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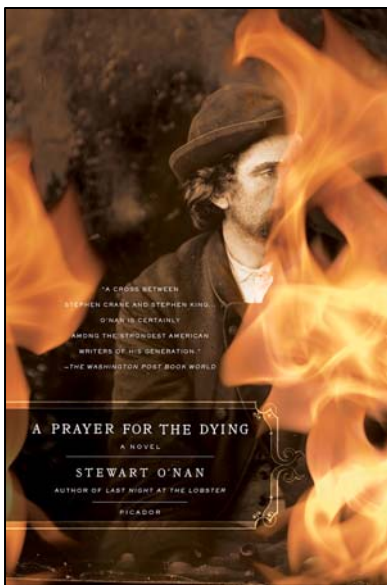
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"A new masterpiece of American literature."
—Dennis Lehane, *Entertainment Weekly*



A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

A Novel

By Stewart O'Nan

"This is a magical, frightening book.... The lyricism of the natural descriptions, of the peace and beauty of the environment, lull the reader into an expansive sense of well-being, even as the insidious beat of unease creeps between the lines.... 'Harrowing' doesn't begin to describe it." —T.C. Boyle, *Entertainment Weekly*

"*A Prayer for the Dying* reads like the amazing, unrelenting love child of Shirley Jackson and Cormac McCarthy. It's twisted proof that God will do worse to test a faithful man than the devil would ever do to punish a sinner." —Chuck Palahniuk

Set in Friendship, Wisconsin, just after the Civil War, *A Prayer for the Dying* (Picador / Trade Paperback / June 1, 2009) tells of a horrible epidemic that is suddenly and gruesomely killing the town's residents and setting off a terrifying paranoia. Jacob Hansen, Friendship's sheriff, undertaker, and pastor, is soon overwhelmed. Torn between his loyalty to his family, his faith in God, and his terror of this vicious disease, Jacob struggles to preserve his sanity amid the fear and anguish around him. Dark, poetic, and chilling, *A Prayer for the Dying* was published to acclaim in 1999, marking a significant step forward in Stewart O'Nan's brilliant career, and we are very proud to reissue it on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year

A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year • *A Salon.com* Book Award Winner

A Chicago Sun-Times Best Book of the Year • *A Newsday* Best Book of the Year

A Palm Beach Post Best Book of the Year • *A Rocky Mountain News* Best Book of the Year

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"A Prayer for the Dying is a punch in the face of a book – a profoundly dark work that is not for the faint of heart, mind, or spirit. It's a slight book of big ideas in which Stewart O'Nan's massive talent shares center stage with his penchant for unrelentingly dark – and often downright brutal – subjects and themes.... O'Nan, a novelist who seems to know more about human beings than any one person should, fashions a novel that seems to be a cross between Stephen Crane and Stephen King... [O'Nan] is certainly among the strongest American writers of his generation." —Peter McCarthy, *The Washington Post*



"A powerful novel... chilling."
—Daniel Zwerdling, NPR's *Weekend All Things Considered*

"A fine, terse novel about the circumstantial nature of evil and the terrible fragility of man."
—Patrick McGrath, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A sad and chilling novel... It will make readers shudder and think and marvel at a writer's creation of an alien world that seems so real." —Bob Minzesheimer, *USA Today*

"Mr. O'Nan, a young writer of unusual range and variety, is a master of voices and the place they resonate from, of human rhythms and the universal rhythms they cut across."
—Richard Eder, *The New York Times*

"Grabs you at the start and never lets up. O'Nan's novel is beautiful testimony to profound truths." —Dan Cryer, *Newsday*

"Full of rare power and terse, economic prose."
—Henry Kisor, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"My hands-down favorite book of the year was Stewart O'Nan's *A Prayer for the Dying*. This novel of post-Civil War plague moves with the steady throb of a drumbeat and achieves a level of intensity and real-life horror Stephen King could only dream about."
—Scott Eyman, *The Palm Beach Post*

"O'Nan's tour de force develops a mesmerizing intensity."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"A **masterful** gothic novel... O'Nan's narrative flows with seamless economy, pulling readers with ever-building dread, tiny doses of hope, and plain-spoken descriptions that reveal inner feelings even as they foreshadow events."
—Chris Waddington, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Stewart O'Nan's writing has been likened to the macabre Edgar Allan Poe, with the religious fanaticism of Flannery O'Conner. In *A Prayer for the Dying*, he gives us the best of both worlds... A haunting story."
—Mary Isca, *The Grand Rapids Press*

“For literature addicts, this is pure treasure... O’Nan is one of the finest writers of his generation... He measures words as a poet does, deploying them judiciously and for maximum impact.” —Deborah Hornblow, *The Hartford Courant*

“Ambitious and cleverly devised... a gripping story.”
—Dennis Loy Johnson, *Orlando Sentinel*

“Gripping... a book of spare, clear-eyed prose. Its voice is at once humble and infused with quiet conviction.” —Tricia Sprinnett, *The Plain Dealer*

“Stunning.” —Sherri Hallgren, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

“[A] deeply affecting book about the strength and fragility of a man who has survived unutterable sorrows.” —Anne Stephenson, *The Arizona Republic*

“[A] deeply unsettling and sophisticated horror story... O’Nan transforms this seemingly conventional tale about a good man struggling against terrible circumstances into **a brilliant exploration of evil and solipsism. A small, gruesome literary gem.**” —*The Week*

“Haunting... There’s no doubting this award-winning writer’s gift for the telling detail, the illuminating nuance that lifts a book from good to memorable.”
—David Kipen, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“A Prayer for the Dying moves at a steady, measured pace... a distinctively literary achievement.”
—*The Oregonian*

“Stewart O’Nan is playing a different tune these days, perhaps a different instrument entirely, but let him proudly flaunt his virtuosity if his experiments lead to books like this slim, chilling volume so different from his last novel... **a horror story of subtlety and elegance.**”
—Helen Verongos, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



Photo credit: Amy Etra

STEWART O’NAN is the author of eleven novels, including *Songs for the Missing* and *Snow Angels*, a story collection, and two works of nonfiction. His previous novel, *Last Night at the Lobster*, was a national bestseller and was nominated for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and was named one of the New York Public Library’s Books to Remember. Additionally, *Granta* named him one of the twenty Best Young American Novelists. O’Nan lives with his family in Avon, Connecticut.

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING: A Novel by Stewart O’Nan
Picador • Trade Paperback • 978-0-312-42891-4 • \$14.00 • 208 pp.
Publication Date: June 1, 2009

**For more information about A PRAYER FOR THE DYING or to interview Stewart O’Nan,
please contact James Meader in Picador’s publicity department:**

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ALSO AVAILABLE BY STEWART O'NAN



SNOW ANGELS: A Novel

Picador • Trade Paperback • 978-0-312-42276-9 • \$14.00 • 320 pp.

Movie Tie-In Edition • 978-0-312-42769-6 • \$14.00 • 336 pp.

“Shines with a cold, stark light.... Strangely beautiful.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“Haunting...a whole that’s much more than the sum of its parts.... Moving, beautifully constructed, morally complex.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“Simple, intricate storytelling.” —*Time*

“An impressive achievement: a universal yet never generic examination of a small-town tragedy.... Solid and skillful.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (★starred★)

THE GOOD WIFE

Picador • Trade Paperback • 978-0-312-42501-2 • \$15.00 • 320 pp.

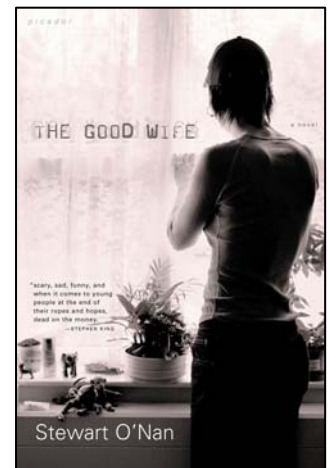
“One of the most authentic contemporary political novels I’ve read by an American writer.... [O’Nan] creates a mood so intense that, as long as the novel lasts, the reader can’t escape it.”

—Nell Freudenberger, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Powerful, unforgettable.... This novel is astonishing.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“A moving, lyrical, assured piece of work... O’Nan is an experienced explorer of the irrationalities of being human.” —*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*



THE NIGHT COUNTRY: A Novel

Picador • Trade Paperback • 978-0-312-42407-7 • \$15.00 • 240 pp.

“I think that if you haven’t read Stewart O’Nan...you have some catching up to do.” —Stephen King, *Entertainment Weekly*

“With one foot in the genre of horror-supernatural and the other in literary fiction, this book defies classification.”

—Brian Richard Boylan, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Chilling...By juxtaposing the angst of teenage years with the hoarier dread of middle age, O’Nan has put his finger on how frightening and swift is the hand of fate.” —John Freeman, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

