

The Wake: A Novel

By Paul Kingsnorth



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"A work that is as disturbing as it is empathetic, as beautiful as it is riveting." —Eimear McBride, *New Statesman*

In the aftermath of the Norman Invasion of 1066, William the Conqueror was uncompromising and brutal. English society was broken apart, its systems turned on their head. What is little known is that a fractured network of guerrilla fighters took up arms against the French occupiers.

In *The Wake*, a postapocalyptic novel set a thousand years in the past, Paul Kingsnorth brings this dire scenario back to us through the eyes of the unforgettable Buccmaster, a proud landowner bearing witness to the end of his world. Accompanied by a band of like-minded men, Buccmaster is determined to seek revenge on the invaders. But as the men travel across the scorched English landscape, Buccmaster becomes increasingly unhinged by the immensity of his loss, and their path forward becomes increasingly unclear.

Written in what the author describes as "a shadow tongue"—a version of Old English updated so as to be understandable to the modern reader—*The Wake* renders the inner life of an Anglo-Saxon man with an accuracy and immediacy rare in historical fiction. To enter Buccmaster's world is to feel powerfully the sheer strangeness of the past. A tale of lost gods and haunted visions, *The Wake* is both a sensational, gripping story and a major literary achievement.



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Editorial Review

Review

"The Wake is a masterpiece. My top book of the year." ?Eleanor Catton, Winner of the 2013 Man Booker Prize

"A book unlike any other, brilliant in its rarity and brutal, ugly truth. . . . Kingsnorth has brought forth a remarkable narrator through whom we can see (and smell and taste) the burnt fields and bodies, the skeletal trees and smoldering fires? a world sickly similar to so many lesser visions of destruction, but given fresh and horrifying weight here by a mad experiment in language that has become a raw and powerful masterpiece." ?NPR

"Like Tolkien's and Martin's books, *The Wake* presents the reader with an immersive experience. . . . What sharply distinguishes it is its disorienting use of high literary experiment and its insistence on uncertainty. . . . *The Wake* reminds us that we can't find our way out of our crisis as easily as many think."

?Bookforum

"Kingsnorth does not simply tell history: He invites the reader to inhabit it. . . . At once invigorating and terrifying. History almost a thousand years old feels intense and immediate, as close as the blood in one's veins and the memories one can't escape." ?Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

"Kingsnorth's captivating first novel is thought provoking, multi-faceted and intriguingly rendered. . . . [The Wake] will satisfy motivated readers of history, ecology and the persistent pull of the old gods."?Shelf

Awareness

"Powerful eloquence, a brusque beauty, that moves and convinces. More than a mere novel, *The Wake* is really a medieval epic poem to an English way of life that would be erased forever." *The Arts Fuse*

"A work that is as disturbing as it is empathetic, as beautiful as it is riveting." **EimearMcBride**, *New Statesman*

"The Wake is an astonishing accomplishment. . . . At first the prospect seems unreadably off-putting; within twenty pages you get the hang of it; by thirty the suddenly fluent reader is immersed entirely in the mental and geographical contours of the era. But it works the other way too: we are seeing? and feeling and hearing? the living roots of Englishness." ? Geoff Dyer

"Extraordinary."?Philip Pullman

"A resonant, eloquent ballad of English identity, pride and fierce independence. It is a thrilling story. Read it out loud. It is like nothing else." **?Mark Rylance**

"Kingsnorth's debut novel re-creates the mysterious joy that accompanies first learning how to read. Composed in a seductive Anglo-Saxon dialect, the narrative is disorienting yet familiar and brilliantly unreliable. Buccmaster's astonishing voice will haunt readers long after they finish this bold book." *Library Journal*, starred review

"A feat of linguistic speculation." ?Publishers Weekly

"Kingsnorth's use of an ever so slightly streamlined version of Old English to convey Buccmaster's story, rich in ghosts and the old gods, is daring." *Kirkus Reviews*

"The message of this extraordinary novel is as honest and timely as it is discomforting. Being waecend to the grim fate of your society doesn't mean you can do anything to prevent it happening." *Times Literary Supplement*

"Strange and extraordinary . . . this unusual novel has power. It lingers in the imagination."? The Times (UK)

"Reading [*The Wake*] is to be immersed in the past and in a story in a way that I haven't really felt since childhood. . . . The most glorious experience I've had with a book in years."? *The Guardian* (UK)

"Earthy, rude, rough-hewn lyricism. . . . A war epic, psychological thriller, and brooding meditation on the past's foreignness all in one." **?The Globe And Mail** (UK)

About the Author

Paul Kingsnorth is a former journalist and deputy editor of "The Ecologist" magazine who has won several awards for his poetry and essays. He is also the author of two works of nonfiction. In 2009, he cofounded the Dark Mountain Project, an international network of writers, artists, and thinkers in search of new stories for troubled times. "The Wake" is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harvey Hobbs:

This The Wake: A Novel book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This kind of The Wake: A Novel without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry The Wake: A Novel can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Wake: A Novel having excellent arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Michael Thompson:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Often the The Wake: A Novel is kind of publication which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Robert Wallace:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a guide. The book The Wake: A Novel it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

Samuel Brown:

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