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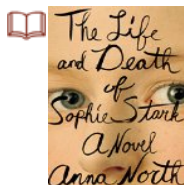
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The Life and Death of Sophie Stark.
North, Anna (author).
May 2015. 320p. Penguin/Blue Rider, hardcover, \$26.95 (9780399173394).
[REVIEW.](#) First published [April 1, 2015](#) ([Booklist](#)).



"Movies are how I get to know people," explains student filmmaker Sophie Stark, as she seduces West Virginia waitress Allison Mieskowski, convincing her to become the lead actress in her low-budget indie (and her offscreen romantic partner). Allison soon comes to admire Sophie's fierce creativity, and to dread the way that she borrows and manipulates the true stories of those around her in order to make her films. As Sophie and her unflinchingly honest films begin to capture the admiration of Hollywood, they also exact an increasing emotional toll on her loved ones. Allison's first-person account of Sophie's rise and fall is interwoven with testimonies of others in Sophie's circle: her brother, her producer, her husband, her documentary subject, and her most ardent critic, each reflecting on the impact and impossibility of Sophie and her work. As taut and artistically ambitious as its title character, North's novel upends the trope of the lone, tortured genius, considering instead the deeply human consequences of one person's uncompromising vision.

— Lindsay Bosch

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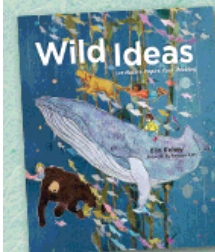
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April 2015

April 2015 Issue
Classroom Star

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