

Zeitschrift: Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle
Band: 25 (1957)
Heft: 3

Buchbesprechung: Book review : Never the same again : by Gerald Tesch

Autor: Allen, Luther

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 29.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Never the same again

by Gerald Tesch, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y.

Roy is an attractive man of thirty. He has a possessive mother and an ineffectual father with whom he lives. As a boy he was seduced by an older sister who ended in a mental institution. Roy believes that due to a boyhood injury he is unable to have children. He operates a filling station in a small town somewhere in the United States.

Johnny is thirteen years old. He is the son of divorced parents and lives with his mother, his aunt and his senile grand-mother. His father is an alcoholic industrial worker. He lives in a nearby city and never sees his son.

Roy offers Johnny a job in his filling station. He lavishes money and gifts upon the boy, tries to advise him, guide him. He also seduces him. A deep and passionate love develops between the two, partly a father-son relationship, partly a sexual one. Roy spends all his savings on one idyllic summer of happiness with Johnny. In spite of Roy's follies and Johnny's unchecked exploitative trends a deep and sincere devotion exists between the two.

In the Fall, at his mother's insistence, Johnny joins a boys' club. The leader of the club is an influential business man whom one might call a cryptohomosexual. Through jealousy masquerading as righteousness this man exposes publicly the nature of Johnny's relationship with Roy. Roy is forced to leave town. God knows what happens to poor Johnny.

Never the Same Again is a first novel by a twenty-three year old writer. With impartiality it reveals the good and the bad of the Roy-Johnny relationship and makes it clear to the reader why and how such relationships come about. It gives us remarkable insight into the shifting, protean mentality of a semi-delinquent thirteen year old boy. It does something that is rare in homosexual fiction, it displays this type of relationship in its full social context from start to finish, not as something which exists in isolation from the world around it. In this case the social context is that of the lower middle class of mid-America; its longings and disappointments, its lack of stable values and its moral inertia, all are presented accurately yet sympathetically. One feels that these are essentially wholesome but dispirited people who follow the line of least resistance because they see no way open to a better life.

The style of *Never the Same Again* is colloquial, often rich and racy, sometimes over-ripe. There is a steady stream of effectively powerful crudities which sometimes defeat their own end by simply blunting the reader's responses. As an old army man I have no objection to rugged language per se. But when carried to the point where it has a dulling effect upon the reader's perceptivity and sensibility, that's something else again. However, this language is authentic and more often than not a real delight.

Never the Same Again is a brave book, an honest book, a book to be taken seriously.

Luther Allen.