



Gravity's Rainbow

By Thomas Pynchon

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Winner of the 1973 National Book Award, *Gravity's Rainbow* is a postmodern epic, a work as exhaustively significant to the second half of the twentieth century as Joyce's *Ulysses* was to the first. Its sprawling, encyclopedic narrative and penetrating analysis of the impact of technology on society make it an intellectual tour de force.

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Gravity's Rainbow By Thomas Pynchon Bibliography

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- 768 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Tyrone Slothrop, a GI in London in 1944, has a big problem. Whenever he gets an erection, a Blitz bomb hits. Slothrop gets excited, and then (as Thomas Pynchon puts it in his sinister, insinuatingly sibilant opening sentence), "a screaming comes across the sky," heralding an angel of death, a V-2 rocket. The novel's title, *Gravity's Rainbow*, refers to the rocket's vapor arc, a cruel dark parody of what God sent Noah to symbolize his promise never to destroy humanity again. History has been a big trick: the plan is to switch from floods to obliterating fire from the sky.

Slothrop's father was an unwitting part of the cosmic doublecross. To provide for the boy's future Harvard education, he took cash from the mad German scientist Laszlo Jamf, who performed Pavlovian experiments on the infant Tyrone. Laszlo invented Imipolex G, a new plastic useful in rocket insulation, and conditioned Tyrone's privates to respond to its presence. Now the grown-up Tyrone helplessly senses the Imipolex G in incoming V-2s, and his military superiors are investigating him. Soon he is on the run from legions of bizarre enemies through the phantasmagoric horrors of Germany.

That's just the Imipolex G tip of the shrieking vehicle that is Pynchon's book. It's pretty much impossible to follow a standard plot; one must have faith that each manic episode is connected with the great plot to blow up the world with the ultimate rocket. There is not one story, but a proliferation of characters (Pirate Prentice, Teddy Bloat, Tantivy Mucker-Maffick, Saure Bummer, and more) and events that tantalize the reader with suggestions of vast patterns only just past our comprehension. You will enjoy Pynchon's cartoon inferno far more if you consult Steven Weisenburger's brief companion to the novel, which sorts out Pynchon's blizzard of references to science, history, high culture, and the lowest of jokes. Rest easy: there really is a simple reason why Kekulé von Stradonitz's dream about a serpent biting its tail (which solved the structure of the benzene molecule) belongs in the same novel as the comic-book-hero Plastic Man.

Pynchon doesn't want you to rest easy with solved mysteries, though. *Gravity's Rainbow* uses beautiful prose to induce an altered state of consciousness, a buzz. It's a trip, and it will last. --*Tim Appelo*

Review

Novel by Thomas Pynchon, published in 1973. The sprawling narrative comprises numerous threads having to do either directly or tangentially with the secret development and deployment of a rocket by the Nazis near the end of World War II. Lieutenant Tyrone Slothrop is an American working for Allied Intelligence in London. Agents of the Firm, a clandestine military organization, are investigating an apparent connection between Slothrop's erections and the targeting of incoming V-2 rockets. As a child, Slothrop was the subject of experiments conducted by a Harvard professor who is now a Nazi rocket scientist. Slothrop's quest for the truth behind these implications leads him on a nightmarish journey of either historic discovery or profound paranoia, depending on his own and the reader's interpretation. The novel won the National Book Award for fiction in 1974. -- *The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*

About the Author

Thomas Pynchon is the author of *V.*; *The Crying of Lot 49*; *Gravity???'s Rainbow*; *Slow Learner*, a collection of short stories; *Vineland*; *Mason & Dixon*; *Against the Day*; and, most recently, *Inherent Vice*. He received the National Book Award for *Gravity???'s Rainbow* in 1974.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Blow:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible Gravity's Rainbow? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

Carol Sage:

The experience that you get from Gravity's Rainbow will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Gravity's Rainbow giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular Gravity's Rainbow instantly.

James Furlow:

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Patrice Lach:

Is it you who having spare time and then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Gravity's Rainbow can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

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