



# The Shark Curtain

*Chris Scofield*

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**Winner of the 2016 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People**

"It's easy to empathize with [Lily]....Throughout, first-time author Scofield creates striking images that will stay with readers."

--*Publishers Weekly*

"This is a painful and poignant story that is not for every reader; but for those ready to deal with complex realistic fiction, it has much to offer."

--*Booklist*

"Dynamic...[Protagonist Lily Asher] comes to glorious, heartbreaking, embraceable, vibrant life courtesy of the experiences, heart and immense imagination and talent of Eugene author Chris Scofield."

--*The Register-Guard*

"Chris Scofield has written a young adult novel that doesn't compromise integrity for trendiness....It's complex and quirky...there can be no doubt as to its uniqueness."

--*LitReactor*

"*The Shark Curtain* is worth a read by teens and adults alike."

--*Eugene Weekly*

"Absolutely bewitching....Scofield has crafted a dense, poignant book, filled with extraordinarily beautiful language....In exploring themes such as art, sex, and self-acceptance, Scofield examines the trade-offs we all make to be included in the tribe."

--*KLCC*

"Those who prefer edgy period fiction with truly original characters will be fascinated by this glimpse into the mind of an unmedicated non-neurotypical teen struggling to come of age in the '60s."

--*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"*The Shark Curtain*...is believable and real."

--*What Is Much*

"Brilliant, engaging, engulfing, fulfilling, beautiful. *The Shark Curtain* will turn you inside out and make you see the world differently. As well you should. As well we all should. Because life isn't about having the answers, it's about grappling with the questions. Chris Scofield's fantastically fantastic novel pins the tail on the donkey with a pneumatic nail gun--I absolutely insist that you read this book!"

--**Garth Stein**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

Set against the changing terrain of middle-class values and the siren calls of art and puberty, *The Shark Curtain* invites us into Lily Asher's wonderful, terrible world. The older of two girls growing up in suburban Portland, Oregon, in the mid-1960s, her inner life stands in quirky contrast to the loving but dysfunctional world around her.

Often misunderstood by her flawed but well-intentioned parents, teenage Lily orbits their tumultuous love affair, embracing what embraces her back: the ghost of her drowned dog, a lost aunt, numbers, shoe boxes, werewolves, rituals, and stories she pens herself (including one about a miscarried sibling she dubs "Frog Boy"). With "regular" visits from a wisecracking Jesus, an affectionate but combative friendship is born--a friendship that strains Lily's grasp of reality as much as her patience.

From the violence of a Peeping Tom and catching Mom in flagrante delicto with the neighbor, to jungles in her closet, butlers under her bed, and barking in public, Lily struggles to balance her family's expectations with the visions that continue to isolate her.

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