



Lincoln in the Bardo

George Saunders

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368 pages

Revue de presse

“A luminous feat of generosity and humanism.”—**Colson Whitehead**, *The New York Times Book Review*

“A masterpiece.”—**Zadie Smith**

“Ingenious . . . Saunders—well on his way toward becoming a twenty-first-century Twain—crafts an American patchwork of love and loss, giving shape to our foundational sorrows.”—*Vogue*

“Saunders is the most humane American writer working today.”—*Harper’s Magazine*

“The novel beats with a present-day urgency—a nation at war with itself, the unbearable grief of a father who has lost a child, and a howling congregation of ghosts, as divided in death as in life, unwilling to move on.”—*Vanity Fair*

“A brilliant, Buddhist reimagining of an American story of great loss and great love . . . Saunders has written an unsentimental novel of Shakespearean proportions, gorgeously stuffed with tragic characters, bawdy humor, terrifying visions, throat-catching tenderness, and a galloping narrative, all twined around the luminous cord connecting a father and son and backlit by a nation engulfed in fire.”—*Elle*

“Wildly imaginative”—*Marie Claire*

“Mesmerizing . . . Dantesque . . . A haunting American ballad.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Exhilarating . . . Ruthless and relentless in its evocation not only of Lincoln and his quandary, but also of the tenuous existential state shared by all of us.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“It’s unlike anything you’ve ever read, except that the grotesque humor, pathos, and, ultimately, human kindness at its core mark it as a work that could come only from Saunders.”—*The National*

Praise for *George Saunders*

“No one writes more powerfully than George Saunders about the lost, the unlucky, the disenfranchised.”—**Michiko Kakutani**, *The New York Times*

“Saunders makes you feel as though you are reading fiction for the first time.”—**Khaled Hosseini**

“Few people cut as hard or deep as Saunders does.”—**Junot Díaz**

“George Saunders is a complete original. There is no one better, no one more essential to our national sense of self and sanity.”—**Dave Eggers**

“Not since Twain has America produced a satirist this funny.”—**Zadie Smith**

“There is no one like him. He is an original—but everyone knows that.”—**Lorrie Moore**

“George Saunders makes the all-but-impossible look effortless. We’re lucky to have him.”—**Jonathan**

Franzen

“An astoundingly tuned voice—graceful, dark, authentic, and funny—telling just the kinds of stories we need to get us through these times.”—**Thomas Pynchon** Présentation de l'éditeur

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The long-awaited first novel from the author of *Tenth of December*: a moving and original father-son story featuring none other than Abraham Lincoln, as well as an unforgettable cast of supporting characters, living and dead, historical and invented

February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. “My poor boy, he was too good for this earth,” the president says at the time. “God has called him home.” Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body.

From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state—called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo—a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

Lincoln in the Bardo is an astonishing feat of imagination and a bold step forward from one of the most important and influential writers of his generation. Formally daring, generous in spirit, deeply concerned with matters of the heart, it is a testament to fiction's ability to speak honestly and powerfully to the things that really matter to us. Saunders has invented a thrilling new form that deploys a kaleidoscopic, theatrical panorama of voices to ask a timeless, profound question: How do we live and love when we know that everything we love must end?

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George Saunders is the author of eight books, including the story collections *Pastoralia* and *Tenth of December*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has received fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2006 he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. In 2013 he was awarded the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction and was included in *Time*’s list of the one hundred most influential people in the world. He teaches in the creative writing program at Syracuse University.

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