



Local Souls

Allan Gurganus

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“This book underscores what we have long known—Gurganus stands among the best writers of our time.”
—Ann Patchett

Through memorable language and bawdy humor, Gurganus returns to his mythological Falls, North Carolina, home of *Widow*. This first work in a decade offers three novellas mirroring today’s face-lifted South, a zone revolutionized around freer sexuality, looser family ties, and superior telecommunications, yet it celebrates those locals who have chosen to stay local. In doing so, *Local Souls* uncovers certain old habits—adultery, incest, obsession—still very much alive in our New South, a “Winesburg, Ohio” with high-speed Internet.

Wells Tower says of Gurganus, “No living writer knows more about how humans matter to each other.” Such ties of love produce hilarious, if wrenching, complications: “Fear Not” gives us a banker’s daughter seeking the child she was forced to surrender when barely fifteen, only to find an adult rescuer she might have invented. In “Saints Have Mothers,” a beloved high school valedictorian disappears during a trip to Africa, granting her ambitious mother a postponed fame that turns against her. And in a dramatic “Decoy,” the doctor-patient friendship between two married men breaks toward desire just as a biblical flood shatters their neighborhood and rearranges their fates.

Gurganus finds fresh pathos in ancient tensions: between marriage and Eros, parenthood and personal fulfillment. He writes about erotic hunger and social embarrassment with Twain’s knife-edged glee. By loving Falls, Gurganus dramatizes the passing of Hawthorne’s small-town nation into those Twitter-nourished lives we now expect and relish.

Four decades ago, John Cheever pronounced Allan Gurganus “the most technically gifted and morally responsive writer of his generation.” *Local Souls* confirms Cheever’s prescient faith. It deepens the luster of Gurganus’s reputation for compassion and laughter. His black comedy leaves us with lasting affection for his characters and the aching aftermath of human consequences. Here is a universal work about a village.

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Angela Jones:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the extra time or they will get wide range of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely Local Souls.

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