

Congratulations, by the way: Some Thoughts on Kindness

By George Saunders

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • An inspiring meditation on kindness from the bestselling author of *Tenth of December*, based on his popular commencement address

Three months after George Saunders gave a graduation address at Syracuse University, a transcript of that speech was posted on the website of *The New York Times*, where its simple, uplifting message struck a deep chord. Within days, it had been shared more than one million times. Why? Because Saunders's words tap into a desire in all of us to lead kinder, more fulfilling lives. Powerful, funny, and wise, *Congratulations, by the way* is an inspiring message from one of today's most influential and original writers.


Praise for *Congratulations, by the way*


"As slender as a psalm, and as heavy."—*The New York Times*

"The graduating college senior in your life probably just wants money. But if you want to impart some heartfelt, plainspoken wisdom in addition to a check, you can't do much better than [*Congratulations, by the way*]."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"The loving selflessness that [George Saunders] advises and the interconnectedness that he recognizes couldn't be purer or simpler—or more challenging."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Warm and tender."—*Publishers Weekly*

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Editorial Review

Review

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About the Author

George Saunders is the author of eight books, including the story collections *Pastoralia* and *Tenth of December*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has received fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2006 he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. In 2013 he was awarded the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story and was included in *Time*'s list of the one hundred most influential people in the world. He teaches in the creative writing program at Syracuse University.

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