



The Bone Clocks: A Novel

By David Mitchell

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The *New York Times* bestseller by the author of *Cloud Atlas* | Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize | Named One of the Top Ten Fiction Books of the Year by *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *O: The Oprah Magazine* | A *New York Times* Notable Book | An American Library Association Notable Book | Winner of the World Fantasy Award

Named to more than 20 year-end best of lists, including NPR | *San Francisco Chronicle* | *The Atlantic* | *The Guardian* | *Slate* | *BuzzFeed*

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

“With *The Bone Clocks*, [David] Mitchell rises to meet and match the legacy of *Cloud Atlas*.”—*Los Angeles Times*

Following a terrible fight with her mother over her boyfriend, fifteen-year-old Holly Sykes slams the door on her family and her old life. But Holly is no typical teenage runaway: A sensitive child once contacted by voices she knew only as “the radio people,” Holly is a lightning rod for psychic phenomena. Now, as she wanders deeper into the English countryside, visions and coincidences reorder her reality until they assume the aura of a nightmare brought to life.

For Holly has caught the attention of a cabal of dangerous mystics—and their enemies. But her lost weekend is merely the prelude to a shocking disappearance that leaves her family irrevocably scarred. This unsolved mystery will echo through every decade of Holly’s life, affecting all the people Holly loves—even the ones who are not yet born.

A Cambridge scholarship boy grooming himself for wealth and influence, a conflicted father who feels alive only while reporting on the war in Iraq, a middle-aged writer mourning his exile from the bestseller list—all have a part to play in this surreal, invisible war on the margins of our world. From the medieval Swiss Alps to the nineteenth-century Australian bush, from a hotel in Shanghai to a Manhattan townhouse in the near future, their stories come together in moments of everyday grace and extraordinary wonder.

Rich with character and realms of possibility, *The Bone Clocks* is a kaleidoscopic novel that begs to be taken apart and put back together by a writer *The Washington Post* calls “the novelist who’s been showing us the future of fiction.”

An elegant conjurer of interconnected tales, a genre-bending daredevil, and a master prose stylist, David Mitchell has become one of the leading literary voices of his generation. His hypnotic new novel, *The Bone Clocks*, crackles with invention and wit and sheer storytelling pleasure—it is fiction at its most spellbinding.

Praise for *The Bone Clocks*

“One of the most entertaining and thrilling novels I’ve read in a long time.”—**Meg Wolitzer, NPR**

“[Mitchell] writes with a furious intensity and slapped-awake vitality, with a delight in language and all the rabbit holes of experience.”—***The New York Times Book Review***

“Intensely compelling . . . fantastically witty . . . offers up a rich selection of domestic realism, gothic fantasy and apocalyptic speculation.”—***The Washington Post***

“[A] time-traveling, culture-crossing, genre-bending marvel of a novel.”—***O: The Oprah Magazine***

“Great fun . . . a tour de force . . . [Mitchell] channels his narrators with vivid expertise.”—***San Francisco Chronicle***

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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The Bone Clocks: A Novel By David Mitchell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, September 2014: Fans of David Mitchell (*Cloud Atlas*, *Black Swan Green*, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*) have been salivating over the release of *The Bone Clocks*—and they have every reason to. This is a feast of a book—perhaps the author’s best to date—a saga that spans decades, characters, genres, and events from Mitchell’s other novels. The structure is most similar to *Cloud Atlas*, with *The Bone Clocks* pivoting around a central character: Holly Sykes. Each chapter/novella is narrated from the perspective of an intersecting character, with settings ranging from England in the 80s to the apocalyptic future. Each story could stand alone as a work of genius, as they slowly build on Holly’s unwitting role in a war between two groups with psychic powers, culminating in a thrilling showdown reminiscent of the best of Stephen King. Taken together this is a hugely entertaining page-turner, an operatic fantasy, and an often heartbreaking meditation on mortality. It’s not to be missed. — *Matt Kaye*

Review

“One of the most entertaining and thrilling novels I’ve read in a long time.”—**Meg Wolitzer, NPR**

“Astonishing . . . No one, clearly, has ever told [David] Mitchell that the novel is dead. He writes with a furious intensity and slapped-awake vitality, with a delight in language and all the rabbit holes of experience. . . . In his sixth novel, he’s brought together the time-capsule density of his eyes-wide-open adventure in traditional realism with the death-defying ambitions of *Cloud Atlas* until all borders between pubby England and the machinations of the undead begin to blur. . . . Not many novelists could take on plausible Aboriginal speech, imagine a world after climate change has ravaged it and wonder whether whales suffer from unrequited love. . . . Very few [writers] excite the reader about both the visceral world and the visionary one as Mitchell does.”—***The New York Times Book Review (Editor’s Choice)***

“Intensely compelling . . . fantastically witty . . . offers up a rich selection of domestic realism, gothic fantasy and apocalyptic speculation.”—***The Washington Post***

“Sprawling yet disciplined, drunk on life but ever cognizant of its brevity and preciousness, this time-traveling, culture-crossing, genre-bending marvel of a novel by the highly regarded author of *Cloud Atlas* utterly beguiles.”—***O: The Oprah Magazine***

“Great fun . . . a tour de force . . . [Mitchell] channels his narrators with vivid expertise.”—***San Francisco Chronicle***

“Mitchell is one of the most electric writers alive. To open a Mitchell book is to set forth on an adventure. . . . In his latest novel, *The Bone Clocks*, Mitchell has spun his most far-flung tale yet. . . . Strange and magical.”—***The Boston Globe***

“Magical . . . [*The Bone Clocks*] perfectly illustrates the idea that we’re all the heroes of our own lives as well as single cogs in a much larger and more beautiful mechanism. [Grade:] A”—***Entertainment Weekly***

“Transportingly great . . . If David Mitchell isn’t the most talented novelist of his generation, is there any doubt that he is the most multi-talented? He is, at his best, a superior writer to Jonathan Franzen, a better

storyteller than Michael Chabon, more wickedly clever than Jennifer Egan, nearly as fluent as Junot Díaz in multiple dialects, and as gifted as Alice Munro. . . . *The Bone Clocks* affords its readers the singular gift of reading—the wish to stay put and to be nowhere else but here.”—*The Atlantic*

“Mitchell’s mesmerizing saga is evidence of the power of story to transport us, and even to stop time entirely.”—*Vanity Fair*

“[A] literary marvel . . . What we value defines us, *The Bone Clocks* tells us. Sometimes it’s life. Sometimes it’s love. It’s definitely this book.”—*The Miami Herald*

“Mitchell’s wit, imagination and gorgeous prose make this a page-turner.”—*People*

“Mind-bendingly ambitious . . . The force of [Mitchell’s] storytelling makes *The Bone Clocks* a joy.”—*Time*

“A tour de force of the imagination, rewarding the attentive reader with both the intricate richness of its plot and the beauty of its language.”—*The Plain Dealer*

“Told with the skill and nuance of a gifted ventriloquist.”—*USA Today*

“Mitchell rises to meet and match the legacy of *Cloud Atlas*.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Reading a David Mitchell novel is a little like wandering through a multiplex during that September sweet spot when the best summer blockbusters are screened alongside autumn’s more serious fare. *The Bone Clocks* is no exception. Mitchell’s generous imagination saturates every sentence, character, and setting to create a story as thrilling in its language as in its plot. It’s my favorite novel I’ve read this year, and the only one I’ve already reread.”—**Anthony Marra**

“Great story, great words, all good.”—**Stephen King**

“A hell of a great read . . . wild, funny, terrifying . . . a slipstream masterpiece all its own . . . Mitchell is a genre-bending, time-leaping, world-traveling, puzzle-making, literary magician, and *The Bone Clocks* is one of his best books.”—*Esquire*

“Mitchell is a superb storyteller. . . . One of the reasons he is such a popular and critically lauded writer is that he combines both the giddy, freewheeling ceaselessness of the pure storyteller with the grounded realism of the humanist. There’s something for everyone, traditionalist or postmodernist, realist or fantasist.”—*The New Yorker*

“Relentlessly brilliant . . . [*The Bone Clocks* contains] depth and darkness, bravely concealed with all the wit and sleight of hand and ventriloquistic verbiage and tale-telling bravura of which Mitchell is a master.”—**Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Guardian***

“You could call Mitchell a global writer, I suppose, but that does not quite capture what he is doing. It is closer to say that he is a pangaeic writer, a supercontinental writer.”—*New York*

“With *The Bone Clocks* [Mitchell] has brought off his most sinewy, fine and full book to date, a Möbius strip-tripping great novel that will reward bleary-eyed rereading until he writes his next one.”—*Financial Times*

“Dazzling . . . Mitchell’s heavy arsenal of talents is showcased in these pages: his symphonic imagination; his ventriloquist’s ability to channel the voices of myriad characters from different time zones and cultures; his intuitive understanding of children and knack for capturing their solemnity and humor; and his ear for language—its rhythms, sounds and inflections.”—**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

“As you might expect from a David Mitchell novel, [*The Bone Clocks* is] big, ambitious, and pretty. But it’s very much the story of one woman: Holly Sykes. Her tiny human life is the thread that holds the various stories of *The Bone Clocks* together, and ultimately it is what gives the book a deep sense of meaning, and its lasting joys and sorrows.”—***The Millions***

“[*The Bone Clocks*] might just become the *1984* of the climate change movement. It dramatizes the consequences of our improvident modern economy in the way George Orwell’s novel awakened people to the ‘Big Brother’ mentality of Soviet communism.”—**David Ignatius, *The Washington Post***

“[*The Bone Clocks*] enralls, soars, and crackles.”—***The Daily Beast***

“Mitchell is back and as genre-bendy as ever. Describing the breadth of his latest epic as ‘sprawling’ wouldn’t quite do it justice.”—***The Huffington Post***

“Deeply meaningful . . . *The Bone Clocks* has everything you might expect to find in a David Mitchell novel: Great characters in settings far-flung over space and time, all tied together by ambitious ideas and gorgeous writing.”—***BuzzFeed***

“Mitchell may be the greatest novelist in the English language currently in his prime.”—***The A.V. Club***

“A fascinating and moving book about time, technology and even the ‘State of the World.’”—***The Dallas Morning News***

“Mitchell is a brilliant literary mesmerist. . . . He writes with scintillating verve and abundance. . . . [Mitchell’s is a] joyful, consoling world.”—***The Telegraph***

“A fantastic, perilous journey over continents and decades. Fans of Mitchell’s *Cloud Atlas* will find this equally ambitious and mind-bending.”—***Marie Claire***

“[A] beautiful explosion of adventurous ideas . . . As [Mitchell’s] oeuvre develops, he seems to be getting cleverer, braver and delightfully madder.”—***The Times***

“Fantastical, ambitious, bold and exuberant.”—***The Observer***

“A sweeping epic . . . that, like *Cloud Atlas*, spans the ages and tinkers with the hidden gears of human history.”—***GQ***

“A cautionary metaphysical thriller that grounds its ambition in its heroine’s human charm.”—***Vogue***

About the Author

DAVID MITCHELL is the award-winning and bestselling author of *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, *Black Swan Green*, *Cloud Atlas*, *Number9Dream* and *Ghostwritten*. Twice shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, Mitchell was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *TIME* magazine in 2007. With KA Yoshida, Mitchell co-translated from the Japanese the international bestselling memoir, *The*

Reason I Jump. He lives in Ireland with his wife and 2 children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Ybarra:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *The Bone Clocks: A Novel*. Try to stumble through book *The Bone Clocks: A Novel* as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Shawn Jones:

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Kirk Qualls:

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Rod Reese:

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