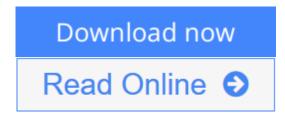


Cloud Atlas: A Novel

By David Mitchell



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By the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Bone Clocks* | Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize

A postmodern visionary and one of the leading voices in twenty-first-century fiction, David Mitchell combines flat-out adventure, a Nabokovian love of puzzles, a keen eye for character, and a taste for mind-bending, philosophical and scientific speculation in the tradition of Umberto Eco, Haruki Murakami, and Philip K. Dick. The result is brilliantly original fiction as profound as it is playful. In this groundbreaking novel, an influential favorite among a new generation of writers, Mitchell explores with daring artistry fundamental questions of reality and identity.

Cloud Atlas begins in 1850 with Adam Ewing, an American notary voyaging from the Chatham Isles to his home in California. Along the way, Ewing is befriended by a physician, Dr. Goose, who begins to treat him for a rare species of brain parasite. . . . Abruptly, the action jumps to Belgium in 1931, where Robert Frobisher, a disinherited bisexual composer, contrives his way into the household of an infirm maestro who has a beguiling wife and a nubile daughter. . . . From there we jump to the West Coast in the 1970s and a troubled reporter named Luisa Rey, who stumbles upon a web of corporate greed and murder that threatens to claim her life. . . . And onward, with dazzling virtuosity, to an inglorious present-day England; to a Korean superstate of the near future where neocapitalism has run amok; and, finally, to a postapocalyptic Iron Age Hawaii in the last days of history.

But the story doesn't end even there. The narrative then boomerangs back through centuries and space, returning by the same route, in reverse, to its starting point. Along the way, Mitchell reveals how his disparate characters connect, how their fates intertwine, and how their souls drift across time like clouds across the sky.

As wild as a videogame, as mysterious as a Zen koan, *Cloud Atlas* is an unforgettable tour de force that, like its incomparable author, has transcended its cult classic status to become a worldwide phenomenon.

Praise for Cloud Atlas

"[David] Mitchell is, clearly, a genius. He writes as though at the helm of some perpetual dream machine, can evidently do anything, and his ambition is written in magma across this novel's every page."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"One of those how-the-holy-hell-did-he-do-it? modern classics that no doubt is—and should be—read by any student of contemporary literature."—**Dave Eggers**

"Wildly entertaining . . . a head rush, both action-packed and chillingly ruminative."—*People*

"The novel as series of nested dolls or Chinese boxes, a puzzle-book, and yet—not just dazzling, amusing, or clever but heartbreaking and passionate, too. I've never read anything quite like it, and I'm grateful to have lived, for a while, in all its many worlds."—**Michael Chabon**

"Cloud Atlas ought to make [Mitchell] famous on both sides of the Atlantic as a writer whose fearlessness is matched by his talent."—The Washington Post Book World

"Thrilling . . . One of the biggest joys in *Cloud Atlas* is watching Mitchell sashay from genre to genre without a hitch in his dance step."—*Boston Sunday Globe*

"Grand and elaborate . . . [Mitchell] creates a world and language at once foreign and strange, yet strikingly familiar and intimate."—Los Angeles Times

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At once audacious, dazzling, pretentious and infuriating, Mitchell's third novel weaves history, science, suspense, humor and pathos through six separate but loosely related narratives. Like Mitchell's previous works, *Ghostwritten* and *number9dream* (which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize), this latest foray relies on a kaleidoscopic plot structure that showcases the author's stylistic virtuosity. Each of the narratives is set in a different time and place, each is written in a different prose style, each is broken off mid-action and brought to conclusion in the second half of the book. Among the volume's most engaging story lines is a witty 1930s-era chronicle, via letters, of a young musician's effort to become an amanuensis for a renowned, blind composer and a hilarious account of a modern-day vanity publisher who is institutionalized by a stroke and plans a madcap escape in order to return to his literary empire (such as it is). Mitchell's ability to throw his voice may remind some readers of David Foster Wallace, though the intermittent hollowness of his ventriloquism frustrates. Still, readers who enjoy the "novel as puzzle" will find much to savor in this original and occasionally very entertaining work.

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From The New Yorker

Mitchell's virtuosic novel presents six narratives that evoke an array of genres, from Melvillean high-seas drama to California noir and dystopian fantasy. There is a naïve clerk on a nineteenth-century Polynesian voyage; an aspiring composer who insinuates himself into the home of a syphilitic genius; a journalist investigating a nuclear plant; a publisher with a dangerous best-seller on his hands; and a cloned human being created for slave labor. These five stories are bisected and arranged around a sixth, the oral history of a post-apocalyptic island, which forms the heart of the novel. Only after this do the second halves of the stories fall into place, pulling the novel's themes into focus: the ease with which one group enslaves another, and the constant rewriting of the past by those who control the present. Against such forces, Mitchell's characters reveal a quiet tenacity. When the clerk is told that his life amounts to "no more than one drop in a limitless ocean," he asks, "Yet what is any ocean but a multitude of drops?"

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From Bookmarks Magazine

Critics on both sides of the Atlantic rave over *Cloud Atlas*, British novelist Mitchell's third novel. Many of the accolades focus on his flair for setting and character. He seems just as comfortable in far-future Hilo as in contemporary England, and he crafts believable voices for characters as different as the rakish Frobisher and the simple tribesman Zachry. One reviewer found the Luisa Rey storyline less convincing than others, while another got bogged down in Zachry's tale. Mitchell may jump around in time, but his skill remains consistent.

This skill—the technical expertise that allows Mitchell to adopt a different genre for each of his six storylines—gets him into a little trouble. *The New York Times Book Review* complains that Mitchell's writing "too often seems android," that his chameleon-like shifts render his work coldly impressive rather than "fallibly human." However, most reviewers found Mitchell's unorthodox structure captivating. After an initial period of confusion, *Cloud Atlas* becomes a challenging puzzle most were eager to solve. When the storylines finally coalesce, the result is a novel that stands above its peers in both emotional impact and philosophical import. As the *Los Angeles Times* notes, "*Cloud Atlas* offers too many powerful insights to be dismissed as a mere exercise in style." By all accounts, Mitchell has produced in *Cloud Atlas* a wholly original work. For most, it is also wholly satisfying.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sheilah Harvey:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the concept Cloud Atlas: A Novel suitable to you? Often the book was written by popular writer in this era. Often the book untitled Cloud Atlas: A Novelis the main one of several books that everyone read now. This specific book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this reserve you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world in this book.

Carol Johnson:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book compared to can satisfy your short space of time to read it because this all time you only find e-book that need more time to be examine. Cloud Atlas: A Novel can be your answer given it can be read by you who have those short time problems.

Matthew Fry:

The book untitled Cloud Atlas: A Novel contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read it. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

Jeff Keenan:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended for you is Cloud Atlas: A Novel this guide consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented how does the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some research when he makes this book. This is why this book acceptable all of you.

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