



Ordinary Grace: A Novel

By William Kent Krueger

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WINNER OF THE 2014 EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL

WINNER OF THE 2014 DILYS AWARD

A SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2013

“That was it. That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word.”

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson’s Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank’s perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Krueger, the author of the best-selling Cork O'Connor mysteries, largely set in Minnesota, has written a stand-alone novel that is part mystery but mostly an extended (and often overly extended) meditation. The narrator, Frank Drum, writes as a middle-age man looking back on a summer in 1961 in New Bremen, Minnesota, when he was 13; the Minnesota Twins were in their first season; and death, in five different instances, shook his family and their community in the Minnesota River valley. The first death is that of Frank's sometime friend Bobby Cole. The proximate cause was a train, but the mystery is whether Bobby stood in front of that train, or was pushed or placed there. More deaths follow, one of which rips apart Frank's family. This coming-of-age story is obviously an attempt to show how grace can work through the fissures of suffering. While the setting is well rendered, the characters are too flat, and Krueger keeps striking the same monologist's meditative note throughout, while most readers will long for variety in style. - Connie Fletcher

Review

"A pitch-perfect, wonderfully evocative examination of violent loss. In Frank Drum's journey away from the shores of childhood—a journey from which he can never return—we recognize the heartbreaking price of adulthood and its 'wisdoms.' I loved this book." (Dennis Lehane, New York Times bestselling author of *Live by Night* and *The Given Day*)

"Krueger's elegy for innocence is a deeply memorable tale." (Washington Post)

"A respected mystery writer turns his attention to the biggest mystery of all: God. An award-winning author for his long-running Cork O'Connor series, Krueger aims higher and hits harder with a standalone novel that shares much with his other work.... 'the awful grace of God,' as it manifests itself within the novel, would try the faith of the most devout believer. Yet, ultimately, the world of this novel is one of redemptive grace and mercy, as well as unidentified corpses and unexplainable tragedy. A novel that transforms narrator and reader alike." (Kirkus Reviews (starred))

"...elegiac, evocative.... a resonant tale of fury, guilt, and redemption." (Publishers Weekly)

"Once in a blue moon a book drops down on your desk that demands to be read. You pick it up and read the first page, and then the second, and you are hooked. Such a book is *Ordinary Grace*... This is a book that makes the reader feel better just by having been exposed to the delights of the story. It will stay with you for quite some time and you will always remember it with a smile." (Huffington Post)

"One cannot read *Ordinary Grace* without feeling as if it is destined to be hailed as a classic work of literature. *Ordinary Grace* is one of those very rare books in which one regrets reaching its end, knowing that the experience of having read it for the first time will never be repeated. Krueger, who is incapable of writing badly, arguably has given us his masterpiece." (BookReporter.com)

"My best read so far this year." (ReviewingtheEvidence.com)

"A thoughtful literary mystery that is wholly compelling and will appeal to fans of Dennis Lehane and Tom Franklin. . . Don't take the title too literally, for Krueger has produced something that is anything but ordinary." (BookPage)

“Not often does a story feel at once fresh and familiar. But *Ordinary Grace*, a new novel from William Kent Krueger, is both, and it is affecting.” (Denver Post)

“*Ordinary Grace* is engaging from the first page, a quiet novel that unfurls its sad story slowly, but eloquently, leaving its mark on your heart.” (The Missourian)

“There’s such a quiet beauty in his prose and such depth to his characters that I was completely captivated by this book’s ordinary grace.” (Minneapolis Star-Tribune)

“A superb literary novel.” (New York Journal of Books)

“...the tone is much like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, with its combination of dread and nostalgia.” (Detroit News)

“Everything about this book, from language to ideas to Aeschylus’s epigram is beautiful and you’ll think about it long after you’re finished reading.” (The Globe and Mail (Toronto))

“I realized within pages this would be one of the best books I’ve read in recent years. The gathering threat and its consummation are satisfying and meaningful. This is an intelligent and compelling story told with great heart.... A perfect book club read, truly a book to love and read more than once. Absolutely recommended.” (Historical Novel Society)

“Besides being a terrific story that examines a powerful range of human experiences and emotions, it was the authentic voice of the teenage narrator, Frank Drum, that kept me reading late into the night. Though the tone is quiet, Krueger artfully layered the story with suspenseful examinations of family life, death, fury, spiritual fiber and redemption.” (Beth Hoffman, New York Times bestselling author of *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*)

“Sometimes a work of fiction just comes to you, sits in your soul, touches your life experiences and then is hard to remember as fiction. *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger is such a novel.” (Capital Journal)

About the Author

William Kent Krueger is the award-winning author of fourteen previous Cork O'Connor novels, including *Tamarack County* and *Windigo Island*, as well as the novel *Ordinary Grace*, winner of the 2014 Edgar Award for best novel. He lives in the Twin Cities with his family. Visit his website at WilliamKentKrueger.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dawne Feliciano:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book *Ordinary Grace: A Novel* was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The publication *Ordinary Grace: A Novel* is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship using the book *Ordinary Grace: A Novel*. You never really feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Anthony Sierra:

This Ordinary Grace: A Novel is great book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it data accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tough core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Ordinary Grace: A Novel in your hand like finding the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt in which?

Dustin Alvarez:

The book untitled Ordinary Grace: A Novel contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

Joel Wall:

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