



BOOK RESUME: THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Compared favorably to the works of Faulkner and Dickens, Arundhati Roy's modern classic is equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing "big things [that] lurk unsaid" in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest.

Lush, lyrical, and unnerving, *The God of Small Things* is an award-winning landmark that started for its author an esteemed career of fiction and political commentary that continues unabated.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"The quality of Ms. Roy's narration is so extraordinary—at once so morally strenuous and so imaginatively supple—that the reader remains enthralled all the way through." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"A novel of real ambition must invent its own language, and this one does." —John Updike, *The New Yorker*

"Dazzling . . . as subtle as it is powerful." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the 1997 Booker Prize

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Record of challenges created by Marshall University](#) (2017–2020)
- [Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, Office for Intellectual Freedom, an Office of the American Library Association, Vol. 4, No. 3](#) (2019)
 - "Gardendale (Alabama) High School removed *The God of Small Things* (1998) by Arundhati Roy from a summer reading list for incoming freshmen after a parent complained."
- ["Nearly 700 books, including celebrity bestsellers, banned in Orange County, Florida," PEN America](#) (2024)

Updated 07-18-2024

Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.