

God Is Dead



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著者:Currie, Ron, Jr.

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In his first novel, Ron Currie takes Nietzsche's audacious pronouncement, "God is dead," and asks what would happen if God really were dead, literally and verifiably dead? How would that fact change the way humans see themselves and treat each other? The imaginative daring of such a premise is only the beginning of many surprises that fill the pages of *God Is Dead*.

God comes to earth disguised as a Dinka woman, implores Colin Powell to help find her brother, is killed in the Darfur desert, and then eaten by the wild dogs who follow in the wake of the genocidal Janjaweed. Such a scenario, at once absurd but not entirely implausible, invites readers to make an imaginative leap, to suspend their disbelief and enter into a world of strange possibilities and nightmare consequences. One group of young men, fearing starvation and madness, decide to kill themselves ritualistically; another group insists that God still exists; and parents with no god left to worship bestow a divine status on their children. One might assume that the religious violence that is now erupting around the world would disappear if there were no god to justify the carnage, but in Currie's novel, humans simply find other ideologies worth killing for.

The human capacity for foolishness, self-delusion, and violence are on full display in *God Is Dead*. Some people decide that the dogs who ate God's body have become gods themselves and decide to worship them, a situation that any honest observer of human nature would find frighteningly plausible and that reveals Currie's sly, satirical wit. "God" is, after all, "dog" spelled backwards.

Satire is, indeed, the dominant intention of *God Is Dead*. Like Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* and Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*, Currie's novel takes the absurdities, idiocies, and cruelties that human beings commit and magnifies them just enough for us to see them in all their naked foolishness. This, Currie shows us, is the world we are creating. The book is not written out of contempt for humanity, however, but out of an unflinching vision that encompasses precisely those qualities—compassion, common sense, clear-seeing—that we are so busily engaged in destroying.

作者介绍:

Ron Currie, Jr.'s prizewinning fiction has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Sun*, *Other Voices*, and *Night Train*. He has been short-listed for the Fish International Short Story Award and *Swink* magazine's Emerging Writer Award. He lives in Waterville, Maine.

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