



The Good Lord Bird: A Novel

James McBride

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Winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction

Soon to be a major motion picture starring Liev Schreiber and Jaden Smith

A Washington Post, Publishers Weekly, Oprah Magazine Top 10 Book of the Year

Winner of the Morning News Tournament of Champions

“A magnificent new novel by the best-selling author James McBride.” –cover review of *The New York Times Book Review*

“Outrageously entertaining.” –*USA Today*

“James McBride delivers another tour de force” –*Essence*

“So imaginative, you’ll race to the finish.” –NPR.org

“Wildly entertaining.”—4-star *People* lead review

“A boisterous, highly entertaining, altogether original novel.” – *Washington Post*

From the bestselling author of *The Color of Water*, *Song Yet Sung*, and *Kill 'Em and Leave*, a James Brown biography, comes the story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown’s antislavery crusade—and who must pass as a girl to survive.

Henry Shackleford is a young slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1857, when the region is a battleground between anti- and pro-slavery forces. When John Brown, the legendary abolitionist, arrives in the area, an argument between Brown and Henry’s master quickly turns violent. Henry is forced to leave town—with Brown, who believes he’s a girl.

Over the ensuing months, Henry—whom Brown nicknames Little Onion—conceals his true identity as he struggles to stay alive. Eventually Little Onion finds himself with Brown at the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859—one of the great catalysts for the Civil War.

An absorbing mixture of history and imagination, and told with McBride’s meticulous eye for detail and character, *The Good Lord Bird* is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.

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