



The Headmaster's Wife: A Novel

By Thomas Christopher Greene

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The Headmaster's Wife: A Novel By Thomas Christopher Greene

An immensely talented writer whose work has been described as "incandescent" (Kirkus) and "poetic" (Booklist), Thomas Christopher Greene pens a haunting and deeply affecting portrait of one couple at their best and worst.

Inspired by a personal loss, Greene explores the way that tragedy and time assail one man's memories of his life and loves. Like his father before him, Arthur Winthrop is the Headmaster of Vermont's elite Lancaster School. It is the place he feels has given him his life, but is also the site of his undoing as events spiral out of his control. Found wandering naked in Central Park, he begins to tell his story to the police, but his memories collide into one another, and the true nature of things, a narrative of love, of marriage, of family and of a tragedy Arthur does not know how to address emerges. Luminous and atmospheric, bringing to life the tight-knit enclave of a quintessential New England boarding school, the novel is part mystery, part love story and an exploration of the ties of place and family. Beautifully written and compulsively readable, *The Headmaster's Wife* stands as a moving elegy to the power of love as an antidote to grief.

"A truly remarkable novel, I read the second half of *The Headmaster's Wife* with my mouth open, my jaw having dropped at the end of the first half. Thomas Christopher Greene knows how to hook a reader and land him." --Richard Russo, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Empire Falls*

"An accomplished and artful storyteller, Greene has surprises in store as he unspools a plot that becomes as poignant as it is unpredictable." --Wally Lamb, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Hour I First Believed*

"Greene's genre-bending novel of madness and despair evokes both the predatory lasciviousness of Nabokov's classic, *Lolita*, and the anxious ambiguity of Gillian Flynn's contemporary thriller, *Gone Girl* (2012)." --Booklist

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

A man found running naked in Central Park is unusual, even by jaded New York City standards. But when that man turns out to be Arthur Winthrop, respected headmaster of Vermont's venerable Lancaster private boarding school, the event becomes noteworthy. It morphs into the surreal when Arthur eagerly confesses to police interrogators that he has just murdered one of his students, Betsy Pappas, with whom he had been conducting a torrid, if unrequited, affair. The problem with Arthur's story, however, is that his victim is very much alive. She no longer goes by the name Betsy Pappas, having relinquished it when she married Arthur soon after their college graduation. Arthur's unreliable memories of their life together fuel the sordid tale he unveils, though Elizabeth's recollection of their doomed marriage sheds an equally unflattering light on a relationship defined by jealousy, deception, and regret. Greene's genre-bending novel of madness and despair evokes both the predatory lasciviousness of Nabokov's classic, *Lolita*, and the anxious ambiguity of Gillian Flynn's contemporary thriller, *Gone Girl* (2012). --Carol Haggas

Review

A tightly woven, atmospheric thriller about a New England academic whose life goes off the rails. (*People*)

About the Author

THOMAS CHRISTOPHER GREENE is the author of three previous novels: *Mirror Lake*, *I'll Never be Long Gone*, and *Envious Moon*. His fiction has been translated into eleven languages and has won many awards and honors. In 2007, Tom founded the Vermont College of Fine Arts, a top fine arts college, making him the youngest college president in America at that time. He lives in Montpelier, VT, with his family.

Users Review

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