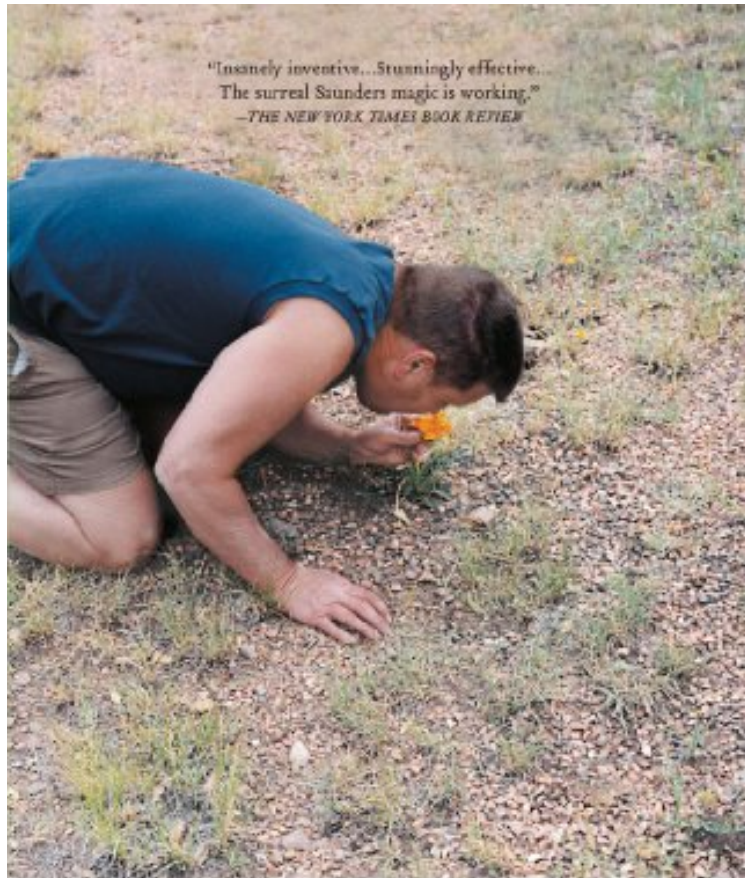


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## In Persuasion Nation

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**George Saunders : In Persuasion Nation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Persuasion Nation:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. thought that I would find the stories annoying. Instead By Cathy2882I had to read this for a class and, at first glance, thought that I would find the stories annoying. Instead, I fell in love with them. I give the book 4 stars only because, although there is a mix of stories in this, they are all very

similar. I would have preferred a book with a wider collection of themes. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is one of George Saunders' best collections. At times his storytelling is absurdist and ...By Kim L. This is one of George Saunders' best collections. At times his storytelling is absurdist and at others his voice is very conventional, but his stories are all unique, and this collection seems to have the common threads of technology and pop culture throughout, illustrating how difficult it can be to remain human and true to ourselves in a culture that is increasingly pressuring us to be something or someone we are not. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unique short story writer By djchabot This is an amazing collection of dystopian stories of the not very distant super-commercialized America. It is America disfunctional in an overly functional way. There is so much in these stories that it can take a lot out of you to go through them, but they are quite compelling. The last few are so good and intense, but others are very funny, especially the first two. My favorite was My Flamboyant Grandson, which I assumed might be about a kid he knows, but I figured he is the kid "that fits no mold."

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the novel *Lincoln in the Bardo* and the story collection *Tenth of December*, a 2013 National Book Award Finalist for Fiction. Talking candy bars, baby geniuses, disappointed mothers, castrated dogs, interned teenagers, and moral fables—all in this hilarious and heartbreaking collection from an author hailed as the heir to Kurt Vonnegut and Thomas Pynchon. "The first thing you ought to know is that Saunders is the funniest writer in America... [But] Saunders's laughs are a cover, a diversion, beneath which reside some profoundly serious intentions regarding the morality of how we live and the power of love and immanent death to transform us into vastly better creatures... I can't think of another writer who would try to do what Saunders is doing, or anything close to it. This is an important book."—*The Nation* "Saunders is a hilarious, wicked, and pitch-perfect satirist of our times, of course, but for a satirist he has a whole lot of heart."—*Esquire*

From *Publishers Weekly* Following his superb story collections *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* (1996) and *Pastoralia* (1999), as well as last year's novella *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*, Saunders reaffirms his sharp, surreal vision of contemporary, media-saturated life, but keeps most of the elements within his familiar bandwidth. In the sweetly acerbic "My Flamboyant Grandson," a family trip through Times Square is overwhelmed by pop-up advertisements. In "Jon," orphans get sold to a market research firm and become famous as "Tastemakers Trendsetters" (complete with trading cards). "CommComm" concerns an air force PR flunky living with the restless souls of his parents while covering for a spiraling crisis at work. The more conventionally grounded stories are the most compelling: one lingers over a bad Christmas among Chicago working stiffs, another follows a pair of old Russian-Jewish women haunted by memories of persecution. Others collapse under the weight of too much wit (the title story especially), and a few are little more than exercises in patience ("93990," "My Amendment"). But Saunders's vital theme—the persistence of humanity in a vacuous, nefarious marketing culture of its own creation—comes through with subtlety and fresh turns. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Bookmarks Magazine* Can there be too much good Saunders? Critics praise the book but then admit that reading the stories in succession almost overwhelmed them. As he did in *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* and *Pastoralia*, Saunders takes our world to its logical extremes, sometimes to the point of oversaturation. If his work seems avant-garde, it's approachably so, probably because of his ability to "construct a story of absurdist satire, then locate within it a moment of searing humanity" (*Boston Globe*). There is some unevenness to his latest collection (both the title story and "Brad Carrigan, American" leave many critics grumbling, while "Bohemians" was chosen for this year's Best American Short Stories), but reviewers agree that there's no substitute for Saunders at his best—especially in small doses. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From *Booklist* \*Starred\* The most unnerving fiction boldly envisions the dire consequences of our most hubristic tendencies: our bottomless greed, maniacal competitiveness, hyper-materialism, environmental obliviousness, spiritual callousness, and fear of being different. Following in the footsteps of Orwell, Bradbury, and Atwood, Saunders writes shrewd, off-the-charts speculative fiction, leading a coterie of similarly inclined short story writers that includes Scott Bradfield, Judy Budnitz, and David Foster Wallace. In his third savagely imaginative collection, his most riveting to date, he considers various forms of diabolical persuasion in a techno-colonized world in which advertising governs every aspect of life. Junk-food products are alive and aggressive, and people and animals are either subjected to cruel experiments or forced to live within the confines of commercials and television vignettes featuring rampant cartoonlike violence. Coercion, brainwashing, peer pressure—all are fiendishly engineered to ensure that the repressed and medicated populace wants only comfort and the latest products, and that any rogue intimations of morality and empathy are swiftly crushed. Funny, creepy, mournful, and outraged, Saunders's ingenious and superbly crafted satirical stories blaze like warning lights on the road to hell. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved