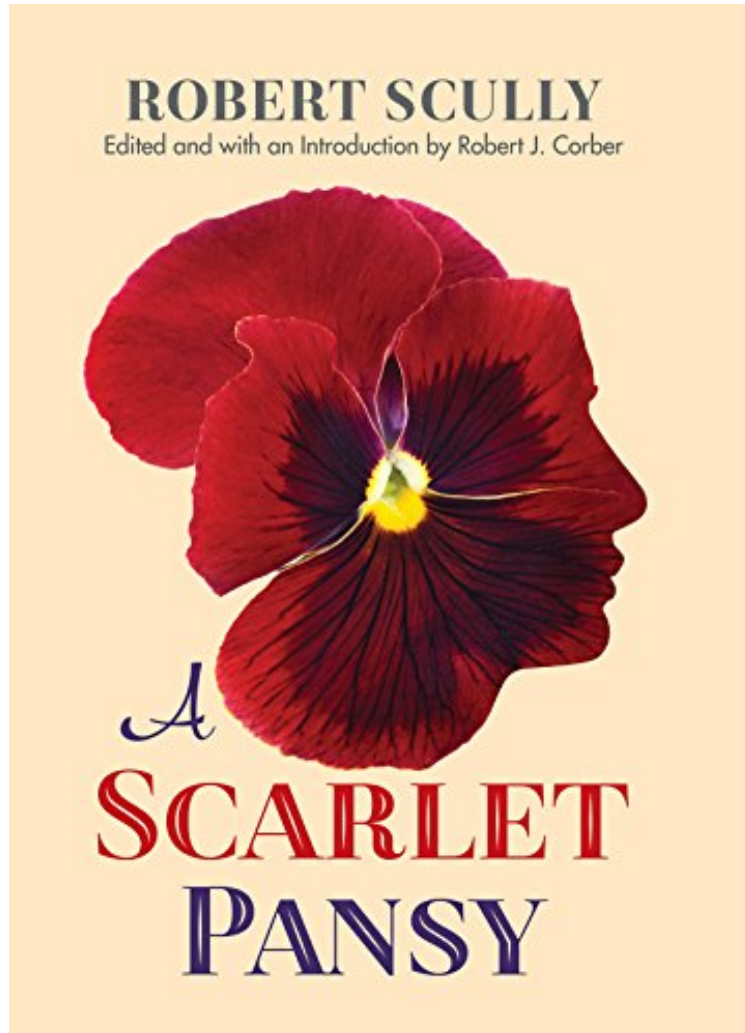


(Download) A Scarlet Pansy

A Scarlet Pansy

Robert Scully

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#729968 in Books 2016-09-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.80 x .60 x 8.30l, .0 #File Name:
0823272567232 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Robert Scully : A Scarlet Pansy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Scarlet Pansy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You just cant help loving the girl.By E VikanderTransgendered Fay Etrange leaves her rural Pennsylvania home to make a life for herself off the farm, traveling first to Baltimore and then to New York City, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. An idealistic romantic, Fay is also searching for a love that is pure. A Scarlet Pansy is described in the introduction as a queer reimagining of the Horatio Alger story, which is an accurate description. Fays life is filled with hard work, good friends, abundant lovers, and ample rewards including financial independence. Much of Scullys writing is so clear and straightforward that I kept thinking it was a biography. The more intimate parts of the story are told with euphemisms and the conversations are filled with witty

repartee. *A Scarlet Pansy* is a quick, enjoyable, and charming read capturing a moment in time through the eyes of someone new to many of us. You just can't help loving the girl.

First published in 1932, *A Scarlet Pansy* is an extraordinarily vivid and richly textured depiction of American queer life in the early twentieth century, tracing the coming-of-age of androgynous Fay Etrange. Born in small-town Pennsylvania and struggling with her difference, Fay eventually accepts her gender and sexual nonconformity and immerses herself in the fairy subculture of New York City. A self-proclaimed oncer never tricking with same man twice she immerses herself in the nightclubs, theaters, and street life of the city, cavorting with kindred spirits including female impersonators, streetwalkers, and hustlers as well as other fairies and connoisseurs of rough trade. While reveling in these exploits she becomes a successful banker and later attends medical school, where she receives training in obstetrics. There she also develops her life's ambition to find a cure for gonorrhea, a disease supposedly fastened on mankind as a penalty for enjoying love. *A Scarlet Pansy* stands apart from similar fiction of its time as well as that of the ensuing decades by celebrating rather than pathologizing its effeminate and sexually adventurous protagonist. In this edition, republished for the first time in its original unexpurgated form, Robert J. Corber examines the way in which it flew in the face of other literature of the time in its treatment of gender expression and same-sex desire. He places the novel squarely within its social and cultural context of nearly a century ago while taking into account the book's checkered publication history as well as the question of the novel's unknown author. Much more than a cultural artifact, *A Scarlet Pansy* remains a uniquely delightful and penetrating work of literature, resonating as much with present-day culture as it is illuminating of our understanding of queer history and challenging our notions of what makes a man a woman, and vice-versa.

A Scarlet Pansy makes an important queer intervention in the historical record of how to be gay. It is a great pleasure to be brought out into pre-Stonewall gay culture along with the protagonist, and to see this combination of camp and sex. (Nicholas de Villiers University of North Florida) A dizzying mix of low camp and high drama, *A Scarlet Pansy* is at once laugh-out-loud funny, startling, odd, and ultimately through the lens of our queer world today very moving. Robert J. Corber's insightful and astute Introduction places the novel in a clear historical context while continually highlighting the emotional power and the camp glory of the novel and the erotic adventures of its hero/heroine, Fay Etrange. (Michael Bronski Harvard University) About the Author Robert Scully is the unknown author of *A Scarlet Pansy*.