



The Slap: A Novel

By Christos Tsiolkas

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The basis for the NBC event series directed by Lisa Cholodenko and starring Uma Thurman, Peter Sarsgaard, and Zachary Quinto.

In this powerful and riveting novel reminiscent of Liane Moriarty's *Truly, Madly, Guilty*, literary phenomenon Christos Tsiolkas unflinchingly exposes the inner workings of domestic life, friendship, and parenthood in the twenty-first century, and reminds us of the passions and malice that family loyalty can provoke. When a man slaps another couple's child at a neighborhood barbecue, the event send unforeseeable shock waves through the lives of all who are witness to it. Told from the points of view of eight people who were present, *The Slap* shows how a single action can change the way people think about how they live, what they want, and what they believe forever.

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The Slap: A Novel By Christos Tsiolkas Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Although this is Australian author Tsiolkas' fourth novel, it is the first to be published in the U.S. With its raw style, liberal use of profanity and racial epithets, and laserlike focus on the travails of suburban life, it is a down-and-dirty version of Tom Perrotta's best-selling *Little Children* (2004). At a barbecue in a Melbourne suburb, a man loses his temper and slaps the child of the host's friends. This incident unleashes a slew of divisive opinions, pitting friends and families against each other as the child's parents take the man to court. Told from eight different viewpoints, the novel also deftly fills in disparate backstories encompassing young and old, single and married, gay and straight, as well as depicting how multiculturalism is increasingly impacting the traditional Aussie ethos. For good measure, the author also throws in male vanity, infidelity, and homophobia. Tsiolkas' in-your-face style is sure to alienate some readers—the child's parents, for example, are among the book's most unlikable characters—but his novel, which won the 2009 Commonwealth Prize, fairly radiates with vitality as it depicts the messy complications of family life. -- Joanne Wilkinson

Review

"Tsiolkas is a hard-edged, powerful writer...The novel transcends both suburban Melbourne and the Australian continent, leaving us exhausted but gasping with admiration." - *Washington Post*"This astute exploration of suburban aspirations and failings . . . vividly demonstrates the wide-ranging effects of a single moment's rash decision. . . . Beyond simply igniting the plot, the fateful slap draws attention to generational and philosophical differences regarding family life and the complex political, social, and ethnic milieu of contemporary Australia." - *Publishers Weekly*"Radiates with vitality as it depicts the messy complications of family life." - *Booklist*"Complex and multilayered. . . intertwined lives and slowly revealed connections make for a singular reading experience." - *Library Journal*"Wildly energetic and fearless, thrillingly about our lives now." - Helen Garner, author of *The Spare Room*"A gripping suburban fable." - *Men's Style*

"Strikingly tender . . . it claws into you with its freshness and truth." - *Sydney Morning Herald*

About the Author

Christos Tsiolkas is an award-winning novelist, playwright, essayist, and screenwriter. His fiction has won numerous prizes, including the Commonwealth Writers Award, the Age Fiction Prize, and the Melbourne Best Writing Award. *The Slap* is his first book published in the US.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Anderson:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible *The Slap: A Novel*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

John Burns:

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Robert Brown:

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