

Edinburgh

By Alexander Chee

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A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
Winner of the James Michener/Copernicus Society Fellowship Prize
Lambda Literary Foundation Editor's Choice Award

"Incomparable . . . because of its bravery, its wisdom, its vitality, and because it's a novel that never stops haunting." —Junot Díaz

"[Chee] says volumes with just a few incendiary words." —*New York Times*

"Arresting . . . profound and poetic . . . Chee's voice is worth listening to." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Alexander Chee gets my vote for the best new novelist I've read in some time. *Edinburgh* is moody, dramatic—and pure." —Edmund White

Twelve-year-old Fee is a shy Korean American boy and a newly named section leader of the first sopranos in his local boys' choir. But when Fee learns how the director treats his section leaders, he is so ashamed he says nothing of the abuse, not even when Peter, his best friend, is in line to be next. When the director is arrested, Fee tries to forgive himself for his silence. But when Peter takes his own life, Fee blames only himself. In the years that follow he slowly builds a new life, teaching near his hometown. There he meets a young student who is the picture of Peter and is forced to confront the past he believed was gone. Told with "the force of a dream and the heft of a life,"* *Edinburgh* marked Chee "as a major talent whose career will bear watching" (*Publishers Weekly*).

"A coming-of-age tale in the grand Romantic tradition, where passions run high, Cupid stalks Psyche, and love shares the dance floor with death . . . A lovely, nuanced, never predictable portrait of a creative soul in the throes of becoming." —*Washington Post*

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Editorial Review

From The New Yorker
When the director of a boys' choir in Maine molests his young charges, the damage he inflicts spirals outward in ever larger circles. The novel's hero, Fee, a Korean-American teen-ager, is unable to separate what has been done to him from his own budding desire for a fellow-choirboy, and is thus unable to save his friend from the same fate. Years later, as a high-school teacher, Fee discovers that the choir director's son is one of his students. Chee has chosen difficult territory for his first novel, but by balancing its anguish with fantasy and Korean folk tales, he keeps a sad story from becoming maudlin.
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From Booklist
If a story about child molestation could ever be beautiful, this first novel comes very close to that unusual mark. Fee is a 12-year-old soprano in a boys choir in Maine. The choir director, however, is revealed to be a malicious pederast, who selects favorites from the choir and subjects them to frequent sexual abuse. The pain that Fee and his friends endure while growing up with this horrible fact, even after the director is imprisoned, is almost unfathomable. But Fee gets through it, although the dread stays with him all his life--through his self-destructive college days and as he courts a succession of lovers. Years later, as he begins teaching at a prep school, he encounters a beautiful student named Warden, the son of Fee's former choirmaster, who knows nothing of his father's deeds. Confronting this student, Fee is forced to contend with the demons of his boyhood and the very way he has lived his life. A spectacular, gripping, and gut-wrenching tale. *Michael Spinella*
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Review

“Haunting . . .complex . . . sophisticated . . . [Chee] says volumes with just a few incendiary words.” —*New York Times*

“A coming-of-age novel in the grand Romantic tradition, where passions run high, Cupid stalks Psyche, and love shares the dance floor with death . . . A lovely, nuanced, never predictable portrait of a creative soul in the throes of becoming.” —*Washington Post*

“Lyrical . . . arresting . . . compelling . . . *Edinburgh* is beautifully imagined and executed . . . Profound and poetic . . . Chee's is a voice worth listening to.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“*Edinburgh* has the force of a dream and the heft of a life. And Alexander Chee is a brilliant new writer.” —Annie Dillard

“Alexander Chee gets my vote for the best new novelist I've read in some time. *Edinburgh* is moody, dramatic—and pure.” —Edmund White

“Few coming-of-age novels truly stir one's emotions or lead readers to consider the trauma of their own lives. *Edinburgh* does both.” —*Newsday*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corinne Parsons:

What do you about book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They need to answer that question since just their can do which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on guardería until university need this specific Edinburgh to read.

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