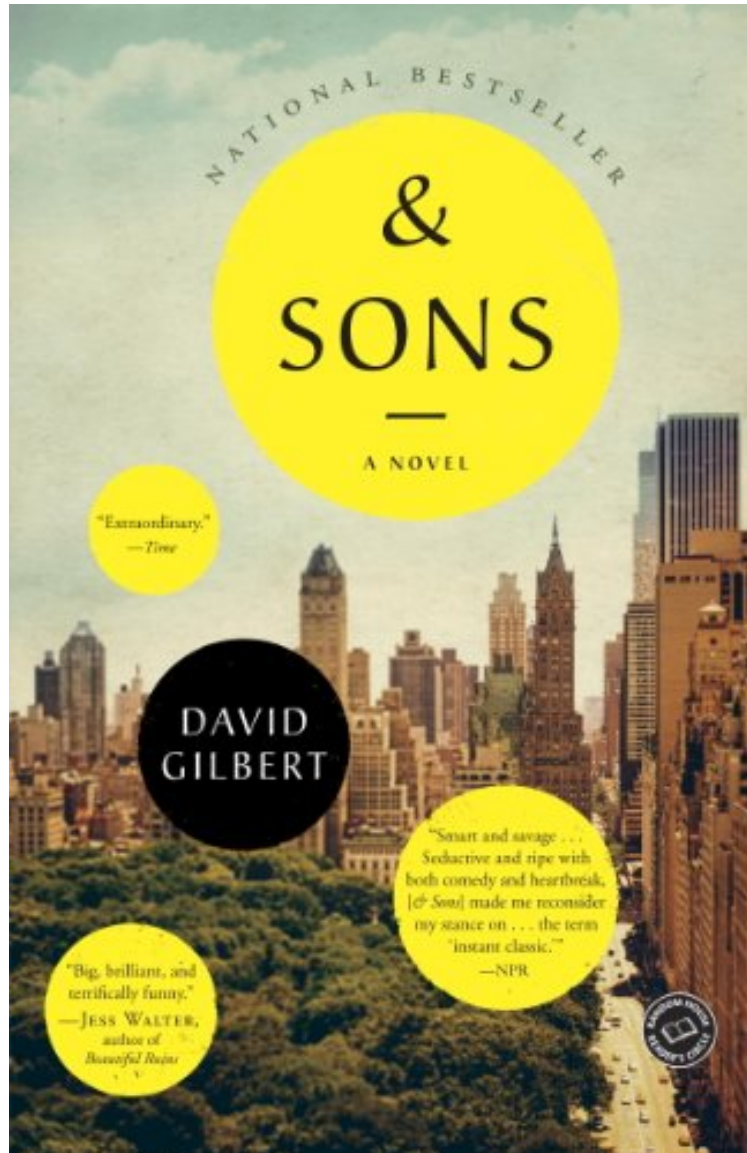


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## And Sons: A Novel

Von David Gilbert

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**Von David Gilbert : And Sons: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Sons: A Novel:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Vter und Shne... und Schriftsteller Von Arrow Pen Eine Beerdigung in Manhattans Upper East Side fhrt Vter und Shne zusammen, womit eine an emotionalem Aufruhr kaum zu berbietende Woche fr alle Beteiligten beginnt... Sons ist ein Roman, der auf mehreren Ebenen funktioniert, eingebettet in eine wunderbar eloquente Sprache, die den Leser in die

privilegierte Welt der New Yorker Upper East Side transportiert. Der geneigte Leser lernt die Beziehungen von Vtern und Shnen kennen, jene von Brdern, die zuweilen unterschiedlicher nicht sein knnten, ihren verpaten Chancen und ihre Beziehungen zu den Frauen in ihrem Leben. In diesem Roman finden sich hysterisch witzige und beiend satirische Beobachtungen, die im Grunde um das Thema der Einsamkeit in der eigenen Familie kreisen, so da sich, meinem Empfinden nach, ein Schleier von Trauer ber die Handlung legt. Ich liebe Bcher, die sich mit Schriftstellern beschftigen, mit den Klischees, welche sich unweigerlich im Kopf des Laien melden, den Schwierigkeiten, einen Roman zu vollenden oder zu beginnen, dem Druck, die Leistung zu bringen, welche die Leserschaft erwartet. Es gibt nur wenige Punkte, die mein Mifallen erregten - zum einen baut der Autor handgeschriebene Briefe ein, die (aufgrund der teils wenig leserlichen Handschrift des Protagonisten) zuweilen schwer zu lesen sind (und auch vom Verlag im Druck nicht entsprechend bercksichtigt wurden), aber ungemein wichtig fr das Verstndnis der Geschichte sind, zum anderen ist es bisweilen nicht einfach festzustellen, welcher der vielen Charaktere aktuell erzht (beispielsweise heit einer der Vter Andrew, ein Sohn Andy). Ein anderer Aspekt, fr den ich den Autor jedoch keinesfalls verantwortlich machen mchte, ist der Eindruck, da hier doch auf hohem Niveau die Schwierigkeiten des Lebens beklagt werden. Gewi haben wohlhabende New Yorker Probleme, das mchte ich keineswegs in Abrede stellen, menschlich sind wir alle, dennoch - ertappte ich mich beim Lesen bei folgenden Gedanken "mit ein wenig Disziplin hier, rnel-Hochkrempeln dort und einer Spur weniger Narzimus lieen sich viele der Probleme innerhalb der Familie lsen." Sons ist kein Roman, den man "mal eben so" wegschmkern kann. Er erfordert Konzentration, die aber angesichts der wunderbaren Sprache leicht aufzubringen ist. Ich vermute, da man von diesem Autor noch viel hren wird. 1 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Langweilig Von Olga Nach den guten Reviews, die ich gelesen habe, habe ich die Leseprobe auf Kindle runtergeladen, zum Glck nur die Leseprobe. Ich musste kmpfen auch die Leseprobe zu Ende zu lesen. Nur ein Wort - Langweilig.

Kurzbeschreibung NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post The New Yorker Esquire The Austin Chronicle Kansas City Star The Guardian (UK) BookPage Flavorwire Bookish [A] big, brilliant novel. The New York Times Book Who is A. N. Dyer? Sons is a literary masterwork for readers of The Art of Fielding, The Emperors Children, and Wonder Boy the panoramic, deeply affecting story of an iconic novelist, two interconnected families, and the heartbreaking truths that fiction can hide. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Readers Circle for author chats and more. The funeral of Charles Henry Topping on Manhattans Upper East Side would have been a minor affair (his two-hundred-word obit in The New York Times notwithstanding) but for the presence of one particular mourner: the notoriously reclusive author A. N. Dyer, whose novel Ampersand stands as a classic of American teenage angst. But as Andrew Newbold Dyer delivers the eulogy for his oldest friend, he suffers a breakdown over the life hes led and the people hes hurt and the novel that will forever endure as his legacy. He must gather his three sons for the first time in many years before its too late. So begins a wild, transformative, heartbreaking week, as witnessed by Philip Topping, who, like his late father, finds himself caught up in the swirl of the Dyer family. First theres son Richard, a struggling screenwriter and father, returning from self-imposed exile in California. In the middle lingers Jamie, settled in Brooklyn after his twenty-year mission of making documentaries about human suffering. And last is Andy, the half brother whose mysterious birth tore the Dyers apart seventeen years ago, now in New York on spring break, determined to lose his virginity before returning to the prestigious New England boarding school that inspired Ampersand. But only when the real purpose of this reunion comes to light do these sons realize just how much is at stake, not only for their father but for themselves and three generations of their family. In this daring feat of fiction, David Gilbert establishes himself as one of our most original, entertaining, and insightful authors. Sons is that rarest of treasures: a startlingly imaginative novel about families and how they define us, and the choices we make when faced with our own mortality. NATIONAL BESTSELLER A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS CHOICE Big, brilliant, and terrifically funny. Jess Walter, author of Beautiful Ruins Extraordinary. Time Smart and savage . . . Seductive and ripe with both comedy and heartbreak, [ Sons ] made me reconsider my stance on . . . the term instant classic. NPR A big, ambitious book about fathers and sons, Oedipal envy and sibling rivalry, and the dynamics between art and life . . . [ Sons ] does a wonderful job of conjuring up its characters memories . . . in layered, almost Proustian detail. Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times [A] smart, engrossing saga . . . Perfect for fans of Jonathan Franzen or Claire Messud. Entertainment Weekly Audacious . . . [one of the years] most dazzlingly smart, fully realized works of fiction. The Washington Post From the Trade Paperback edition. Pressestimmen [A] big, brilliant novel. The New York Times Book In terms of sheer reading pleasure, my favorite book this year was Sons, David Gilberts big, intelligent, richly textured novel about fathers, sons, friendship, and legacies. . . . From [A. N.] Dyers slacker sons to a J. Crew-wearing young seductress, every member of Gilberts cast of characters is perfectly drawn. Ruth Franklin, The New Yorker Gilberts should be among the half-dozen or so names cited by critics and serious readers when theyre asked who produced [the years] most dazzlingly smart, fully realized works of fiction. The Washington Post A grand book, even extraordinary. Lev Grossman, Time If you read

only a few books this year, this one should be one of them. The Huffington Post Clear the sand from your beach-book-overloaded mind for this smart, engrossing saga about a reclusive famous author and his late-life attempt to make amends to the many people he's let down. Perfect for fans of Jonathan Franzen or Claire Messud. Entertainment Weekly A contemporary New York variation on *The Brothers Karamazov*, featuring a J. D. Salinger-like writer in the role of Father, and a protagonist who turns out to be as questionable a tour guide as the notoriously unreliable narrator of Ford Madox Ford's classic *The Good Soldier* . . . a big, ambitious book about fathers and sons, Oedipal envy and sibling rivalry, and the dynamics between art and life, talent and virtue. The novel is smart, funny, observant and . . . does a wonderful job of conjuring up its characters' memories of growing up in New York City in layered, almost Proustian detail. Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* [A] throwback literary novel . . . Its rueful, poetic vision of faded WASP grandeur is frequently heartbreaking. People Very nearly a masterpiece. Gilbert is an assured, versatile and often very funny writer. The Dallas Morning News Throughout *Sons*, Gilbert provides lengthy excerpts from [his] novel-within-a-novel, and, as far as the reader can tell, *Ampersand* is caustic, comic, and clever, like Gilbert's own novel. . . . Gilbert has a rich theme, and plenty of talent. He has a wonderfully sharp eye for the emotional reticence of the men of A. N. Dyer's generation and class, for the ways in which their more open, more voluble children must become expert readers of patriarchal gaps and silences, in order to make sense of what he finely calls these heavily redacted men. . . . Gilbert often writes superbly, his sentences crisp, witty, and rightly weighted. . . . Some of [his metaphors] realign the visual world, asking us, as Nabokov's best metaphors do, to estrange in order to reconnect. . . . Every page proposes something clever and well turned. Gilbert is bursting with little achievements. . . . This is a writer capable of something as beautifully simple, and achingly deep, as this description of Richard and Jamie, as they see their mother approaching them in the pub: The brothers straightened, reshaped as sons. James Wood, *The New Yorker* This great big novel is also infused with warmth and wisdom about what it means to be a family. The Boston Globe When someone uses the term instant classic, I typically want to grab him and ask, So this is, what, like the new *Great Expectations*? You sure about that? But David Gilbert's novel *Sons*, seductive and ripe with both comedy and heartbreak, made me reconsider my stance on such a label. . . . This is the book I'd most like to lug from one beach to another for the rest of summer, if only I hadn't torn through it in two very happy days this spring. . . . Gilbert's portrait of [New York City] and its literary set is as smart and savage in its way as Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, half love letter, half indictment, and wholly irresistible. NPR In her iconic essay *Goodbye to All That*, Joan Didion famously described New York City as the mysterious nexus of all love and money and power, the shining and perishable dream itself. . . . David Gilbert's layered *Sons* probes that nexus from the inside, limning the emotional decay of two prominent Manhattan families and literary masterpiece that cages them. . . . Vivid, inventive. O: The Oprah Magazine Gilbert has great narrative gifts and a wonderful eye for the madness of families and the madness of writers. . . . *Sons* is a novel that creates an imaginary author who is so real and flawed that the reader feels he understands American literature itself a little better after reading his story. Los Angeles Times Richly entertaining . . . has the rare quality of being funny without being silly, serious without being solemn, and powerfully moving without being either sentimental or coercive. The Guardian (UK) The right novelist can turn even a novel about a novelist into a book big enough to delight all the rest of us. Salon A Franzenish portrait of a biting, aging New York writer, David Gilbert's novel is perceptive, witty, and like all great books about remote fathers and their sons prone to leaving male readers either cursing or calling their dads. New York A thought-provoking and engrossing read . . . I found myself falling into [the characters'] lives, caring for them, worrying for them and ultimately missing them . . . as the novel came to a close. Chicago Tribune *Sons* is a sophisticated, compassionate novel, very much more than a clever take on the vicissitudes of the writing life. Funny and smart, it is lit with the kind of writing that makes the reader break into a smile. Financial Times Gilbert's finely wrought prose . . . teems with elaborate word plays and tests the readers' perceptiveness at every turn. Vanity Fair A delicious read. New York Daily News If the stylish brilliance of recent novels by Rachel Kushner, Jess Walter, and Peter Heller has been hinting at a new golden age of American prose, then David Gilbert's ambitious, sprawling, and altogether masterful second novel, *Sons*, confirms it. The Daily Beast A work of pure genius. The Buffalo News Extraordinary. San Francisco Chronicle A witty and ultimately tragic take on the perennial subject of how the sins of the fathers are visited on their sons. There are echoes of Turgenev here, to say nothing of Jonathan Franzen and John Irving. But the music is entirely Gilbert's, and at the end of this bravura performance you'll want to give him a standing ovation. Newsday Brilliant . . . weaves together the frayed threads of fame, fatherhood, family and friendship into a meditation on the blessing and curse of creativity . . . Thoughtful, farcical, acerbic and original, Gilbert's crisp writing and sinuous mind could grab and hold any reader. Bloomberg Businessweek [ *Sons* is ] about the emotional bonds between fathers, sons and brother—the overwhelming love that can't be adequately expressed and the burden of unspoken expectations. . . . Gilbert is an inventive, emotionally perceptive writer. Associated Press Celebrates the power of words . . . thick with wit and close observation . . . [ *Sons* is ] built to last. Minneapolis Star Tribune *Sons* conjures a career's worth of drool-worthy fictional fiction that so convincingly evoked, I almost recall writing a paper on it in freshman English class. The New York Times Magazine [A] big, rich book . . . With wit and heart, Gilbert illuminates the complicated ways that fathers and sons misunderstand, disappoint, and love one another and how their behavior affects the women in their lives. Real Simple *Sons* is an often funny,

always elegant, lingering gaze back at a world in which writers are still gods at the very center of culture. Esquire From the Hardcover edition. Kurzbeschreibung NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post The New Yorker Esquire The Austin Chronicle Kansas City Star The Guardian (UK) BookPage Flavorwire Bookish [A] big, brilliant novel. The New York Times Book Who is A. N. Dyer? Sons is a literary masterwork for readers of *The Art of Fielding*, *The Emperors Children*, and *Wonder Boy* the panoramic, deeply affecting story of an iconic novelist, two interconnected families, and the heartbreaking truths that fiction can hide. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Readers Circle for author chats and more. The funeral of Charles Henry Topping on Manhattans Upper East Side would have been a minor affair (his two-hundred-word obit in *The New York Times* notwithstanding) but for the presence of one particular mourner: the notoriously reclusive author A. N. Dyer, whose novel *Ampersand* stands as a classic of American teenage angst. But as Andrew Newbold Dyer delivers the eulogy for his oldest friend, he suffers a breakdown over the life hes led and the people hes hurt and the novel that will forever endure as his legacy. He must gather his three sons for the first time in many years before its too late. So begins a wild, transformative, heartbreaking week, as witnessed by Philip Topping, who, like his late father, finds himself caught up in the swirl of the Dyer family. First theres son Richard, a struggling screenwriter and father, returning from self-imposed exile in California. In the middle lingers Jamie, settled in Brooklyn after his twenty-year mission of making documentaries about human suffering. And last is Andy, the half brother whose mysterious birth tore the Dyers apart seventeen years ago, now in New York on spring break, determined to lose his virginity before returning to the prestigious New England boarding school that inspired *Ampersand*. But only when the real purpose of this reunion comes to light do these sons realize just how much is at stake, not only for their father but for themselves and three generations of their family. In this daring feat of fiction, David Gilbert establishes himself as one of our most original, entertaining, and insightful authors. *Sons* is that rarest of treasures: a startlingly imaginative novel about families and how they define us, and the choices we make when faced with our own mortality. NATIONAL BESTSELLER A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS CHOICE Big, brilliant, and terrifically funny. Jess Walter, author of *Beautiful Ruins* Extraordinary. Time Smart and savage . . . Seductive and ripe with both comedy and heartbreak, [ *Sons* ] made me reconsider my stance on . . . the term instant classic. NPR A big, ambitious book about fathers and sons, Oedipal envy and sibling rivalry, and the dynamics between art and life . . . [ *Sons* ] does a wonderful job of conjuring up its characters memories . . . in layered, almost Proustian detail. Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* [A] smart, engrossing saga . . . Perfect for fans of Jonathan Franzen or Claire Messud. Entertainment Weekly Audacious . . . [one of the years] most dazzlingly smart, fully realized works of fiction. The Washington Post From the Trade Paperback edition.