



Marvel and a Wonder

Joe Meno

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Named a *Booklist* Editors' Choice for 2015

Longlisted for the American Library Association's 2016 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction

"Compelling and necessary....[Meno] has a knack for giving small happenings emotional weight....Meno knows how to make you love his characters, want what they want. But don't think he's going to let things turn out well for them. Marvels and wonders aren't worth the trouble. Fortunately, this book is."

--*New York Times Book Review*

"[A] rugged page-turner....There's a bit of the country noir of Daniel Woodrell's *Winter's Bone* in the stark atmosphere Mr. Meno evokes (*A faded town, fading, harried with dusty light, midafternoon*), and a bit of the Clint Eastwood movie *Gran Torino* in the story of the vigilante grandfather. But the writing is propulsive enough to make you forget its influences. And at moments the book's consuming darkness is lifted by potent, if inscrutable visions of the talismanic horse--*a flash of lightning curving along the horizon.*"

--*Wall Street Journal*

"But in two new books--a big novel, *Marvel and a Wonder*, and the anthology *Chicago Noir: The Classics*, published simultaneously in early September by Akashic in hardcover and paperback--we're reminded that Meno has a dark side that on occasion he lets out of jail, allowing it to cast a long and menacing shadow."

--*Chicago Tribune*

"Evoking William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy, Meno's suspenseful, mordantly incisive, many-layered tale can also be read as an equine *Moby-Dick*. As he tracks the bewildering seismic shifts under way in America, Meno celebrates everyday marvels, including the hard-proven love between grandfather and grandson."

--*Booklist*, Starred review

"In this high-stakes, mordantly incisive, compassionate drama, Quentin, a mixed-race teen, is spending the summer with Jim, his white grandfather, when a magnificent white racehorse is inexplicably delivered to Jim's Indiana farm."

--*Booklist*, Editors' Choice

"Talented Meno has penned a wise and touching novel of love, loyalty, courage; an extraordinary book not to be missed."

--*Library Journal*, Starred review

"Faulkner-ian epic for the contemporary age....[Meno] draws on the grave themes and austere styles of writers like Cormac McCarthy and Daniel Woodrell to offer a mix of biblical allegories, tinder-dry prose, and noble characters trying to survive in a wretched world....The novel's prose is marvelous in its spare, convincing grit while the story's themes of family, redemption, sacrifice, and faith echo the plays of Sam Shepard at times....A grandiose, atmospheric portrait of Middle America in all its damaged glory."

--*Kirkus Reviews*

Marvel and a Wonder is a darkly mesmerizing epic and literary page-turner set at the end of the twentieth century. In summer 1995, Jim Falls, a Korean War vet, struggles to raise his sixteen-year-old grandson, Quentin, on a farm in southern Indiana. In July, they receive a mysterious gift--a beautiful quarter horse--which upends the balance of their difficult lives. The horse's appearance catches the attention of a pair of troubled, meth-dealing brothers and, after a violent altercation, the horse is stolen and sold. Grandfather and grandson must travel the landscape of the bleak heartland to reclaim the animal and to confront the ruthless party that has taken possession of it. Along the way, both will be forced to face the misperceptions and tragedies of their past.

Evoking the writing of William Faulkner and Denis Johnson, this brilliant, deeply moving work explores the harrowing, often beautiful marvels of a nation challenged by its own beliefs. Ambitious, expansive, and laden with suspense, *Marvel and a Wonder* presents an unforgettable pair of protagonists at the beginning of one America and the end of another.

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From reader reviews:

Cynthia Hughes:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book Marvel and a Wonder seemed to be making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide Marvel and a Wonder is not only giving you more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship while using book Marvel and a Wonder. You never feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Thomas Dacosta:

The actual book Marvel and a Wonder has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

Daniel Adams:

Is it a person who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Marvel and a Wonder can be the solution, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a geek activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

Leigh Harris:

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