



The Sellout: A Novel

By Paul Beatty

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The Sellout: A Novel By Paul Beatty

Winner of the 2016 Man Booker Prize

Winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction

Named one of the best books of 2015 by *The New York Times Book Review* and the *Wall Street Journal*

A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, Paul Beatty's *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game. It challenges the sacred tenets of the United States Constitution, urban life, the civil rights movement, the father-son relationship, and the holy grail of racial equality?the black Chinese restaurant.

Born in the "agrarian ghetto" of Dickens?on the southern outskirts of Los Angeles?the narrator of *The Sellout* resigns himself to the fate of lower-middle-class Californians: "I'd die in the same bedroom I'd grown up in, looking up at the cracks in the stucco ceiling that've been there since '68 quake." Raised by a single father, a controversial sociologist, he spent his childhood as the subject in racially charged psychological studies. He is led to believe that his father's pioneering work will result in a memoir that will solve his family's financial woes. But when his father is killed in a police shoot-out, he realizes there never was a memoir. All that's left is the bill for a drive-thru funeral.

Fuelled by this deceit and the general disrepair of his hometown, the narrator sets out to right another wrong: Dickens has literally been removed from the map to save California from further embarrassment. Enlisting the help of the town's most famous resident?the last surviving Little Rascal, Hominy Jenkins?he initiates the most outrageous action conceivable: reinstating slavery and segregating the local high school, which lands him in the Supreme Court.

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The Sellout: A Novel By Paul Beatty Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“The first 100 pages of [Paul Beatty's] new novel, *The Sellout*, are the most caustic and the most badass first 100 pages of an American novel I've read in at least a decade. I gave up underlining the killer bits because my arm began to hurt . . . [They] read like the most concussive monologues and interviews of Chris Rock, Richard Pryor and Dave Chappelle wrapped in a satirical yet surprisingly delicate literary and historical sensibility . . . The jokes come up through your spleen . . . The riffs don't stop coming in this landmark and deeply aware comic novel . . . [It] puts you down in a place that's miles from where it picked you up.”

?Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

“[*The Sellout*] is among the most important and difficult American novels written in the 21st century . . . It is a bruising novel that readers will likely never forget.” ?Kiese Laymon, *Los Angeles Times*

“Swiftian satire of the highest order . . . Giddy, scathing and dazzling.” ?Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

“*The Sellout* isn't just one of the most hilarious American novels in years, it also might be the first truly great satirical novel of the century . . . [It] is a comic masterpiece, but it's much more than just that—it's one of the smartest and most honest reflections on race and identity in America in a very long time.” ?Michael Schaub, *NPR.org*

“Beatty, author of the deservedly highly praised *The White Boy Shuffle* (1996), here outdoes himself and possibly everybody else in a send-up of race, popular culture, and politics in today's America . . . Beatty hits on all cylinders in a darkly funny, dead-on-target, elegantly written satire . . . [*The Sellout*] is frequently laugh-out-loud funny and, in the way of the great ones, profoundly thought provoking. A major contribution.” ?Mark Levin, *Booklist* (*starred review*)

“*The Sellout* is brilliant. Amazing. Like demented angels wrote it.” ?Sarah Silverman

“I am glad that I read this insane book alone, with no one watching, because I fell apart with envy, hysterics, and flat-out awe. Is there a more fiercely brilliant and scathingly hilarious American novelist than Paul Beatty?” ?Ben Marcus

“Paul Beatty has always been one of smartest, funniest, gutsiest writers in America, but *The Sellout* sets a new standard. It's a spectacular explosion of comic daring, cultural provocation, brilliant, hilarious prose, and genuine heart.” ?Sam Lipsyte

About the Author

Paul Beatty is the author of three novels?Slumberland, *Tuff*, and *The White Boy Shuffle*?and two books of poetry: *Big Bank Take Little Bank* and *Joker, Joker, Deuce*. He is the editor of *Hokum: An Anthology of African-American Humor*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Hudson:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled The Sellout: A Novel. Try to face the book The Sellout: A Novel as your buddy. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let me make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Alejandro Koenig:

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Stephen Ross:

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