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A Visit from the Goon Squad

By Jennifer Egan



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Bennie is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman he employs. Here Jennifer Egan brilliantly reveals their pasts, along with the inner lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs. With music pulsing on every page, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* is a startling, exhilarating novel of self-destruction and redemption.



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A Visit from the Goon Squad By Jennifer Egan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Readers will be pleased to discover that the star-crossed marriage of lucid prose and expertly deployed postmodern switcheroos that helped shoot Egan to the top of the genre-bending new school is alive in well in this graceful yet wild novel. We begin in contemporaryish New York with kleptomaniac Sasha and her boss, rising music producer Bennie Salazar, before flashing back, with Bennie, to the glory days of Bay Area punk rock, and eventually forward, with Sasha, to a settled life. By then, Egan has accrued tertiary characters, like Scotty Hausmann, Bennie's one-time bandmate who all but dropped out of society, and Alex, who goes on a date with Sasha and later witnesses the future of the music industry. Egan's overarching concerns are about how rebellion ages, influence corrupts, habits turn to addictions, and lifelong friendships fluctuate and turn. Or as one character asks, How did I go from being a rock star to being a fat fuck no one cares about? Egan answers the question elegantly, though not straight on, as this powerful novel chronicles how and why we change, even as the song stays the same. (*June*)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Critics loved Egan's newest novel, describing it as "audacious" and "extraordinary" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). In the hands of a less-gifted writer, Egan's time-hopping narrative, unorthodox format, and motley cast of characters might have failed spectacularly. But it works here, primarily because each person shines within his or her individual chapter that offers a distinct voice and a fascinating backstory. A few reviewers mentioned the uneven nature of the chapters and the different stylistic experiments within them. Yet, hailed as "a frequently dazzling piece of layer-cake metafiction" (*Entertainment Weekly*), *A Visit from the Goon Squad* is a gutsy novel that succeeds on all levels.

Review

"Pitch perfect. . . . Darkly, rippingly funny. . . . Egan possesses a satirist's eye and a romance novelist's heart."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"At once intellectually stimulating and moving. . . . Like a masterful album, this one demands a replay."

—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

"A new classic of American fiction."

—*Time*

"Audacious, extraordinary."

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"A spiky, shape-shifting new book. . . . A display of Egan's extreme virtuosity."

—*The New York Times*

"Wildly ambitious. . . . A tour de force. . . . Music is both subject and metaphor as Egan explores the mutability of time, destiny, and individual accountability post-technology."

—*O, The Oprah Magazine*

“The smartest book you can get your hands on.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“A rich and unforgettable novel about decay and endurance, about individuals in a world as it changes around them. . . . [Egan] is one of the most talented writers today.”

—*The New York Review of Books*

“It ends in the same place it starts, except that everything has changes, including you, the reader.”

—*The New Republic*

“Clever. Edgy. Groundbreaking. . . . Features characters about whom you come to care deeply as you watch them doing things they shouldn't, acting gloriously, infuriatingly human.”

—*The Chicago Tribune*

“Egan's bravura fifth book samples from different eras (the glory days of punk; a slick, socially networked future) and styles (sly satire, moving tragedy, even PowerPoint) to explore the interplay between music and the rough rhythms of life.”

—*Vogue*

“Told with both affection and ...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Garza:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called A Visit from the Goon Squad? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

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Helen McClain:

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