

The Hundred-Year Flood

By Matthew Salesses



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In the shadow of a looming flood that comes every one hundred years, Tee tries to convince himself that living in a new place will mean a new identity and a chance to shed the parallels between him and his adopted father. This beautiful and dreamlike story follows Tee, a twenty-two-year-old Korean-American, as he escapes to Prague in the wake of his uncle's suicide and the aftermath of 9/11. His life intertwines with Pavel, a painter famous for revolution; Katka, his equally alluring wife; and Pavel's partner—a giant of a man with an American name. As the flood slowly makes its way into the old city, Tee contemplates his own place in life as both mixed and adopted and as an American in a strange land full of heroes, myths, and ghosts. In the tradition of *Native Speaker* and *The Family Fang*, the Good Men Project's Matthew Salesses weaves together the tangled threads of identity, love, growing up, and relationships in his stunning first novel, *The Hundred-Year Flood*.



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The Hundred-Year Flood By Matthew Salesses Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

A Millions Most Anticipated Book of 2015 A Buzzfeed Pick for 17 Awesome New Books You Need to Read This Fall A Refinery29 Pick for Best Summer Reading A Gawker Review of Books Pick for 9 Must-Reads for the Fall

"Salesses's novel dramatically documents how longing can turn, painfully, into love." —*The Millions*, Most Anticipated 2015 Book Preview

"What carries us through the novel is Salesses's gift for language: here is a meditative, poetic, modern fable crafted in haunting bursts of impressionistic prose." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Through dreamlike language, Salesses toys with our human need to control forces that are larger than us: the flood, secrets, the past, disease, the inevitability of the reality one creates for one's self. The novel holds a meditative, reflective pace." —*Kirkus Reviews*, feature interview

"Salesses delivers an immersive novel about identity, myths, and ghosts...This is an engulfing read." —Publishers Weekly

"The novel is not only a well-rendered exploration of identity, pain, and love, but also an expertly paced story, incredibly engaging throughout." —Askmen.com

"The Hundred-Year Flood is admirable for what it tackles, for the depth of its subject, for the risks it takes with structure, for the love triangle it quickly establishes and charges with tension, for the questions it raises about what we inherit from our parents, known or unknown, and how we ground ourselves when we've been living on top of lies and murky beginnings—on rising, threatening waters, you might say."—The Rumpus

"Tee is in Prague. He is running away from memory. He is running toward myth. He is searching. In Prague, Tee meets an artist and the artist's wife. Before long, the three are drawn into a fateful series of events as Prague is laid bare by a flood that only comes every hundred years. This beautiful debut novel by Matthew Salesses is much like that flood—epic and devastating and full of natural majesty." —Roxane Gay, author of *Untamed State* and *Bad Feminist*

"The Hundred-Year Flood yanks you off your feet, whipping you along on a brilliantly crafted adventure. You can't fight the current and you don't want to, either. Matthew Salesses is a new force of nature." —Mat Johnson, author of Loving Day

"A filmic, fast-moving, disjunctive ride, *The Hundred-Year Flood* rollicks through an exquisitely constructed plot to arrive at a surprising destination. Matthew Salesses writes taut, intelligent, lyrical sentences. He is definitely a writer to watch, and *The Hundred-Year Flood* is the novel to read right this moment." —Robert Boswell, author of *Tumbledown* and *The Heyday of the Insensitive Bastards*

"Matthew Salesses's elegant debut is at once both minimalist and expansive, atmospheric yet grounded in vivid, astonishing details. *The Hundred-Year Flood* captures life distilled to its purest, most potent form. I'll be thinking about this story for many years to come." —Kirstin Chen, author of *Soy Sauce for Beginners*

"The Hundred-Year Flood spins the gorgeous and devastating tale of Tee's quest to find his place in the world amidst the richly haunted landscape of Prague. This is a phenomenally engrossing novel, cast in prose that is at once searing and poetic, and Matthew Salesses is a once in a lifetime talent." —Laura van den Berg, author of *The Isle of Youth* and *Find Me*

"How artfully Matthew Salesses transports his reader between Prague and the States, past and present. I fell under the spell of his lovely novel as thoroughly as his protagonist, Tee, falls under the spell of Prague and, in particular, of one of its inhabitants. *The Hundred-Year Flood* is a vivid, cunning, compelling narrative about inheritance and forgiveness. A wonderful debut." —Margot Livesey, author of *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*

"The Hundred-Year Flood is a beautifully wrought novel about a young man who goes on a quest for self-discovery and finds himself in a city of legends, demons, and saints. Here, Tee struggles to reconcile his desire to belong with his desire to be free—his desire to be someone with his desire to be no one at all. This book is a deep, wonderful, and incredibly complex investigation into the necessary and fertile tension between resistance and submission, attraction and repulsion, and the need to create versus the need to annihilate. Poetic and dreamlike, aching with loss, and filled with the strange and enduring power of myth, The Hundred-Year Flood builds and builds until everything—the characters, their histories, their relationships and animosities, and even the city in which they live, are borne up, taken over, and forever changed by the inevitable and unpredictable tide of fate. This is an exquisite, unforgettable book about the extraordinary demands of identity and the transformative power of art and love." —Catherine Chung, author of Forgotten Country

"The Hundred-Year Flood is a beautiful, transporting novel that lays bare the heartbreak and loss of the world while never forgetting its magic. A dreamlike exploration of how the myths and stories we tell—and those that we choose to keep to ourselves—forge our identities, this book will swallow you whole." —James Scott, author of *The Kept*

"In this spellbinding novel, Matthew Salesses artfully weaves an intricate tapestry, shifting effortlessly between time, place, and identity while exploring all three subjects in the process. He succeeds in transporting the reader to a ghost Prague—a timeless, kaleidoscopic city layered with wonder and devastating sorrow." —Kenneth Calhoun, author of *Black Moon*

"The Hundred-Year Flood is an incredible literary achievement. It's not often you find a novel that is capable of accomplishing such conceptual sophistication while maintaining the narrative force of compelling fiction. At times poetic and emotional, at times brutal and devastating, this intricate tale about identity, loss, love, and purpose is a force to be reckoned with and an absolute pleasure to read." —Mario Alberto Zambrano, author of Loteria: A Novel (P.S.)

"Like the water that threatens to consume everything in its wake, the narrative is lyrical and winding, but if you have an affinity for soul-searching sagas, *The Hundred-Year Flood* is for you."—*Gawker Review of Books*

About the Author

Matthew Salesses was adopted from Korea at age two. He has written about adoption and race for *NPR Code Switch*, the *New York Times Motherlode* blog, and Salon, and his fiction has appeared in *Guernica*/PEN, *Glimmer Train*, and *American Short Fiction*, among others. He is the fiction editor and a contributing writer at the Good Men Project. He is also the author of *I'm Not Saying*, *I'm Just Saying*. *The Hundred-Year Flood* is his first full-length novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesus Sandiford:

This The Hundred-Year Flood book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is usually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This The Hundred-Year Flood without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't always be worry The Hundred-Year Flood can bring whenever you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Hundred-Year Flood having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Lori Roth:

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