

JANUARY -
MARCH
2011

BOOKS

ONE BOOK
ONE MESA COUNTY

AWAIT
YOUR



Dan Chaon

REPLY

GRAND
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STUNNING . . . MR. CHAON SUCCEEDS IN BOTH CREATING SUSPENSE AND MAKING IT PAY OFF, BUT **AWAIT YOUR REPLY** ALSO DOES SOMETHING EVEN BETTER. CHAON MANAGES TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN LITERARY AND PULP FICTION WITH **A CLEVER, INSINUATING BOOK** EQUALLY SATISFYING TO FANS OF EITHER GENRE.

- JANET MASLIN, THE NEW YORK TIMES



READ. AWAIT YOUR REPLY BY DAN CHAON **DISCUSS.** AWAIT YOUR REPLY BY DAN CHAON **PARTICIPATE.**

Read:

Do you really know what happens to your information when you swipe your credit card at the gas pump? If presented with the opportunity to reinvent yourself, would you? And in what ways? How good a judge of character are you? Can you really say for sure you know anyone completely? Could you say that of your coworkers? Your friends? Your family?

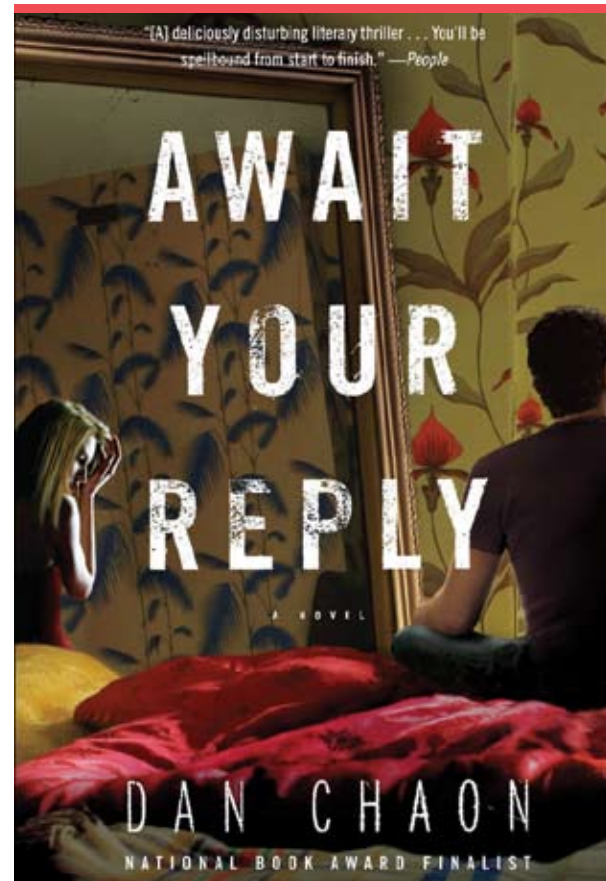
These are just a few of the questions explored in Dan Chaon's *Await Your Reply*. The novel is a fugue revolving around three main characters. Ryan is just starting college when it is suddenly revealed to him that the man he's grown up thinking of as his uncle is actually his biological father. Hoping to better understand himself through connecting with this newly discovered father, Ryan gets caught up in a money making scheme that has both him and his father in way over their heads.

Another plot follows Miles who is trying to track down his brilliant but unstable brother, Hayden. Hayden has disappeared without a trace except for the occasional, cryptic postcards Miles receives from him

that seem to be a cry for help. Miles' quest sends him, quite literally, to the far reaches of the globe, and as he moves farther away from the life he knows, he delves deeper and deeper into troubling memories of his wayward brother.

The third story line focuses on Lucy, a teenager trying to escape her shattered home life by running off with her high school history teacher. The two are looking to make a financial score that will set them up for an Edenic life of exile abroad, but as Lucy waits for the plan to come to fruition, she finds disturbing cracks in her lover's charming facade.

Chaon weaves these characters together both narratively and thematically, along the way blurring the lines between fiction and fantasy, and asking what parts of ourselves are true and which are mere constructions. Both psychological thriller and literary gem, *Await Your Reply* acts as a Rorschach test, forcing readers to examine their own assumptions about the nature of self as they are drawn into the complex narrative tapestry.



AWAIT YOUR REPLY

- Appeared on over 15 best-of-the-year lists
- Named a Notable Book for 2010 by the American Library Association

Author:

Dan Chaon is the acclaimed author of several novels and short stories. He has been a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Fiction, and he was the recipient of the 2006 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Chaon lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and teaches at Oberlin College, where he is the Pauline M. Delaney Professor of Creative Writing.

FITTING ENDS (1996)

- A short story collection reviewed by *The New York Times* as having an "often perceptive, lucid voice."

AMONG THE MISSING (2001)

- A finalist for the National Book Award.
- Named one of the year's Best 10 Books by the American Library Association *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Entertainment Weekly*, and was cited as a *New York Times* Notable Book.

YOU REMIND ME OF ME (2004)

- Named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *Entertainment Weekly*, among other publications.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JAN 24 – ALTER EGO & SIDEKICKS: THE COMIC BOOK PRESENCE

6 P.M., MONDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Join internationally renowned comic book expert Charlie Novinskie to discuss comic books and *Await Your Reply*.

JAN 30 - MOVIE SERIES

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Join us for this suspenseful and romantic movie set in Paris. Is Cary Grant's character a good guy or bad guy? Who can Audrey Hepburn's character trust? *Title available online.

FEB 3 - A CASE FOR CRIME FICTION IN FILM AND LITERATURE

6 P.M., THURSDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Join Mesa State College Department of English Assistant Professor TJ Gerlach, Ph.D., and other Mesa State College faculty for a discussion of the crime fiction and film noir genres.

FEB 5 - MAGIC PERFORMANCE WITH DOC EASON

2 P.M., SATURDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Enjoy a fascinating, entertaining show by world class magician Doc Eason. This performance is best enjoyed by older children and adults.

FEB 6 - MOVIE SERIES

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Anthony Edwards and Linda Fiorentino star in this 1985 comedy about spies, paintball and finding your way home. Most of the action takes place in East Germany. *Title available online.

FEB 8 - MEET A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

6 P.M., TUESDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Hear local Private Investigators Bob Wall and Melinda Leon talk about their profession and ask them your questions about the characters' search efforts in *Await Your Reply*.

FEB 15 - IDENTITY AND THE SELF

6 P.M., TUESDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

What does it mean to be a person? How do our ideas of identity, self, and values liberate or enslave our destinies? Join Mesa State College Assistant Professor of Philosophy and certified Philosophical Practitioner Leslie Miller, Ph.D., for an examination and discussion of the more adaptive ways of thinking about the self.

FEB 20 - MOVIE SERIES

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

This movie adaptation of one of the earliest plays written by William Shakespeare finds two sets of identical twins separated at birth suddenly in the same town. Mistaken identities lead to mishaps and accusations. Watch Roger Daltry of The Who in this 1983 production. *Title available online.

FEB 23- COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

6 P.M., WEDNESDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Join an open discussion of *Await Your Reply*.

FEB 27 - MOVIE SERIES

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

This 1961 Tony Curtis movie tells the story of real life Ferdinand Waldo Demara, Jr., who took on a number of different identities to get ahead in life. The identities he assumed include jail warden, Catholic monk and naval surgeon. Based on Demara's book *The Great Pretender*. *Title available online.

MAR 2 - 'AWAIT' PANEL DISCUSSION

6 P.M., WEDNESDAY, CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM AREA

Bring your *Await Your Reply* questions to ask our panel, comprised of Mesa State College Department of English Assistant Professor TJ Gerlach, Ph.D., Private Investigator Bob Wall, Psychologist Lyn Allen, Ph.D. and adult twin George Rayl.

MAR 3 - AVALON MOVIE

6 P.M., THURSDAY, AVALON THEATRE, MAIN STREET

Explore the deepest levels of identity change in this Oscar nominated German film about a Jewish teenager who pretends to be part of the Hitler Youth during WWII. From the autobiography of Solomon Perel. *Title available online.

MAR 5 - DAN CHAON AUTHOR EVENT

7 P.M., SATURDAY, AVALON THEATRE, MAIN STREET

Author Dan Chaon speaks live from the Avalon Theatre.

Comic book

Join internationally renowned comic book expert Charlie Novinskie to discuss the universal human truths that are found in comic books and *Await Your Reply*.

Explore crossover themes such as the presence of the alter ego, the importance of sidekicks and the battle between good and evil. Novinskie, a lifelong comics fan, served as the

Sales and Promotions Manager for Topps Comics from 1993 to 1998. He was the publisher



of *Comics Spotlight* magazine and wrote the introduction to Marvel Comic's founder Stan Lee's latest book *Stan's Soapbox: The Collection*.

Novinskie currently serves on the Board of Directors of HERO Initiative (heroinitiative.org), a non-profit organization that helps comic book creators in need of assistance. Novinskie, a Grand Junction resident, continues to work on a variety of comic and trading card projects.

Alter Egos and Sidekicks: The Comic Book Presence in *Await Your Reply* starts at 6 p.m., January 24, in the Central Library Program Area.

Magic act

Come enjoy a fascinating, entertaining show by world class magician Doc Eason.

Doc's legendary 28 year run as featured entertainer at John Denver's World Famous Tower Comedy Magic Bar in Snowmass Village is unprecedented in the world of

magic. Winner of Close-up Magician of the Year, Bar Magician of

the Year and Lecturer of the Year by the prestigious Magic Castle in Hollywood, he is one of the top magicians in the world.

Doc is internationally recognized and has performed around the globe, from The International Ball of Magicians in Austria to the beer halls of Australia.

Magic Performance with Doc Eason starts at 2 p.m., February 5, in the Central Library Program Area. This performance is best enjoyed by older children and adults.



BRANCH BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Feb 5 - Palisade Branch, 10 a.m.

Feb 8 - Clifton Branch, 1 p.m.

Feb 17 - Kiva Book Club, Central Library 6:30 p.m.

Feb 17 - Collbran Branch, 7 p.m.

Feb 18 - Orchard Mesa Branch, 2 p.m.

Feb 23 - Community Discussion, Central Library, 6 p.m.

Feb 26 - Fruita Branch, 10 a.m.

*Attend a book discussion and receive an invitation for you and a guest to a reception with Dan Chaon on March 4.



ONE BOOK ONE MESA COUNTY

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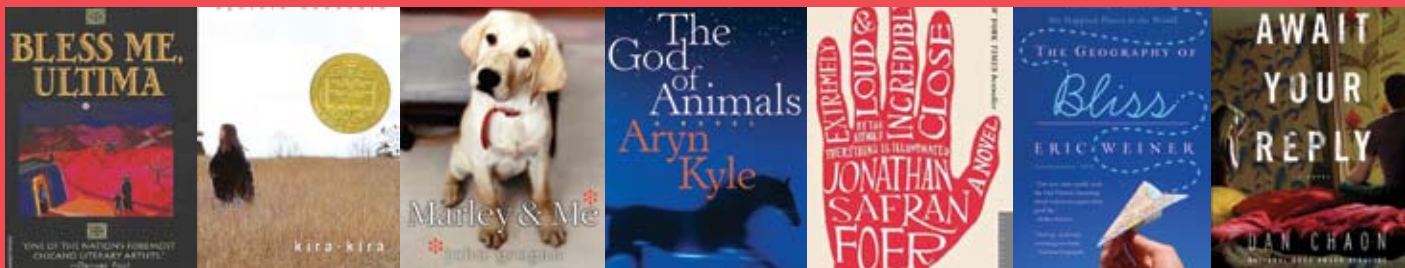
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ONE BOOK

ONE BOOK, ONE MESA COUNTY HAS BEEN FORTUNATE TO BOOK SOME OF THE BEST NEW AUTHORS. FROM *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHORS TO NATIONAL BOOK AWARD NOMINEES, HERE IS A LOOK AT WHAT PAST AUTHORS ARE UP TO NOW:



2007

Since releasing *Marley & Me*, author John Grogan has adapted his beloved book into a series of children's books as well as a feature length movie. Grogan also released *The Longest Trip Home*, a memoir of a younger John Grogan.



2008

Aryn Kyle recently released a collection of short stories called *Boys and Girls Like You and Me*. This follow up to *The God of Animals* is rich in character development and humor, and shows a grasp of loneliness, selfishness, and longing that permeate the female experience.



2009

Jonathan Safran Foer is perhaps the most prolific One Book author releasing the nonfiction work *Eating Animals* and the new *Tree of Codes* which uses die cut pages to tell a unique story.



2010

Last year's One Book author Eric Weiner is currently hard at work on a new book exploring the ideas of spirituality. The book will reportedly take the same form as his best seller *The Geography of Bliss*.

About:

One Book, One Mesa County, now in its seventh year, has evolved into one of Mesa County's premier events, gaining momentum and interest with each year.

Mesa County Libraries are proud to invite the community to participate: read the book, come to a book discussion and participate in One Book programs.

Come hear local experts who have been invited to participate in the One Book programs that lead up to Dan Chaon's visit. Programs are created and designed to suit the book's theme and to bring the book to life.

One Book is made possible by a volunteer committee and valuable partnerships with local businesses and organizations. Without these partnerships this community program would not be possible.

Art:

This year's One Book, One Mesa County thought-provoking custom art work was done by local artist Michael Goe.

"When people look at the figure, I want them to think about the internal struggle this character is having," Goe said.

The composition is partially inspired by artist Robert Longo's "Men in the Cities" series and expresses the many identity-related issues found in *Await Your Reply*.

"The art piece is representational to the book, and as people read

along, they will start to project their own opinions and identities onto this featureless figure," Goe said.

For example the clothing makes you think the figure is a functional member of society but it gives no identifying clues as to who that person actually is. The abstract explosion expresses the figure's internal turmoil and conflict and doubles as an ink blot test for the viewer to decode.

For more information about artist Michael Goe, visit the One Book blog.

