



Gravity's Rainbow

By Thomas Pynchon

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Winner of the 1973 National Book Award, *Gravity's Rainbow* is a postmodern epic, a work as exhaustively significant to the second half of the twentieth century as Joyce's *Ulysses* was to the first. Its sprawling, encyclopedic narrative and penetrating analysis of the impact of technology on society make it an intellectual tour de force.

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Gravity's Rainbow By Thomas Pynchon Bibliography

- Rank: #1788721 in Books
- Brand: Penguin Books Australia Ltd
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- Original language: English
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 768 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Tyrone Slothrop, a GI in London in 1944, has a big problem. Whenever he gets an erection, a Blitz bomb hits. Slothrop gets excited, and then (as Thomas Pynchon puts it in his sinister, insinuatingly sibilant opening sentence), "a screaming comes across the sky," heralding an angel of death, a V-2 rocket. The novel's title, *Gravity's Rainbow*, refers to the rocket's vapor arc, a cruel dark parody of what God sent Noah to symbolize his promise never to destroy humanity again. History has been a big trick: the plan is to switch from floods to obliterating fire from the sky.

Slothrop's father was an unwitting part of the cosmic doublecross. To provide for the boy's future Harvard education, he took cash from the mad German scientist Laszlo Jamf, who performed Pavlovian experiments on the infant Tyrone. Laszlo invented Imipolex G, a new plastic useful in rocket insulation, and conditioned Tyrone's privates to respond to its presence. Now the grown-up Tyrone helplessly senses the Imipolex G in incoming V-2s, and his military superiors are investigating him. Soon he is on the run from legions of bizarre enemies through the phantasmagoric horrors of Germany.

That's just the Imipolex G tip of the shrieking vehicle that is Pynchon's book. It's pretty much impossible to follow a standard plot; one must have faith that each manic episode is connected with the great plot to blow up the world with the ultimate rocket. There is not one story, but a proliferation of characters (Pirate Prentice, Teddy Bloat, Tantivy Mucker-Maffick, Saure Bummer, and more) and events that tantalize the reader with suggestions of vast patterns only just past our comprehension. You will enjoy Pynchon's cartoon inferno far more if you consult Steven Weisenburger's brief companion to the novel, which sorts out Pynchon's blizzard of references to science, history, high culture, and the lowest of jokes. Rest easy: there really is a simple reason why Kekulé von Stradonitz's dream about a serpent biting its tail (which solved the structure of the benzene molecule) belongs in the same novel as the comic-book-hero Plastic Man.

Pynchon doesn't want you to rest easy with solved mysteries, though. *Gravity's Rainbow* uses beautiful prose to induce an altered state of consciousness, a buzz. It's a trip, and it will last. --*Tim Appelo*

Review

Novel by Thomas Pynchon, published in 1973. The sprawling narrative comprises numerous threads having to do either directly or tangentially with the secret development and deployment of a rocket by the Nazis near the end of World War II. Lieutenant Tyrone Slothrop is an American working for Allied Intelligence in London. Agents of the Firm, a clandestine military organization, are investigating an apparent connection between Slothrop's erections and the targeting of incoming V-2 rockets. As a child, Slothrop was the subject of experiments conducted by a Harvard professor who is now a Nazi rocket scientist. Slothrop's quest for the truth behind these implications leads him on a nightmarish journey of either historic discovery or profound paranoia, depending on his own and the reader's interpretation. The novel won the National Book Award for fiction in 1974. -- *The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*

About the Author

Thomas Pynchon is the author of *V.*; *The Crying of Lot 49*; *Gravity???'s Rainbow*; *Slow Learner*, a collection of short stories; *Vineland*; *Mason & Dixon*; *Against the Day*; and, most recently, *Inherent Vice*. He received the National Book Award for *Gravity???'s Rainbow* in 1974.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gina Melton:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to stay than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this Gravity's Rainbow book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Marie Velasquez:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Gravity's Rainbow, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Julie Tice:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Gravity's Rainbow book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still uncertainty Gravity's Rainbow as good book not simply by the cover but also by content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Kevin Adams:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got scholars? We believe that that issue was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And you also know that little person like reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update about something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is niagra Gravity's Rainbow.

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