



## Backlash

By Sarah Darer Littman, Sarah Littman

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**Backlash** By Sarah Darer Littman, Sarah Littman

In critically acclaimed author Sarah Darer Littman's gripping new novel what happens online doesn't always stay online . . .

Lara just got told off on Facebook.

She thought that Christian liked her, that he was finally going to ask her to his school's homecoming dance. It's been a long time since Lara's felt this bad, this depressed. She's worked really hard since starting high school to be happy and make new friends.

Bree used to be BBFs with overweight, depressed Lara in middle school, but constantly listening to Lara's problems got to be too much. Bree's secretly glad that Christian's pointed out Lara's flaws to the world. Lara's not nearly as great as everyone thinks.

After weeks of talking online, Lara thought she knew Christian, so what's with this sudden change? And where does he get off saying horrible things on her wall? Even worse - are they true?

But no one realized just how far Christian's harsh comments would push Lara. Not even Bree.

As online life collides with real life, the truth starts to come together and the backlash is even more devastating than than anyone could have imagined.

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## **Backlash By Sarah Darer Littman, Sarah Littman Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—For sophomore Lara Kelly, things are finally looking up—she's feeling more confident after losing weight and she made the varsity cheerleading team, which she never would have imagined two years earlier when she was overweight and severely depressed. Best of all, Lara has caught the attention of a cute guy on Facebook, and he has been hinting at asking her to the homecoming dance. But when she sees horrible comments from her crush on social media, she spirals into a dangerous mental state and suicide seems like the only escape. Bree is Lara's former best friend from middle school, but they drifted apart when Bree couldn't take Lara's depression and self-involvement. The new Lara is suddenly getting everything that Bree is supposed to have—the popularity, and even the spot on the cheer team. Sydney and Liam are the younger siblings, who are caught up in the horror of a tragic event, and trying to figure out how to cope with their siblings' issues while living their own lives. This novel thoughtfully balances the four alternating perspectives, giving an element of humanity even to the perpetrators of severe bullying while maintaining a strong moral judgment. The writing and pace may not be compelling enough for reluctant readers, and there are disturbing scenes portraying bullying and severe depression. However, it's an accessible complement to an anti-bullying curricula that would serve as a good starting point for discussion of ethics with teens. Share with fans of Lane Davis's *I Swear* (S. & S. 2012).—Tara Kron, School Library Journal

### **Review**

Praise for *WANT TO GO PRIVATE?*

"A bold investigation of a potentially lethal, if common, mixture for teen girls: emotional immaturity, technology, and emerging sexuality." --LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Littman pens a harrowing cautionary tale about the dangers that lurk online." --PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"This book is a compelling, if not disturbing, read." --SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

### **About the Author**

Sarah Darer Littman is the critically acclaimed author of *WANT GO PRIVATE?*; *LIFE, AFTER; PURGE*; and *CONFESSIONS OF A CLOSET CATHOLIC*, winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award. When she's not writing novels, Sarah is an award-winning columnist for the online site *CT News Junkie*. She teaches creative writing as an adjunct professor in the MFA program at Western Connecticut State University, and with *Writopia Lab*. Sarah lives in Connecticut with her family. You can visit her online at [www.sarahdarerlittman.com](http://www.sarahdarerlittman.com).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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