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We Eat Our Own: A Novel



Synopsis

An ambitious debut novel by an original young writer, *We Eat Our Own* blurs the lines between life and art with the story of a film director's unthinkable experiment in the 1970s. When a nameless, struggling actor in 1970s New York gets the call that an enigmatic director wants him for an art film set in the Amazon, he doesn't hesitate: he flies to South America, no questions asked. He quickly realizes he's made a mistake. He's replacing another actor who quit after seeing the script—a script the director now claims doesn't exist. The movie is over budget. The production team seems headed for a breakdown. The air is so wet that the celluloid film disintegrates. But what the actor doesn't realize is that the greatest threat might be the town itself, and the mysterious shadow economy that powers this remote jungle outpost. Entrepreneurial Americans, international drug traffickers, and M-19 guerillas are all fighting for South America's future—and the groups aren't as distinct as you might think. The actor thought this would be a role that would change his life. Now he's worried if he'll survive it. Inspired by a true story from the annals of 1970s Italian horror film, and told in dazzlingly precise prose, *We Eat Our Own* is a resounding literary debut, a thrilling journey behind the scenes of a shocking film and a thoughtful commentary on violence and its repercussions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here's something you won't know until you read this book: how an author can simultaneously break all the conventional rules and yet tie it all together in a package so alarmingly distinct, you wonder why other authors haven't already done this. Here's something else you won't know: how much you are going to enjoy this. "We Eat Our Own" accomplishes what most authors will never do in their entire careers -- quite simply, it raises the bar. A highly original voice, the shocking (yet effective and appropriate) use of second person POV, a gritty and realistic setting, characters so flawed they could be any one of us, and prose so fresh it reads as if you're discovering a new language. The fact that this novel is a debut work is mind-boggling, to say the least. To me this read like something Cormac McCarthy would wish he had written. An Italian art film being shot in the jungles of the by a psychotic director who wants the audience to "feel" the movie. An American actor thrown into the mix without a script, without a clue, and without much chance of survival. Guerillas soldiers, who are really kids, attempting to secure their country and fight for the Columbia they dream of. Drug trafficking, native Indians, cannibalism, and an Italian actress who unintentionally drives these separate worlds into a fatal collision course. My greatest fear as I dove into this novel was that the ending wouldn't live up to the rest of the story, that it would go down the tired and worn path of expectation. Happy to say that wasn't the case, and the climax makes the journey all that more palatable. A bloody and brilliant piece of literary work, "We Eat Our Own" is officially my favorite read of 2016 (so far, at least).

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