

Shotgun Lovesongs: A Novel

By Nickolas Butler

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NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"Impressively original." —*The New York Times*

"Sparkles in every way. A love letter to the open lonely American heartland…A must-read." —*People*

"The kind of book that restores your faith in humanity." —*Toronto Star*

Welcome to Little Wing.

It's a place like hundreds of others, nothing special, really. But for four friends—all born and raised in this small Wisconsin town—it is home. And now they are men, coming into their own or struggling to do so.

One of them never left, still working the family farm that has been tilled for generations. But others felt the need to move on, with varying degrees of success. One trades commodities, another took to the rodeo circuit, and one of them even hit it big as a rock star. And then there's Beth, a woman who has meant something special in each of their lives.

Now all four are brought together for a wedding. Little Wing seems even smaller than before. While lifelong bonds are still strong, there are stresses—among the friends, between husbands and wives. There will be heartbreak, but there will also be hope, healing, even heroism as these memorable people learn the true meaning of adult friendship and love.

Seldom has the American heartland been so richly and accurately portrayed. Though the town may have changed, the one thing that hasn't is the beauty of the Wisconsin farmland, the lure of which, in Nickolas Butler's hands, emerges as a vibrant character in the story. *Shotgun Lovesongs* is that rare work of fiction that evokes a specific time and place yet movingly describes the universal human condition. It is, in short, a truly remarkable book—a novel that once read will never be forgotten.

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- Sales Rank: #40244 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-03-11
- Released on: 2014-03-11
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, March 2014: When the four men at the core of *Shotgun Lovesongs* came of age together in Little Wing, Wisconsin, the highest point of the tiny farm town was the abandoned mill. Now in their thirties, Ronny's trying to start a life after rodeo and booze, Kip has come back to pour stock-market millions into reviving the mill, Hank's followed his father into farming, and Lee's indie-rock career--built on his legendary DIY recording in a Little Wing chicken coop--has shot him into another social stratosphere. Nickolas Butler's debut novel was inspired in part by the life of his high school friend Justin Vernon, who took the 2012 Grammy for Best New Artist as Bon Iver, and despite its occasional flirtation with stereotypes, his characters and their friendships have authentic souls. Through fights, reconciliations, and celebrations, Butler's polyphonic story swells to a full-throated anthem about the expansive possibility born of belonging to a deep-rooted community, a kind of America we want to believe might welcome us all home. --*Mari Malcolm*

From Booklist
The hearty Midwest, which thrums and beats through tiny Little Wing, Wisconsin—an Anytown, USA, if there ever was one—assumes the whole soul of Butler's fetching debut, if only to end up proving how unassuming it is. Chapters are voiced alternately by five longtime friends: there are Henry and Beth, married and tethered to their farm and kids; gold-hearted Ronny, babied by the others after a spell of rough living as a rodeo king; Kip, who's restoring Little Wing's decrepit old mill after pulling down millions in Chicago; and Lee, the newly successful musician whose haunting first album lends the novel its name. In bars and under stars, through this small group of those who've never left, those who regret leaving, and those who wish they had the town in their rearview mirror, Butler examines just what it means to be from a place—and if sharing that from-some-place is more a reason to stay in touch, or a reason not to. Readers can feel the winter cold on the other side of the neon sign and hear the peanut shells crunching underfoot. --Annie Bostrom

Review

"*Shotgun Lovesongs* is about a hometown in Wisconsin and the close band of friends who will always feel its magnetic pull. … The most lyrical parts of this big-hearted book are about how all the characters, including the star, are almost physically drawn to the town and one another. … Impressively original." ?*The New York Times*

"Sparkles in every way. A love letter to the open lonely American heartland…A must-read." ?*People*

"We all have them, right? Those songs that indelibly mark the milestones in our lives? Songs that stir up our deepest feelings and remind us of who we are. … Only the best, most emotionally resonant novels work in the same way. Nickolas Butler's *Shotgun Lovesongs* is one of those novels." ?*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Totally smitten. That was me, within four pages of the beginning of *Shotgun Lovesongs.* … This is one of those books you step into, but never want to leave." ?*Reedsburg Times-Press*

"The kind of book that restores your faith in humanity." ?*Toronto Star*

"A dreamy novel that leaves readers with a lasting impression about friendship and its purpose -- to teach,

inspire, and, most of all, fill our hearts with love." ?*Wilkes Barre Times-Leader*

"Nickolas Butler ripped my heart out with rare honesty and good old-fashioned unapologetic love. A book that makes you want to call old friends. A writer who makes you feel more human than you thought possible." ?*Matthew Quick, New York Times bestselling author of The Silver Linings Playbook*

"Nickolas Butler has written a Midwestern masterpiece and has done for the modest splendor of verdant farmlands what Larry McMurtry did for the brutal beauty of small-town Texas." ?*Ambert Dermont, author of the New York Times bestseller The Starboard Sea*

"This is a novel about home, and home is how the book feels." ?*Josh Weil, award-winning author of The New Valley*

"An unswervingly bighearted and compelling novel about an indie rocker made good and his best friends back home in Wisconsin...a soaring, meditative chorus of voices. And it's absolutely beautiful." ?*Dean Bakopoulos, author of the New York Times Notable Book Please Don't Come Back from the Moon*

"You will be moved to laughter and tears, plugged in to a melody that brilliantly shares the story of all our lives." ?*Benjamin Percy, Pushcart Prize–winning author of Red Moon*

"A beautifully written, heartfelt novel about young men in the Midwest grappling with the slipperiest bits of life. Read *Shotgun Lovesongs* with caution--these guys will stay with you for a while." ?*Katie Crouch, New York Times bestselling author of Girls in Trucks*

"Hooray for this warm, wise, bighearted book." ?*Emily Jeanne Miller, author of Brand New Human Being*

"What a cracking book. Full of heart, full of compassion, full of characters who have you rooting for them from the very first page." ?*Shelley Harris, author of Jubilee, short-listed for the 2012 Commonwealth Book Prize*

"There is also a profound empathy for the characters and the small-town dynamic that the reader will likely share, an appreciation for what 'America was, or could be.'" ?*Kirkus Reviews (starred review)*

"Its power comes from its honesty and the way in which the author sees as much value in life's smaller moments as in its big. … A beautifully written, big-hearted celebration of the enduring power of different kinds of love." ?*The Independent (UK)*

"One of the best books I've read in a long time. I know you'll love it – and you will want to put it in the hands of everyone you know, and say – 'just read it." ?*OurWindsor*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marco Manuel:

Book will be written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A guide Shotgun Lovesongs: A Novel will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they are often

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Patti Wooden:

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Denise Adams:

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Tyler Cote:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person like reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update about something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is this Shotgun Lovesongs: A Novel.

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