



The Illegal: A Novel

By Lawrence Hill

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The Illegal: A Novel By Lawrence Hill

Finalist for the 2017 NAACP Image Award

Internationally best-selling author Lawrence Hill returns with an extraordinary, resonant novel about a man on the run.

Lawrence Hill spellbound readers with *Someone Knows My Name* (made into the television mini-series, *The Book of Negroes*), hailed as “transporting” (*Entertainment Weekly*) and “completely engrossing” (*Washington Post*). *The Illegal* is the gripping story of Keita Ali, a refugee?like the many in today’s headlines?compelled to leave his homeland.

All Keita has ever wanted to do is to run. Running means respect and wealth at home. His native Zantoroland, a fictionalized country whose tyrants are eerily familiar, turns out the fastest marathoners on earth. But after his journalist father is killed for his outspoken political views, Keita must flee to the wealthy nation of Freedom State?a country engaged in a crackdown on all undocumented people.

There, Keita becomes a part of the new underground. He learns what it means to live as an illegal: surfacing to earn cash prizes by running local races and assessing whether the people he meets will be kind or turn him in. As the authorities seek to arrest Keita, he strives to elude capture and ransom his sister, who has been kidnapped.

Set in an imagined country bearing a striking resemblance to our own, this tension-filled novel casts its eye on race, human potential, and what it means to belong.

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The Illegal: A Novel By Lawrence Hill Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“Hill eerily captures a tale that could be ripped from the headlines. The engrossing narrative focuses on the journey of Keita Ali . . . we feel his pain and walk in his shoes.” (Patrik Henry Bass - Essence)

“A twisting, intricately woven yarn that spins itself out at an incredible pace. . . . Hill takes on the snarled, pressing issues of our moment in time. . . . His larger moral questions linger, provocatively.” (Carrie Snyder - Globe and Mail)

“[A] remarkably prescient . . . gripping political thriller. . . . The reader will be left with lingering?and troubling?questions about how wealth and privilege is built by those are excluded from its fruits.” (Elizabeth Hoover - Dallas Morning News)

“A sharp-edged, fresh and relevant take on immigration politics.” (Kerri Miller - MPR News)

“Hill has masterfully portrayed the voices lost in our contemporary discussions of immigration. This is a compelling and thought-provoking examination of the challenges any nation faces when we fail to serve as our brother's and sister's keepers across borders, nationality, and race. A must-read.” (Heidi W. Durrow, New York Times best-selling author of *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*)

“Lawrence Hill manages that rare feat?a political thriller that never loses its heart. Keita's story will entrance you, enrage you, and finally make you want to reach right through the page and hug him. With skill and grace, Hill reminds us of our interconnectedness with displaced people around the world. This is a book about the liberating power of compassion. Don't miss it.” (Dolen Perkins-Valdez, best-selling author of *Wench and Balm*)

“[A] taut political thriller. . . . Hill's intricate, propulsive plot includes corruption, murder, and mayhem, and readers will be rushing to its fulfilling resolution.” (Publishers Weekly)

“[Hill] has outdone himself. . . . His characters are authentic, and each is indispensable. . . . [*The Illegal* has] a captivating structure that allows the story to converge flawlessly and a rich, imaginative history.” (Library Journal)

From the Back Cover

From the beloved author of the national bestseller *The Book of Negroes* comes “a book for our times” (Maclean's) about family, identity and the strength of the human spirit

Keita Ali is on the run. Like every boy on the mountainous island of Zantoroland, running is all Keita's ever wanted to do. In one of the poorest nations in the world, running means respect. Running means riches—until Keita is targeted for his father's outspoken political views and discovers he must run for his family's survival.

He signs on with notorious marathon agent Anton Hamm, but when Keita fails to place among the top finishers in his first race, he escapes into Freedom State—a wealthy island nation that has elected a government bent on deporting the refugees living within its borders in the community of AfricTown. Keita

can stay safe only if he keeps moving and eludes Hamm and the officials who would deport him to his own country, where he would face almost certain death.

This is the new underground: a place where tens of thousands of people deemed to be “illegal” live below the radar of the police and government officials. Keita’s very existence in Freedom State is illegal. As he trains in secret, eluding capture, the stakes keep getting higher. Soon, he is running not only for his life, but for his sister’s life, too.

Fast moving and compelling, *The Illegal* casts a satirical eye on people who have turned their backs on undocumented refugees struggling to survive in a nation that does not want them. Hill’s depiction of life on the borderlands of society urges us to consider the plight of the unseen and the forgotten who live among us.

About the Author

Lawrence Hill is the author of several novels including *Someone Knows My Name*, which won the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize and the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and was nominated in the United States for the Huston Wright Legacy Award. In 2015 Hill was appointed to the Order of Canada “for his contributions as an author and activist who tells the stories of Canada’s black community and of women and girls in Africa.” A graduate of the Writing Seminars at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he lives in Ontario, Canada.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Grubb:

Book will be written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book *The Illegal: A Novel* will make you to be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think which open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suitable book with you?

Linda Gabriel:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a reserve. The book *The Illegal: A Novel* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

Bryan Lewis:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list will be *The Illegal: A Novel*. This book and that is qualified as *The Hungry Hillside* can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Ryan Walker:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a publication we can know everything you want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This e-book *The Illegal: A Novel* was filled with regards to science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading the book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you wanted.

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