



## The Son

By Philipp Meyer

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### The Son By Philipp Meyer

**Soon to be a TV Series on AMC starring Pierce Brosnan and co-written by Philipp Meyer.**

**Now in paperback, the critically acclaimed, *New York Times* bestselling epic, a saga of land, blood, and power that follows the rise of one unforgettable Texas family from the Comanche raids of the 1800s to the oil booms of the 20th century.**

Part epic of Texas, part classic coming-of-age story, part unflinching examination of the bloody price of power, *The Son* is a gripping and utterly transporting novel that maps the legacy of violence in the American west with rare emotional acuity, even as it presents an intimate portrait of one family across two centuries.

Eli McCullough is just twelve-years-old when a marauding band of Comanche storm his Texas homestead and brutally murder his mother and sister, taking him as a captive. Despite their torture and cruelty, Eli--against all odds--adapts to life with the Comanche, learning their ways, their language, taking on a new name, finding a place as the adopted son of the chief of the band, and fighting their wars against not only other Indians, but white men, too--complicating his sense of loyalty, his promised vengeance, and his very understanding of self. But when disease, starvation, and westward expansion finally decimate the Comanche, Eli is left alone in a world in which he belongs nowhere, neither white nor Indian, civilized or fully wild.

Deftly interweaving Eli's story with those of his son, Peter, and his great-granddaughter, JA, *The Son* deftly explores the legacy of Eli's ruthlessness, his drive to power, and his life-long status as an outsider, even as the McCullough family rises to become one of the richest in Texas, a ranching-and-oil dynasty of unsurpassed wealth and privilege.

Harrowing, panoramic, and deeply evocative, *The Son* is a fully realized masterwork in the greatest tradition of the American canon--an unforgettable novel that combines the narrative prowess of Larry McMurtry with the knife edge sharpness of Cormac McCarthy.

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## **The Son By Philipp Meyer Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, June 2013:** In 1859, Eli McCullough, the 13-year-old son of Texas pioneers, is captured in a brutal Comanche raid on his family's homestead. First taken as a slave along with his less intrepid brother, Eli assimilates himself into Comanche culture, learning their arts of riding, hunting, and total warfare. When the tribe succumbs to waves of disease and settlers, Eli's only option is a return to Texas, where his acquired thirsts for freedom and self-determination set a course for his family's inexorable rise through the industries of cattle and oil. *The Son* is Philipp Meyer's epic tale of more than 150 years of money, family, and power, told through the memories of three unforgettable narrators: Eli, now 100 and known simply as "the Colonel"; Eli's son Peter, called "the great disappointment" for his failure to meet the family's vision of itself; and Eli's great-granddaughter Jeanne Anne, who struggles to maintain the McCullough empire in the economic frontier of modern Texas. The book is long but never dull—Meyer's gift (and obsession) for historical detail and vernacular is revelatory, and the distinct voices of his fully fleshed-and-blooded characters drive the story. And let there be blood: some readers will flinch at Meyer's blunt (and often mesmerizing) portrayal of violence in mid-19th century Texas, but it's never gratuitous. His first novel, 2009's *American Rust*, drew praise for its stark and original characterization of post-industrial America, but Meyer has outdone himself with *The Son*, as ambitious a book as any you'll read this year--or any year. Early reviewers call it a masterpiece, and while it's easy to dismiss so many raves as hyperbole, *The Son* is an extraordinary achievement. --Jon Foro

### From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Inside Meyer's massive Texas saga is perhaps the best Indian captive story ever written: in 1849, 13-year-old Eli McCullough is abducted by Comanches after they've raped his mother and sister. Eli adapts. He learns the language and how to hunt and raid, and by age 16, he's a fierce warrior. In the process, the reader is treated to a fascinating portrait of the Comanches, including a Melville-like cataloging of all they did with the buffalo. Eventually, young Eli returns to the white world, but after an affair with a judge's wife worthy of Little Big Man, he's forced into the Texas Rangers. Later still, he fights for the South and steals a fortune from the North. He returns to South Texas to found an unimaginably large ranch, which he adds to by trumping up a massacre of a distinguished Mexican family, the Garcias. No scion measures up to Eli, unless it's Jeanne, his great-granddaughter, who ruthlessly presides over her oil and gas well into the twenty-first century. And, in a different way, Peter, Eli's son, as softhearted as his father was ruthless, makes his mark. He alone laments the massacre of the Garcias, but he's an indifferent rancher, and his love affair with the only surviving Garcia threatens to disembowel the McCullough empire. If you want to build a place like Texas, Meyer seems to say, only ruthlessness will suffice. In his many pages, Meyer takes time to be critical of Edna Ferber, but his tale is best compared to *Giant*. *Lonesome Dove* also come to mind, as well as the novels of Douglas C. Jones, Alan LeMay, and Benjamin Capps. --John Mort

### Review

'Stunning ... a book that for once really does deserve to be called a masterpiece' -- Kate Atkinson  
'Magnificent ... McCarthy's Border Trilogy is a point of reference, as is *There Will Be Blood*, but it is not fanciful to be reminded of certain passages from *Moby-Dick* - it's that good' *The Times* 'Only in the greatest of historical novels do we come to feel both the distance of the past and our own likely complicity in the sins of a former age, had we been a part of it. To that rank, we now add *The Son*' *New York Times* 'The Son makes a viable claim to be a Great American Novel... an extraordinary orchestration of American history' *Washington Post* 'Its viscerality and boundless capacity for storytelling puts it on a par with the classic of the genre, Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*' *Sunday Telegraph* 'Brilliant ... a wonderful novel' -- Lionel

Shriver 'Meyer is an impressive and multi-talented storyteller in the old, good sense - the kind that makes me hang on for whatever the next chapter will hold' -- Richard Ford 'The Son is an epic, heroic, hallucinatory work of art' -- Chris Cleave

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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This The Son are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason of this The Son can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed versions. Beside that this The Son forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

#### **Sergio Kelley:**

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#### **Effie Peoples:**

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#### **Stella Keith:**

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