



The Book of Joe

By Jonathan Tropper

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Right after high school, Joe Goffman left sleepy Bush Falls, Connecticut and never looked back. Then he wrote a novel savaging everything in town, a novel that became a national bestseller and a huge hit movie. Fifteen years later, Joe is struggling to avoid the sophomore slump with his next novel when he gets a call: his father's had a stroke, so it's back to Bush Falls for the town's most famous pariah. His brother avoids him, his former classmates beat him up, and the members of the book club just hurl their copies of Bush Falls at his house. But with the help of some old friends, Joe discovers that coming home isn't all bad—and that maybe the best things in life are second chances.

Fans of Nick Hornby and Jennifer Weiner will love this book, by turns howling funny, fiercely intelligent, and achingly poignant. As evidenced by **The Book of Joe's** success in both the foreign and movie markets, Jonathan Tropper has created a compelling, incredibly resonant story.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After Joe Goffman's *Bush Falls* becomes a runaway bestseller, he never expects to go back to his small Connecticut hometown and face the outrage generated by the dark secrets his autobiographical novel reveals. But when his father suffers a life-threatening stroke, return the unhappy and unfulfilled Joe does, to meet head-on the antipathy waiting for him. Among the *Bush Falls* locals hellbent on revenge in this breezy sophomore effort by Tropper (Plan B) are deputy sheriff Mouse and ex-con Sean Tallon, both former members of the high school basketball team, as well as the wife of the basketball coach, who dumps a milk shake on Joe the first day he is back in town. Joe also crosses paths with his resentful older brother, Brad; Lucy, the sexy mother of a high school friend; and Carly, the only woman he ever truly loved. At its best, the novel skillfully illustrates the tenderness and difficulties of first love and friendship, exploring the aftermath of Joe's high school relationships with Carly and pals Sammy and Wayne. Fans of Tom Perrotta's sarcastic humor will appreciate Tropper's evocation of both the allure and hypocrisy of smalltown American life, particularly in drug- and alcohol-fueled episodes involving Joe's 19-year-old nephew, Jared, and a grown-up, AIDS-infected Wayne. Frequent pop culture references, particularly to Bruce Springsteen, help move things along briskly and by novel's end, Joe has learned to appreciate the virtues of *Bush Falls* and realize he's not perfect himself. Despite its charms, however, this boy-who-won't-grow-up novel relies too heavily on canned lines ("she's taking measurements of my soul through her eyes") and easy melodrama.

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From [Booklist](#)

After vilifying his hometown and its residents in his thinly veiled first novel, Joe Goffman got rich. The book was a hit, as was the movie that followed, but his new Mercedes and swank New York digs can't save him from having to go home again. After his father suffers a stroke, Joe returns to *Bush Falls*, Connecticut--and to the adolescence he's never really outgrown. With his father comatose, his childhood best friend dying of AIDS, the great love of his life intent on ignoring him, and the entire town furious at him for slandering them in his novel, Joe's got plenty to deal with. But in spite of his hero's serious problems, Tropper keeps Joe's narration self-deprecatingly funny throughout. The plot is sometimes annoyingly predictable and, sure, it gets a bit sappy, but most readers will be too amused by Tropper's fantastically funny dialogue to care. And as Joe struggles to reconcile himself to his past, the novel proves surprisingly poignant, even tender. A first-rate tale of a thirtysomething's belated coming-of-age. *John Green*

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Review

"A beautifully crafted book of enormous heart, humility, wit, honesty, and vulnerability. You want to call your friends at 3:00 AM and read whole passages out loud. You want to press it into the hands of strangers. You cannot stop thinking about it because it has rearranged your very molecules. You know that kind of book? This is that kind of book. **The Book of Joe** is utterly magnificent. I wish I'd written it myself."—Augusten Burroughs, author of *Running with Scissors*

"**The Book of Joe** is an elegiac, wickedly observant look at a small town and its secrets. In Jonathan Tropper's highly readable novel, the problem isn't that you can't go home again, it's that eventually you have to, whether you like it or not."—Tom Perrotta, author of *Election* and *Joe College*

"A sweet, deft and sentimental coming-of-age-at-34 story. [Tropper's] humor keeps his tale buoyant."
--*The Daily News* (NY)

"**The Book of Joe** will make you laugh and cry. Tropper has a very readable style, and Joe is a character you can connect with, warts and all."

--*Associated Press*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeremy Smith:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Book of Joe book since this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Troy Riley:

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Jessie Taylor:

The Book of Joe can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing The Book of Joe yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

David McKenney:

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