



## Georgia Bottoms: A Novel

By Mark Childress

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Georgia Bottoms is known in her small community of Six Points, Alabama, as a beautiful, well-to-do, and devoutly Baptist Southern belle.

Nobody realizes that the family fortune has long since disappeared, and a determinedly single woman like Georgia needs an alternative, and discreet, means of income. In Georgia's case it is six well-heeled lovers—one for each day of the week, with Mondays off—none of whom knows about the others.

But when the married preacher who has been coming to call (Saturdays) decides to confess their affair in front of the whole congregation, Georgia must take drastic measures to stop him. In GEORGIA BOTTOMS, Mark Childress proves once again his unmistakable skill for combining the hilarious and the absurd to reveal the inner workings of the rebellious human heart.

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## **Georgia Bottoms: A Novel** By Mark Childress Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Sassy Southern belle Georgia has a lot of secrets: a rotation of gentleman callers with unique sexual needs, a mother with a tenuous hold on reality, and a lucrative (if dodgy) business of selling at a huge mark-up the folk art quilts she buys and passes off as her own creations. But then 9/11 comes along, Georgia's world of naughty innocence is changed forever, and all the plates she once spun so effortlessly in midair come crashing down: her illegitimate black son shows up on her doorstep; her best friend and town mayor, Krystal, loses her job; her demented mom and drunken brother become increasingly errant; and one of her boyfriends—a spiteful preacher—has an unfortunate attack of conscience and intends to publicly confess his affair and simultaneously condemn poor Georgia to hell. Childress (*One Mississippi*) is sassy magnolia lit's Truman Capote—sharply observant, unrelentingly honest, and downright hilarious—and his Georgia peach is the freshest bad girl to rise from the South since Scarlett O'Hara. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Perhaps no region of America is caricaturized through stereotypes as thoroughly and nakedly as the South. In *Georgia Bottoms*, Childress indulges these stereotypes more than he challenges them. Here the reader finds the hypocritical Baptist preacher, the gossipy congregation, and the femme fatale in impeccable dress. It is awfully hot outside, and the townspeople could not be politer. Of course, everyone is talking behind everyone else's back. This is problematic, as the story's conflict comes from the protagonist's struggle to juggle a coterie of paramours, one of whom—the reader discovers early—is the guilt-stricken preacher. All of this can be more cute than entertaining, especially in dialogue, where one finds few surprises. Childress is perhaps most charming between jokes; occasionally, in drawing a simple setting, he dazzles: "The old town seemed suddenly lovely: long green lawns stretched out under live oaks, sprinklers chattering, flinging arcs of bright glitter. Some of the clapboard cottages were as old as the live oaks. Kids made skateboard racket on the broken sidewalks." --Kevin Clouter

Review

This is Mark Childress' seventh novel, and it is a **doozy**. The simple act of reading "Georgia Bottoms" releases tension; buttons are undone, shoes kicked off -- **man, is it hot.** --Los Angeles Times

In this **hilarious** Southern-fried novel, belle Georgia Bottoms cuts a sassy swath through the town... Riffs on small-town hypocrisy and racial tensions enliven the plot, but **it's the unsinkable Georgia who makes the book delicious.**

--People magazine

Georgia Bottoms is our heroine, and the novel lives mostly in her marvelously goodhearted but teeming and scheming mind. **Skillfully crafted, memorable and amusing.** Georgia, good-looking and devious, is a **compelling character.**

--Associated Press

The title of this novel from Childress (*One Mississippi*, 2006, etc.) refers to a person rather than to a place--**and what a memorable character she turns out to be.** --Kirkus Reviews

One of the most irresistible liars to ever whip up a batch of pimento cheese sandwiches, the irreverent Georgia allows Childress to poke **delicious fun** at a number of sacred cows....an incomparable ear for

dialogue. --**Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**"Move over, Flannery O'Connor . . . Mark Childress has written another laugh-out-loud Southern classic!"**

**?Fannie Flagg, *author of I Still Dream About You***

"The simple act of reading *Georgia Bottoms* releases tension; buttons are undone, shoes kicked off-man is it hot. Georgia is not perfect, but she's fun to be with."

**?Susan Salter Reynolds, *Los Angeles Times***

"One of the most irresistible liars ever to whip up a batch of pimento cheese sandwiches, the irreverent Georgia Bottoms allows Childress to poke fun at a number of sacred cows."**?Gina Webb, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution***

"Hilarious...Riffs on small-town hypocrisy and racial tensions enliven the plot, but it's the unsinkable Georgia who makes the book delicious."**?People**

"Downright hilarious....Childress's Georgia peach is the freshest bad girl to rise from the South since Scarlett O'Hara."**?Washington Examiner**

"Skillfully crafted, memorable, and amusing....Georgia, good-looking and devious, is a compelling character who keeps the narrative alive with her survival skills." **?Associated Press**

"Georgia Bottoms is a lovingly drawn woman, charming, hilarious, heartbreaking, warm and tough, rich in charm and denial and insight. She's an inspired creation in a story filled with serious challenges and fabulous people, good and bad, rich and poor, stunning and appalling, sometimes all at once. They all ring true, and I will never forget them."**?Anne Lamott, *author of Imperfect Birds***

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#### **Essie Ryan:**

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