

God's Teeth and Other Phenomena

James Kelman

Jack Proctor, a celebrated older writer and curmudgeon, goes off to residency where he is to be an honored part of teaching and giving public readings, he soon finds the atmosphere of the literary world has changed since his last foray into the public sphere. Unknown to most, unable to work on his own writing, surrounded by a host of odd characters, would-be writers, antagonists, handlers, and members of the elite House of Art and Aesthetics, Proctor finds himself driven to distraction (literally in a very very tiny car). This is a story of a man attempting not to go mad when forced to stop his own writing in order to coach others to write. Proctor's tour of rural places, pubs, theaters, fancy parties, where he is to be headlining as a "Banker-Prize-Winning-Author" reads like a literary version of *Spinal Tap*. Uproariously funny, brilliantly philosophical, gorgeously written this is James Kelman at his best.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Kelman was born in Glasgow, June 1946, and left school in 1961. He travelled and worked various jobs, and while living in London began to write. In 1994 he won the Booker Prize for *How Late It Was, How Late*. His novel, *I A Disaffection*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction in 1989. In 1998 Kelman was awarded the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award. His 2008 novel *Kieron Smith, Boy* won the Saltire Society's Book of the Year and the Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year. He lives in Glasgow with his wife Marie, who has supported his work since 1969.

ACCOLADES

"*God's Teeth and Other Phenomena* is electric. Forget all the rubbish you've been told about how to write, the requirements of the marketplace and the much vaunted 'readability' that is supposed to be sacrosanct. This is a book about how art gets made, its murky, obsessive, unedifying demands and the endless, sometimes hilarious, humiliations literary life inflicts on even its most successful names."

—Eimear McBride author of *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* and *The Lesser Bohemians*

"Probably the most influential novelist of the post-war period."

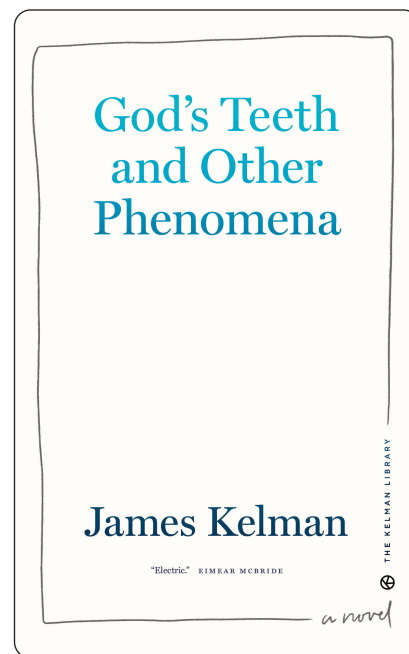
—*The Times*

"Kelman has the knack, maybe more than anyone since Joyce, of fixing in his writing the lyricism of ordinary people's speech ... Pure aesthete, undaunted democrat—somehow Kelman manages to reconcile his two halves."

—*Esquire* (London)

"A true original ... A real artist ... it's now very difficult to see which of his peers can seriously be ranked alongside [Kelman] without ironic eyebrows being raised."

—Irvine Welsh, *Guardian*



SUBJECT CATEGORY

Fiction / Literary • Humorous

PRICE

\$17.95/\$34.95

ISBN

9781629639390/9781629639406

PAGE COUNT

368

SIZE

5x8

FORMAT

Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE

06/21/2022

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West
1-866-400-5351

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Publishers Group Canada
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