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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“William Kent Krueger is a **master storyteller at the top of his game** with *Lightning Strike*. A pitch perfect, richly imagined story that is both an edge-of-your-seat thriller and an evocative, emotionally-charged coming of age tale that explores the complex bonds between fathers and sons and the long simmering animosities of the past. **This is a beautifully written novel that packs a powerful punch. I loved it.**”

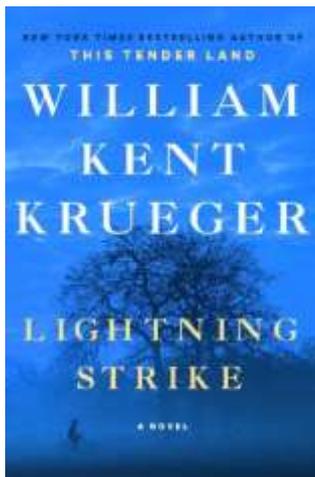
—Kristin Hannah, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Four Winds* and *The Nightingale*

LIGHTNING STRIKE

A NOVEL

BY WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THIS TENDER LAND*



William Kent Krueger, author of the instant *New York Times* bestseller *This Tender Land* returns with **LIGHTNING STRIKE (8/24/21; Atria Books)**, a powerful prequel to his acclaimed Cork O’Connor series. A book about fathers and sons, long-simmering conflicts in a small Minnesota town, and the events that echo through youth and shape our lives forever, this story is perfect for those who loved the picaresque writing in *Ordinary Grace* and *This Tender Land*, as well as for those who are drawn in by Cork’s character and Krueger’s signature “punch-to-the-gut blend of detective story and investigative fiction” (*Booklist*, starred review).

Aurora is a small town nestled in the ancient forest alongside the shores of Minnesota’s Iron Lake. In the summer of 1963, it is the whole world to twelve-year-old Cork O’Connor, its rhythms as familiar as his own heartbeat. But when Cork stumbles upon the body of a man he revered

hanging from a tree in an abandoned logging camp, it is the first in a series of events that will cause him to question everything he took for granted about his hometown, his family, and himself.

Cork’s father, Liam O’Connor, is Aurora’s sheriff and it is his job to confirm that the man’s death was the result of suicide, as all the evidence suggests. In the shadow of his father’s official investigation, Cork begins to look for answers on his own. Together, father and son face the ultimate test of choosing between what their heads tell them is true and what their hearts know is right.

In this masterful story of a young man and a town on the cusp of change, beloved novelist William Kent Krueger shows that some mysteries can be solved even as others surpass our understanding.

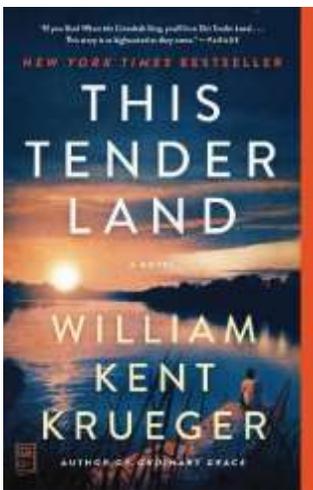
William Kent Krueger is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *This Tender Land*, *Ordinary Grace* (winner of the Edgar Award for best novel), as well as eighteen acclaimed books in the Cork O’Connor mystery series, including *Desolation Mountain* and *Sulfur Springs*. He lives in the Twin Cities with his family. Learn more at WilliamKentKrueger.com.



LIGHTNING STRIKE: A Novel by William Kent Krueger
August 24, 2021 • Atria Books • Hardcover • \$27.00 • 978-1-9821-2868-5

PRAISE FOR *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* THIS TENDER LAND

SIBA Best Book of the Year Nominee
Book of the Month Club's Book of the Year Nominee
Goodreads Choice Awards Historical Fiction Nominee
#1 Indie Next Pick, September 2019



“Strands of the adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer on the Mississippi River echo throughout William Kent Krueger's lyrical, compassionate *This Tender Land*.”

Associated Press

“If you're among of the millions (no hyperbole!) who raced through *Where the Crawdads Sing* this year and are looking for another *expansive, atmospheric American saga*, look to the latest from Krueger (*Ordinary Grace*), set in the Great Depression and centered on four young loners forced to set off on their own.”

Entertainment

“If you liked *Where the Crawdads Sing*, you'll love *This Tender Land* by best-selling author William Kent Krueger. The story is as big-hearted as they come.”

Parade

“This is a *picaresque* tale of adventure during the Great Depression. Part *Grapes of Wrath*, part *Huckleberry Finn*, Krueger's novel is a journey over inner and outer terrain toward wisdom and freedom...Like *Ordinary Grace*, it is a compelling tale told through the eyes of a boy who translates the world in all its beauty and meanness and emerges hopeful on the other side.”

StarTribune

“*This Tender Land* is *one for the ages...rich with graceful writing and endearing characters.*”

THE DENVER POST

“This *epic adventure story* follows four runaway orphans escaping their dismal circumstances at a horrible school in 1930s Minnesota. What follows is a series of *touching, compelling twists* of fate that take the kids—and anyone following them—to unexpected and exciting places.”

TOWN&COUNTRY

“*This Tender Land*, William Kent Krueger’s *picaresque* tale of Odie, his brother and two other youngsters on their trip south from Minnesota, paints God in a number of ways — as a tornado that upends young lives, as a healer, as a font of forgiveness. On his river journey south, Odie finds crushing Depression poverty, casual cruelty, violence, the supernatural, even anti-Semitism.”

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

“A reading of *This Tender Land* flows like the Mississippi River, which runs through the novel in a quiet backdrop. Although it takes place in a bygone era, the themes are contemporary, as occurs with the best of historical fiction, of which this book should certainly be included. You will not be disappointed with the story and will read it effortlessly from start to finish in a single sitting.”

bookreporter

“Crafted in exquisitely beautiful prose, this is a story to be treasured—*outstanding and unforgettable.*”



historicalnovelsociety

“*This Tender Land* is a *moving portrait* of a time and place receding from the collective memory, but leaving its mark on the heart of what the nation has become.”

L I T E R A R Y H U B

“A book you won't own. It will own you. *Long, sprawling, and utterly captivating*, readers will eat up every delicious word of it.”

NEW YORK journal of books

“*Richly imagined and exceptionally well plotted and written*, the novel is, most of all, a compelling, often haunting story that will captivate both adult and young adult readers.”

Booklist

“Krueger’s enjoyable riff on *The Odyssey* will *satisfy fans of American heartland epics.*”

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“*Reminiscent of Huck and Jim* and their trip down the Mississippi, the bedraggled youngsters encounter remarkable characters and learn life lessons as they escape by canoe down the Gilead River in Minnesota.”

BookPage AMERICA'S BOOK REVIEW