



Twilight: A Novel

By William Gay

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Twilight: A Novel By William Gay

From the acclaimed author of *Provinces of Night*, a Southern gothic novel about an undertaker who won't let the dead rest. Suspecting that something is amiss with their father's burial, teenager Kenneth Tyler and his sister Corrie venture to his gravesite and make a horrific discovery: their father, a whiskey bootlegger, was not actually buried in the casket they bought for him. Worse, they learn that the undertaker, Fenton Breece, has been grotesquely manipulating the dead. Armed with incriminating photographs, Tyler becomes obsessed with bringing the perverse undertaker to justice. But first he must outrun Granville Sutter, a local strongman and convicted murderer hired by Fenton to destroy the evidence. What follows is an adventure through the Harrikin, an eerie backwoods filled with tangled roads, rusted machinery, and eccentric squatters old men, witches, and families among them who both shield and imperil Tyler as he runs for safety. With his poetic, haunting prose, William Gay rewrites the rules of the gothic fairytale while exploring the classic Southern themes of good and evil.

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Twilight: A Novel By William Gay Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Teenage siblings Corrie and Kenneth Tyler suspect they've been ripped off by the town undertaker, but what they discover in Gay's resplendently dark third novel is much more sinister than either imagined. After their bootlegger father is buried in smalltown 1951 Tennessee, Kenneth sees undertaker Fenton Breece remove an item from the grave. The siblings dig up their father's grave, among others, and uncover unsettling evidence of Fenton's necrophilia. Corrie cooks up a blackmail plot and enlists Kenneth to steal Fenton's briefcase, which contains, as Kenneth and Corrie soon find out, photos depicting Fenton "capering gleefully" with corpses. Blackmail material in hand, Corrie demands \$15,000 from Fenton, and Fenton hires local psychopath Granville Sutter to muzzle—by whatever means necessary—the Tylers and get back the photos. A violent run-in with Sutter ends with Corrie's death, and Kenneth runs off to the Harrikin, a remote rural area inhabited by the eccentric and the creepy, leaving Fenton to cavort with Corrie's corpse. Gay (*The Long Home*) fills the book with haunting imagery and shocking, morbid and (surprisingly) hopeful turns as twisted justice gets meted out. Language lovers who are not faint of heart won't want to miss this one. (Oct. 20)

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From [Booklist](#)

Good flees from evil through a dark and tangled forest in this symbol-heavy southern gothic *cum* survival story set in rural Tennessee in 1951. Teenage Kenneth Tyler is on the run from Granville Sutter, a monstrously evil but wickedly efficient hit man who has been hired to retrieve some incriminating photos the boy has stolen from the local mortician, who has a penchant for doing unspeakable things to and with the corpses in his professional care. Yikes! Though Gay has sometimes been compared with Faulkner, it's Davis Grubb and his wonderful novel *The Night of the Hunter* that provides much of the inspiration here (a quote from Grubb opens the novel's second section). Though veering sometimes dangerously close to melodrama, Gay seems incapable of writing a dull sentence, and *Twilight* is further redeemed by his brilliant gift for dialogue, his occasional dark humor, and his utterly convincing portrayal of the reality of ruination and of evil. *Michael Cart*

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Review

"The perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. . . . Think **No Country for Old Men**, by Cormac McCarthy, and **Deliverance**, by James Dickey. . . then double the impact. It starts with a gruesome discovery in a small country graveyard (can you say "crazed necrophiliac undertaker"?) and finishes with a terrifying chase through some of the most surreal landscape you will ever encounter. Teenage hero Kenneth Tyler is immensely appealing (not to mention resourceful); his opposite number, the psychopathic Granville Sutter, is both gruesome and psychologically believable. #1" —Stephen King in his "Top Books of 2007" for *Entertainment Weekly*

"Gay seems incapable of writing a dull sentence, and *Twilight* is further redeemed by his brilliant gift for dialogue, his occasional dark humor, and his utterly convincing portrayal of the reality of ruination and of evil."

—*Booklist*

"In his third novel, **Twilight**, Tennessee author William Gay once again delivers Southern gothic writing at its gut-wrenching, frightening best. Mythic in scope and provocative in lyrical power, the highly recommended **Twilight** is one of those novels you will not soon forget, one that you will favorably compare

to the very best of William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor and Erskine Caldwell."

—*Book Page*

"Gay knows full well what he's doing, pulling readers into a small-town Southern nightmare so intense it verges on the surreal."

—*Seattle Times*

"**Twilight** is almost textbook Southern Gothic, with its elements of the grotesque and perverse, its psychological extremes and its fixations on violence and sex. Gay successfully uses this form's ability to unsettle readers, forcing them to see anew darker aspects of humanity."

—*Washington Post Book Review*

"**Twilight** is full of beautiful prose. . . .[T]his excellent novel of a vanished world is as modern as they come, speaking to all of us."

—*Paste Magazine*

"William Gay's twisted and tantalizing third novel successfully torques screws already tight from the start."

—*Washington Post Book World*

"Lyrical and mournful...a richly memorable story of loss and redemption."

—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Orlando Hernandez:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this *Twilight: A Novel*.

Conrad Degregorio:

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Kari Hughes:

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