



## Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes

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**Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes** T. Cooper

**A postmodern family saga by one of America's freshest literary voices**

Upon landing at Ellis Island in 1903, Esther and Hersch Lipshitz discover their son Reuven is missing. The child is never found and, decades later, Esther becomes convinced that the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh is her lost boy. Esther's manic obsession spirals out of control, leaving far-reaching effects on the entire Lipshitz lineage. In the present, we meet T Cooper—, the last living Lipshitz, —who struggles to make sense of all that came before him and what legacy he might leave behind.

## Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes Details

Date : Published February 1st 2007 by Plume Books (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780452288065

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Format : Paperback 434 pages

Genre : Fiction, Glbt, Queer, Historical, Historical Fiction, Novels, Lgbt

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# From Reader Review Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes for online ebook

## Laura says

This book was hugely disappointing. It had a great set up, and the Lipshitz/Lindbergh story was interesting, but the fact that it never actually went anywhere in the end is incredibly frustrating. And just when it seemed like it might, the story cut off, and we switched to the modern day narrator. Who I still hoped would nicely wrap up the story, but instead seemed to have no desire except to be obnoxious enough to distract from the story. And, well, I guess it worked.

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## Priscilla Herrington says

This is a bold work. I loved it and I disliked it intensely. And yet I can't quite get it out of my head. I applaud the author for his ambition!

This is the story of the Lipshitz family and their suffering in the shtetl in Russia. It is the story of their escape and coming to the New World, only to lose their five-year-old son as they go through Ellis Island for processing. They remain in New York for a while but there is no sign of Reuven or what has become of him and then they continue to their destination to rejoin family in Texas.

Esther is haunted by her lost child and comes to believe that Charles Lindbergh is Reuven - that the Lindberghs adopted her beautiful blond boy who didn't look at all Jewish. She becomes more and more obsessed, collecting newspaper clippings of Lindbergh's exploits, and writing to his mother.

And then it seems another book has been appended. It is the first person narration of T Cooper, an Eminem-impersonator and rapper who specializes in Bar and Bat Mitzvah parties. Cooper has been given the box of clippings his grandmother collected - perhaps he would write a book about his grandparents. Cooper's life is clearly chaotic and the book becomes harder and harder to follow. As a reader I wanted to like Esther's grandson but as his narration continued I found this more and more difficult as his life seemed to spin into greater and greater chaos.

This is the only book I've read by Cooper so I have nothing to compare it to. I'm not sure I will read anything else. And yet, I cannot quite get it out of my head...

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## Lord Beardsley says

This book was thoroughly engaging. I love how the author mixes up things stylistically and the tone is wonderful. I literally couldn't put this book down. It's got everything I look for in a good book: humor, sadness, comedy, tragedy...gender dystopia. You name it.

My only criticism was the last bit narrated by the modern day, last remaining Lipshitz, T. I don't really feel like it added anything to the story itself and it seemed a bit self-indulgent more than anything else. It would

have been a great start on a rough draft to get someone going on pulling together a final conclusion, but instead it just sort of gives you the feeling of being a bit tacked on. This left the book feeling a little bit unfinished. I can live with that, but I think for some that would be a pretty big disappointment.

Irregardless, I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more of T Coopers' stuff in the future.

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### **Gina says**

Like many other reviewers, I found the first part of this book interesting. The second part was so bad I stopped reading it and have created a new tag on goodreads: unfinished for a reason.

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### **Jeanie says**

I enjoyed the Lipshitz Six story of the Lipshitz family. However, the second part of the book - the author's story - seemed unnecessary and superfluous. I read about six pages of it and then gave up.

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### **Kathleen says**

This book was a complete waste of my time. In the beginning, the plot seemed to show some promise, but that fell apart for me as I realized several things:

1. I was never going to learn what happened to the child who was lost in the very beginning of the book.
2. There were absolutely no likable characters to hook me into their story.
3. The plot of the first 300 pages of the book completely went out the window in the last 100 pages.

I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone.

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### **Mdraeger says**

Hmmmm, this was one of those books that make you go "wtf?" Take one part interesting, one part depressing and two parts infuriating and you have this book. I was doing okay with the plot line about Russian-Jewish immigrants, depressing as it was, but then it switches over to a self-indulgent modern day plot line about the author that makes you really sorry you read the other 3/4 of the book. Grrrr...

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### **Karl Krekeler says**

I have a thing for books about immigrants and their struggles. That being said, Lipshitz was right up my alley. Something I really loved about this book is that it grounds the story in historical fact, making it seem

all the more real. Although I enjoyed the book, I'm not all too sure what the little modern day part at the end was all about.

All in all a great book. If you liked Everything is Illuminated, The Kite Runner, or Life of Pi, this one deserves a shot.

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### **Wendy says**

To be honest, I couldn't finish this. I enjoyed the book at the beginning. Jewish experiences in Europe and America, and family sagas, are some of my favorite topics/stories ever. So I settled nicely into this, and felt the menace of just-before-the-pogrom and the devastation of after- and felt like I had just found a book I could really swim in. I stayed up late nights reading. But unfortunately, this is not a family saga. We get a little information in NYC about Ben, but once he leaves NYC for Texas, he just disappears altogether. The story shifts from Hersh's point of view, primarily, in Ukraine, to Esther's in the US. And I have to say it becomes tedious. We know and understand that she thinks Lindbergh is her lost son. We KNOW and yet it never lets up until she dies. We have a sudden death of Shmuel, and no grieving in the family, Ben and Miriam just kind of come and go but we don't get much sense of them as people.

The book starts off so well, and just goes downhill. The newspaper clippings are a tedious device that I ended up skipping most of. Then we hit part two and...

Wow. Is this some kind of self-indulgent extra-long Facebook rant? This terrible narrator could give 45 a run for his money in terms of misogyny and assholedom. I don't care if it's fiction, I refuse to put up with 100 or so pages - shit, I refuse to put up with 10 pages of rampant sexism and violent thoughts directed at women. I have seen some other reviews that state there is a big reveal that the character T is transgender, which is what I thought from looking at the jacket photo of the author anyway, and knowing that T is the name of both author and character. (That is an annoying device to me anyway, and probably why it's taken me 10 years to read this book in the first place. I only kept it because of the queer theme in the first place [I do periodic book purges]). But holy shit, the violent misogyny, the self-important mocking, spewing from the first few pages of the second part is so despicable that I am almost without words. It is really nasty, and I did initially worry about that when I saw Eminem's name inserted into the family tree. I mean, it is so bad, without anything redeeming to it, that I could not read to the end to see if there is some magical change of heart. I skimmed, and there didn't seem to be. If I want to read or hear about some asshole man talking badly about women and thinking violent thoughts, and generally embodying every icky quality I loathe in people, I'll just turn on the news or eavesdrop into conversations at work. I have never been a fan of the anti-hero, but this takes it too far. If there had been, I don't know, some dialogue between T and his wife that showed him maybe a little kinder, something, maybe I would have seen this through to the end.

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### **Liz says**

this was an awesome book. so well researched, and so interesting and funny. t cooper puts himself as a fictional character in this book (with some pictures), after telling the fictional story of his family and their migration from Russia. his great grandmother is convinced that her lost son is Charles Lindbergh; he is obsessed with Eminem. Two angry blondes, there ya go. it's great, and surprising, and awesome.

Oh yeah. And the ending. It's very odd. Yet fitting with the books' overall theme of finding and creating identity...

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### **Famous says**

someone saw me reading this book and asked me what i thought of it. i said i didn't know because i just started it - and then i realized i was just about half way through already. half-way through i don't feel committed to reading it yet. curious. obviously easy to read if i got that far along without noticing, but i still feel like the story is just getting started, that each chapter is a snap-shot of leading-up-to-something information, but i'm 170 pages in and don't know what it is yet.... and i haven't yet decided whether i'm going to read the book or not.

Then i got way over half way through it and i lost it. i never lose the book i'm reading, so what does that say? mostly i was glad i was done with it.

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### **Adele says**

I liked the whole first part. Like many other people, I found the last part was nearly irrelevant ... at least as it was written. I could have done without quite so much gutter language and attitude toward his parents. Mind you, I can cut loose myself upon occasion, but really! ... most of it was quite unnecessary. I fairly skimmed through it because I grew tired of his rants.

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### **Ruby says**

I struggled with whether to give this book three stars or four. I eventually decided to go with my feeling on the majority of the book, which would have rated four, rather than the ending of the book, which had some issues.

There was, as mentioned in other reviews, a drastic change in narrative voice, tone, and perspective in the last portion of the book. There's a blurry line here between memoir and fiction (a line I like to see blurred), so it's possible that the final part of the book is truly from the perspective of the author. As I found the voice grating, misogynistic, and full of rage, I hope it isn't. I read a great short story by this author in *The New Yorker*, and I'd like to look forward to more of his work.

At the end of the novel, Cooper throws in a "surprise" transgender theme. It wasn't terrifically surprising to me, as I knew him to be a trans author, and the device didn't work for me. At that point I was too comfortable feeling exasperated with the narrator to open up to new information. My empathy was limited by the harshness of the voice, and even the narrator's kinder actions didn't mitigate it.

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### **Ezra says**

I couldn't decide if I was enjoying this book until the end when I started clearly not enjoying it and then the

first 3/4 seemed better in comparison. I recommend Beyond The Pale if you want to read a queer narrative about multiple generations of Jewish diaspora, and some earlier parts of this book felt like a direct rip-off from Beyond the Pale.

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## **Straw says**

I give it such a high rating for the first 3/4 of the book, which was artfully written and very interesting. The imagined familial history sprung to life.

However, the last 1/4 annoyed the fuck out of me. I don't know why every queer person who writes in this country thinks I should be interested in their quirky little lives. I am so freaking sick of memoir. I am especially sick of the posturing, self-involvement that comes out of these people.

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