The plot moved right along, and the characters were real and well written. If you're interested in alternate history or hippos, this is a good read and worth your time.

I could try to describe this action-adventure, but I'd fail. Suffice to say that if you're ready to suspend belief, scrap any preconceived ideas about gender and embrace hippos, you'll be satisfied. You can thank me later.

This may be the worst book I have ever tried to read. The characters and the premise are idiotic..!

This could have been an interesting alternate history. It could have been an amusing romp. It seemed to try to straddle the middle and fell in. The plot moved along alright, but it was one of those books where disbelief was suspended by the neck until dead, dead, dead. First, the author pretty clearly knows nothing about hippos, not their diet, not their habits, not their biology or their behavior and temperament. She makes them out to be a sort of mammalian piranha waiting to chomp up anything that touches the water, especially at night (when real hippopotamuses go on land to forage). She does not understand that while they like water they are perfectly capable of traveling hundreds of cranky miles on dry land during drought, and that they are big, really big, too big to saddle and too big for half a dozen people to pull out of the water with a couple ropes. They are

long-lived and take a while to reach sexual maturity. Twenty years, about five really squeezed generations with a small population, would not be long enough to develop several distinct breeds. So on, and so forth. It makes it hard to take the rest of the work seriously. When one writes about a location a minimum of background research is required for plausibility. It is painfully clear this did not take place. She seems to envision the lower Mississippi in Louisiana as a straight channel with a single well-defined mouth that could be closed off by a gate, rather than the chaotic landscape of ever-changing swamps, bayous, embayments, oxbows, sloughs, channels, streams and rivers it is to this day AFTER a century of relentless water projects. In the mid 19th century? Some of the points the plot rests on are laughable. Then there are the characters. I don't want to give spoilers, but several important parts of the plot depend on characters being suicidally stupid at critical junctures or acting very unprofessionally for what are supposed to be the top people in their field. Language is difficult to get right. The stilted quality sounds like someone read a lot of current fantasy or steampunk about the 19th century rather than making the effort to read literature from the period itself. Gender nonconforming and sexual outlaw characters are useful and worthwhile, especially to identify the ignored or silenced Other. When the whole party just happens to be made up entirely of same and when the language used is from the twenty first century instead of the period it seems to be trying too hard. One must cut the author a fair bit of slack which is why my rating is not lower. This seems to be her first fiction piece of this length. I hope she tightens it up for the next installment of the series.

An alternative history, this is basically a western, but with hippos. It is pulpy, but in a good way. Hopefully, the sequel will be as good.

An exciting adventure through an alternate timeline of history. Full of contemporary intrigue with a hippo twist. Great read!

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