



Book Review

'Gor'ko!' is a weird, crazy read you will enjoy

By Joyce Laabs
of The Lakeland Times

"Gor'ko - Mississippi Mud and Moscow Madness" (Authorhouse) is Mary Jane Cole's second book. The first was "The Perfect Dress," which we reviewed in 2006.

In the author's words: "Gor'ko is a ridiculous story, right up there with 'The World According to Garp' and 'The Texas Cheerleader Murder.' It is not to be taken seriously!"
So prepare yourself for a weird, crazy, fun read.

It is the story of Fancy Janette Parker and her mother, Roxanne, who live life on the edge in the small town of Shale's Grove, Miss.

Dance is a part of every young girl's life in Shales's Grove, and Fancy is no different. Now age 14, she has been studying to be a ballerina.

Roxanne and Fancy keep to themselves, living in a trailer on a secluded piece of property. Roxanne, who works at a bar in town, brings gentlemen friends home with regularity.

Then Fancy, the result of a one-night stand - father unknown - is at home one night when one of Roxanne's "friends"

comes by to see her. She is still at work and before she returns, he violently rapes Fancy. Roxanne comes in, sees what's going on ... and takes justice into her own hands.

The plot spins on from there ... Roxanne forms a plan - and Fancy, who knows better than to argue with her, goes along with it.

After two and one-half weeks, while they tie up loose ends - hiding the body, torching the trailer, and accepting donations from the community - the plan takes them out of Shale's Grove to Biloxi.

Roxanne finds work at the casino and they settle in. Then, just when they think all is well - another blow. As a result of the rape, Fancy is pregnant - with triplets. She is determined to keep the babies - against the advice of the social worker.

Roxanne again administers her own justice. Now the story line gets even more interesting. Fancy meets a young

Russian ballet dancer at their motel pool - Roxanne has gone back to visit her ex-husband - a hurricane strikes Biloxi - the triplets are born - the law starts closing in - and they pack up and head out to Vegas where the ballet troupe will perform. Eventually, Alex, Fancy and the babies, April, Mae and June, head off to Russia.

While there are violent scenes, they are not frighteningly violent. The reader realizes that Roxanne and Fancy, while misguided, are struggling for survival - and will do whatever is necessary.

It's a great read - and as Cole said - not to be taken seriously.

Born and raised in Chicago, Cole attended schools in California and Illinois. She is an avid hiker and cyclist. She now lives in Florida with Claude, a standard poodle, Matelasse, a mini shih tzu, and Jim, her psychiatrist husband.

Gorko! - Mississippi Mud and Moscow Madness sells for \$9.90. It is

available from AuthorHouse.com, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Books a Million. It can also be ordered in any local bookstore - the ISBN number is 978-1-4343-3340-7.

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