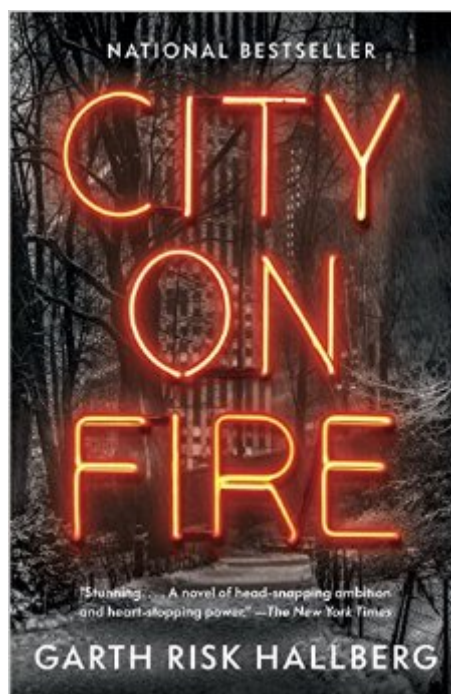


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City On Fire



Synopsis

A New York Times Notable Book One of the Best Books of the Year: The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, NPR, Vogue, San Francisco Chronicle, The Wall Street Journal New York City, 1976. Meet Regan and William Hamilton-Sweeney, estranged heirs to one of the city's great fortunes; Keith and Mercer, the men who, for better or worse, love them; Charlie and Samantha, two suburban teenagers seduced by downtown's punk scene; an obsessive magazine reporter and his idealistic neighbor and the detective trying to figure out what any of them have to do with a shooting in Central Park on New Year's Eve. The mystery, as it reverberates through families, friendships, and the corridors of power, will open up even the loneliest-seeming corners of the crowded city. And when the blackout of July 13, 1977, plunges this world into darkness, each of these lives will be changed forever. *City on Fire* is an unforgettable novel about love and betrayal and forgiveness, about art and truth and rock n' roll: about what people need from each other in order to live and about what makes the living worth doing in the first place.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (400 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I suspect that more people know the backstory of this manuscript than know about the actual story inside the pages. The backstory: book sells for \$2 million after an intense auction featuring most of NYC's publishing elite; editors from around the industry describe it as the best thing they've read in years; the author describes it as his attempt to create a novel version of an HBO boxed set; this is the book that is the epitome of the best publishing has to offer. MAN I have been looking forward to

reading this since 2013, when the auction was held. I am such a sucker for big epic novels. I literally shrieked with excitement when I got hold of the manuscript. But... Look, in terms of the book itself, comparisons have been made to DeLillo and Pynchon and David Foster Wallace, and granted, I don't love any of those guys - so maybe this book was not for me right from the start. And Mr. Hallberg can definitely write. He has a way of creating a scene where you feel like you are actually right there, almost living it alongside the characters. The "HBO Box Set" comparison is apt. He creates a very precise world of New York City in the 1970s that is so tangible you feel like you're watching it on TV, or in a movie theater, not reading it on a page. It's seriously impressive. But.... In many ways, this book is written like a checklist of "how to appeal to the stereotypical publishing literary elite." It takes place in the 70s. There are rich people who reject their wealth and feel disenfranchised. There are poor people scraggling for their place in the world. There are older men having affairs with teenage girls. There are obscure (fictitious) punk rock bands. And drugs. Many drugs.

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