

SOUR GRAPES
--A Critical Review of Current Literary Offerings

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Week of January 10, 2010
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Book Review of:
Amphisbaena
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AMPHISBAENA

(2009)

Written by Ray Succre.

Review by Paul Lambrecht.

Struggling calendar-creator and live-in babysitter, Bill Sherman, finally meets a woman he likes, Amy, at a speed dating event. Amy is witty and fun to talk to, and before he fully realizes what is going on, the speed dating has sped off the rails and firmly in the direction of the non-conventional, as he soon finds himself just one corner in a love triangle with Amy and her "roommate" Janine. Amy can't have sex and Janine is a monster for it. And while the two women seem to be cool with the arrangement, Bill is not exactly thanking his lucky stars. Peppered throughout with excerpts from florid romance novels, *Amphisbaena* portrays a non-conventional romance in a poignant and touching way. The reader sympathizes with poor Bill, a smitten and confused but generally decent guy, willingly running into the buzz-saw that is modern womanhood, even more complicated by the fact Amy and Janine appear to together possess an ancient and frightening secret identity.