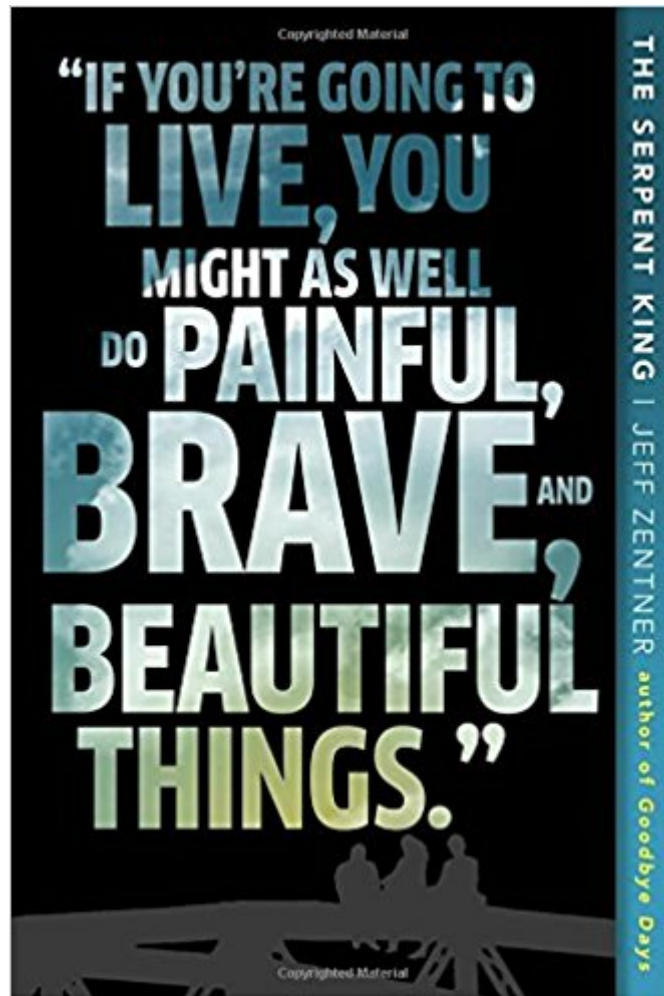




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# The Serpent King



## Synopsis

Named to ten BEST OF THE YEAR lists and selected as a William C. Morris Award Winner, *The Serpent King* is the critically acclaimed, much-beloved story of three teens who find themselves--and each other--while on the cusp of graduating from high school with hopes of leaving their small-town behind. This gorgeous paperback edition with a full-color step-back cover will have teens everywhere itching to discover the book that everyone is talking about. "Move over, John Green; Zentner is coming for you." [•The New York Public Library](#) "Will fill the infinite space that was left in your chest after you finished *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*." [•BookRiot.com](#) "Dill isn't the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal that reverberated throughout their small town, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends, Travis and Lydia, have his back. But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. His only escapes are music and his secret feelings for Lydia--neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending--one that will rock his life to the core." [•Debut novelist Jeff Zentner](#) provides an unblinking and at times comic view of the hard realities of growing up in the Bible belt, and an intimate look at the struggles to find one's true self in the wreckage of the past. "A story about friendship, family and forgiveness, it's as funny and witty as it is utterly heartbreaking." [•PasteMagazine.com](#) "A brutally honest portrayal of teen life . . . [and] a love letter to the South from a man who really understands it." [•Mashable.com](#) "I adored all three of these characters and the way they talked to and loved one another." [•New York Times](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A William C. Morris Award Winner  
A New York Times Notable Book  
An Best Book of the Year  
Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year  
A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year  
A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of the Year  
A Mashable Best YA Book of the Year  
A Shelf Awareness [YA Best Teen Book of the Year](#)  
A Hudson Booksellers Best Book of the Year  
A B&N Best YA Book of the Year  
A Southern Living Best Book of the Year  
An Indie Next List Top Ten Selection  
A Paste Magazine and popcrush.com Most Anticipated YA Book of the Year  
A Publishers Weekly Spring 2016 Flying Start  
"A book you won't be able to resist or forget. The Southern boy in me savored every syllable and the reader in me fell in love with every page." ["John Corey Whaley, National Book Award finalist and Printz Award winner"](#)  
"A triumph of love and dignity." ["Stephanie Perkins, New York Times bestselling author"](#)  
"Move over, John Green; Zentner is coming for you." ["The New York Public Library"](#)  
"Will fill the infinite space that was left in your chest after you finished *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*." ["BookRiot.com"](#)  
"A story about friendship, family and forgiveness, it's as funny and witty as it is utterly heartbreaking." ["PasteMagazine.com"](#)  
"A brutally honest portrayal of teen life . . . [and] a love letter to the South from a man who really understands it." ["Mashable.com"](#)  
"I adored all three of these characters and the way they talked to and loved one another." ["New York Times Book Review"](#)  
"A new voice to savor." ["Kirkus, Starred"](#)  
"[T]his sepia-toned portrait of small-town life serves as a moving testament to love, loyalty, faith, and reaching through the darkness to find light and hope." ["PW, Starred"](#)  
"Pens would run dry if readers were to underline extraordinary sentences--the kind that are so true, or funny, or beautiful that they clamp hearts. . . . [An] extraordinary YA debut." ["Shelf Awareness, Starred"](#)  
"The third-person narration manages to convey distinct flavor for each deeply personal and introspective storyline, so each character emerges as an authentic individual, flawed yet lovable, and readers will find themselves drawn by the heartstrings into their complex lives." ["The Bulletin, Starred"](#)  
"Thorough characterization and artful prose allow readers to intimately experience the highs and lows of these three friends .... Recommended for fans of John Green and Rainbow Rowell." ["SLJ"](#)

Before becoming a writer, JEFF ZENTNER was a singer-songwriter and guitarist who recorded with

Iggy Pop, Nick Cave, and Debbie Harry. He lives in Nashville with his wife and son. Committed to making creativity a part of his everyday life, Zentner wrote both his debut novel, *The Serpent King*, and his follow-up book, *Goodbye Days*, on his iPhone while taking the bus to and from work. You can follow Zentner on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter at @jeffzentner.

\*Originally reviews on Goodreads and My Blog\*THIS. FREAKING. BOOK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! loved it soooooooooooooo much. It broke my freaking heart and gave me joy and broke my heart some more. It's just so wonderful! And the feels in this book are beyond what I can say in my pitiful little review. All I know is if you have been meaning to read this book and have been putting it off, READ IT - you just might find it as wonderful as I did.The main characters are, Dill, Travis and Lydia and I love them so much! They are some of the most awesome characters I have read in awhile. Dill is the son of the crazy, snake, preacher man. Travis is a fantasy book fanatic whom you can not help but love. He goes around in with his dragon necklace and his staff and is constantly reading his favorite author's books. And Lydia is the one that has the money with a father as a dentist and I think her mom was in real estate. Either way, her parents are wonderful people, the boys parents, not so much.Dill's preacher father ends up in jail for reasons. And Dill's mom doesn't even want Dill to finish his last year of high school or go to college, because of reasons.:Travis has a really sweet mom but a jerk for a father. He's a drunk and he's always calling Travis names etc.Lydia runs a very popular blog (

Three unlikely friends in a small town in Tennessee face senior year, and their uncertain futures.Dill's father is a Pentecostal preacher, known for charming snakes and drinking poison to prove his worthiness to God, but is currently in prison for possessing child porn. Dill plans to remain at home to care for his mother and pay down their enormous family debt. Lydia's home life consists of stable parents, both emotionally and financially. Even though she writes a fashion blog and has many followers, she is unpopular with her peers. She has big plans for her future, starting with college in NYC. Travis has an abusive father and a quiet, sweet mother. His brother died while serving as a Marine making him feel like he will never live up to his memory, he loves losing himself in fantasy books to escape reality, and he plans to remain in the small town working at his father's sawmill.This was a beautiful coming of age story, and reading it felt like stepping back into my high school years. Years filled with learning how to separate my thoughts and beliefs from those of my parents, falling in love, and feeling ready to go to college and get on with life. This was a story about helping others, following your dreams, and finding out that you can be anything you want to be ...

(cue the music) with a little help from your friends. Enjoyed the humor and emotion in this book and would highly recommend it.

this book. THIS BOOK. have you ever had gone from having absolutely no interest in reading a book whatsoever, to crying over it at 2 am, immediately followed by wanting to go stand on a rooftop and scream and shout (while still sobbing) for all the world to go and read it? cause that was me with this book. seriously, it's books like this that remind me of why I love reading so much. although there are many books that I love that stick with me in one way or another, it takes a very special kind of book to leave such a lasting impression and resonate with me as deeply as this one did. the three main characters are so precious and I fell in love with the friendship they shared with each other and I wanted to reach through the pages of this book and hug each of them and tell them all that it's going to be okay. i'm so glad i took a chance on this book and downloaded it, even though it tore my heart into pieces and (only slightly) stitched it back together.

Jeff Zentner's "The Serpent King" is a hauntingly beautiful story of life for three friends during their senior year of high school. Dill and Travis have not had easy lives, and it looks like life after high school promises more of the same. Dill's father, a fallen charismatic preacher whose ministry involved the handling of snakes, is in prison; Travis's father hasn't been able to get over the loss of his oldest son and takes out his grief and rage on Travis. Lydia, on the other hand, has had it much better. Having developed a successful blog and been accepted at her college of choice, she is ready to move on from their small town and not look back (her parents and friends Dill and Travis excepted). Senior year brings the three of them greater friendship, tragedy, and hope. Zentner's novel is a mix all the things that life brings: friendship, love, dreams, tears, the ordinary, and much more . . . all wrapped up in a bundle of hope. I cannot wait to see what Jeff Zentner writes next. I received a copy from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for my honest review (and later bought a copy for my Kindle).

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