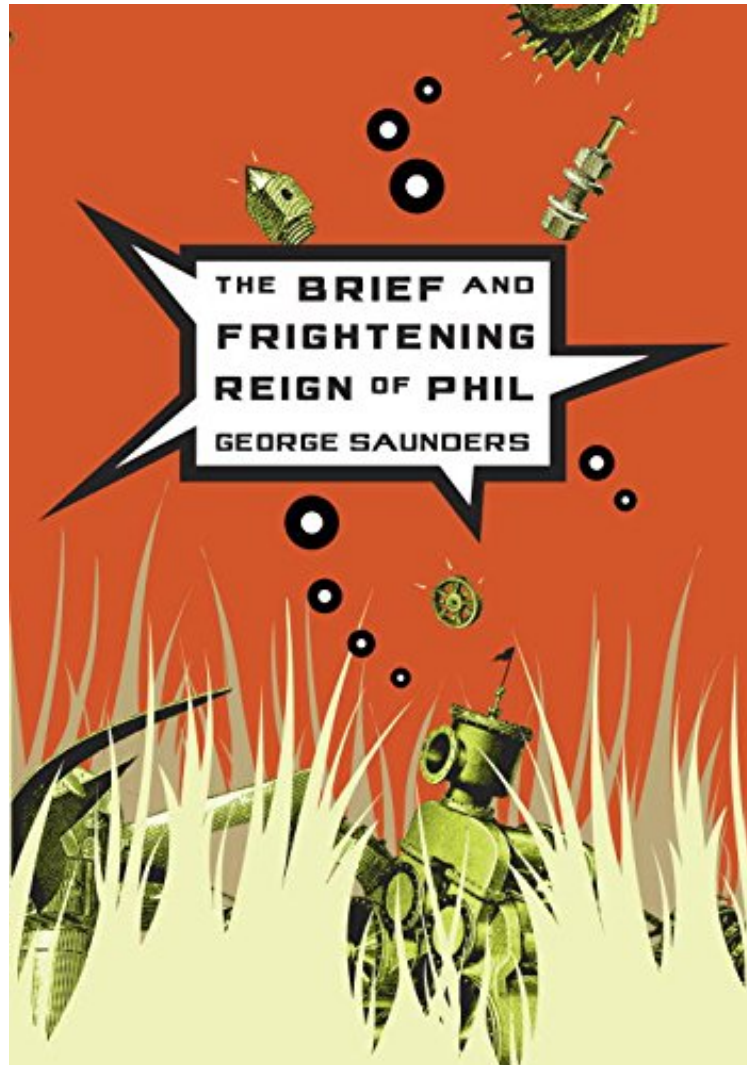


[FREE] The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil

## The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil

*George Saunders*

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#188465 in Books Riverhead Trade 2005-09-06 2005-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.10 x .30 x 5.00l, .34 #File Name: 1594481520134 pages Great product! | File size: 73.Mb

**George Saunders : The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By DMH Great! Very quick read, but such a clever little book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. more of a short story, but a good one By H This ~135 page book is really more like a ~60 page short story. The pages are small, and quite a few pages are taken up by illustrations. Content-wise, it's helpful to know that this began as a children's story. The writing is appropriately unsophisticated (a 6th grader should have no problem with it), the characters are simple, and the moral is obvious from a long way off. Nevertheless, the premise of a country so small only one person can fit in it at a time is a fascinating

one. Overall, it's a fun though not edifying little story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Saunders in another light By K. Reich A great, powerful yet funny allegorical fable that has everything you love about Saunders. Not a children's cook as I expected, but an interesting fable for our modern age. Really great characters, names, dialogue!

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. In a profoundly strange country called Inner Horner, large enough for only one resident at a time, citizens waiting to enter the country fall under the rule of the power-hungry and tyrannical Phil, setting off a chain of injustice and mass hysteria. An *Animal Farm* for the 21st century, this is an incendiary political satire of unprecedented imagination, spiky humor, and cautionary appreciation for the hysteric in everyone. Over six years in the writing, and brilliantly and beautifully packaged, this novella is Saunders' first stand-alone, book-length work—and his first book for adults in five years.

.com Book Description Welcome to Inner Horner, a nation so small it can only accommodate one citizen at a time. The other six citizens must wait their turns in the Short-Term Residency Zone of the surrounding country of Outer Horner. It's a long-standing arrangement between the fantastical, not-exactly-human citizens of the two countries. But when Inner Horner suddenly shrinks, forcing three-quarters of the citizen then in residence over the border into Outer Horner territory, the Outer Hornerites declare an Invasion In Progress—having fallen under the spell of the power-hungry and demagogic Phil. So begins *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*. Fueled by Saunders's unrivaled wit, outlandish imagination, and incisive political sensibility, here is a deeply strange yet strangely familiar fable of power and impotence, justice and injustice—an *Animal Farm* for our times. Praise for George Saunders Author of *Pastoralia* and *Civilwarland in Bad Decline* "An astoundingly tuned voice—graceful, dark, authentic, and funny—telling just the kinds of stories we need to get us through these times." --Thomas Pynchon "Mr. Saunders writes like the illegitimate offspring of Nathanael West and Kurt Vonnegut. [His] satiric vision of America is dark and demented; it is also ferocious and very funny." --Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* "A master of distilling the disorders of our time into fiction." --Salon.com .com Exclusive Want to know the story behind the story of award-winning author George Saunders's new novella, *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*? Then read "Why I Wrote Phil," an exclusive essay from Saunders concerning the genesis of his new work, which has been praised as possessing "an absurdist wit as playful as Monty Python's and a vision as dark as Samuel Beckett's." Read George Saunders's Essay, "Why I Wrote Phil" More from George Saunders *Pastoralia* *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip* From *Publishers Weekly* The shift of target to Iraq War—era America proves problematic for major 1990s satirist Saunders (*Pastoralia*), who here checks in with an allegorical novella centered on the tiny imaginary nations of Inner and Outer Horner. The citizens of Inner Horner, live-and-let-livers who have a lot of unproductive discussions, are countable on two hands, and they are not-quite-human: one man's torso is simply a tuna fish can and a belt. (There are 15 bw illustrations scattered throughout.) When their nation suddenly shrinks, the group spills into Outer Horner, and a border dispute results. It paves the way for the rise of an everyman Outer Horner dictator named Phil—a jingoistic, brute-force bully. The eventual fortuitous military intervention by Greater Keller, a neighboring technocapitalist nation of latte drinkers, comes after much lingering over the mechanics of Phil's coup. (There are multiple references to the "spasming rack" from which Phil's brain periodically slides.) Despite press-chat comparisons to *Animal Farm*, the book lacks Orwell's willingness to follow his nightmare vision all the way out to the end. Saunders delivers some very funny exchanges and imaginative set-pieces, but literally has to call in a *deus ex machina* to effect Outer Horner's final undoing. It's entertaining, but politics and war don't really work that way, allegorically or otherwise. (Sept. 20) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Praise for George Saunders: "An astoundingly tuned voice—graceful, dark, authentic, and funny—telling just the kinds of stories we need to get us through these times."—Thomas Pynchon "Mr. Saunders writes like the illegitimate offspring of Nathanael West and Kurt Vonnegut. His satiric vision of America is dark and demented; it is also ferocious and very funny."—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* "A master of distilling the disorders of our time into fiction."—Salon.com