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THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY DEBUT NOVEL OF THE DECADE

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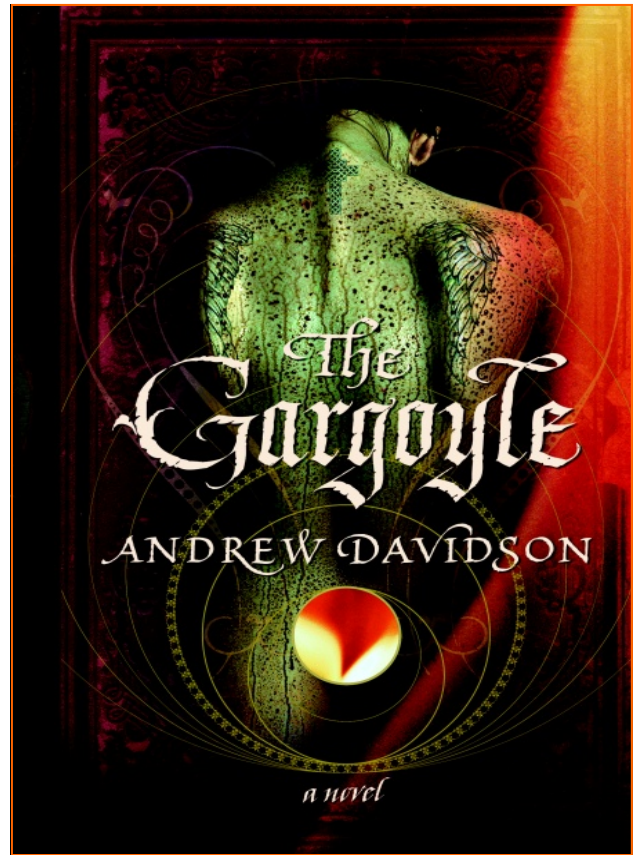
If you liked *Perfume*, *The English Patient* or *The Name of the Rose* you'll love *The Gargoyle*.

It's that exotic. It's that literary. It's that compelling.

The narrator of *The Gargoyle* is a cynical orphan who, physically beautiful and sexually adept, dwells in the moral vacuum that is modern life. As the book opens he is driving along a dark road, all coked up, when he is distracted by what seems to be a flight of arrows. He crashes and is horribly burned over 90% of his body. As he recovers in a burn ward, he awaits the day when he can leave the hospital and commit carefully-planned suicide—for he is now a monster.

And then one day a beautiful sculptress by the name of Marianne Engel appears and tells him that they were once lovers in medieval Germany. As she relates stories of deathless love in Japan, Greenland, Italy, and England, he is drawn back to life—and finally in love with her. He is released into Marianne's care and takes up residence in her huge stone house, where she works to sculpt the gargoyles that have made her reputation. But all is not well. The pull of his past sins becomes ever more powerful as the morphine he takes to control the pain becomes ever more addictive and Marianne receives word from God that she only has 28 sculptures left to complete—and she believes she is meant to die with the final statue. The dual narratives then race to a shattering and utterly moving climax.

The Gargoyle is a grand, sweeping, satisfying tale written by an extraordinary new literary talent. An Inferno for our time, it will have you believing in love, in miracles, and in redemption.



ADVANCE PRAISE

"*The Gargoyle* is purely and simply an amazement, a riot, a blast. It's hard to believe that this is Andrew Davidson's first novel: he barrels out of the chute with the narrative brio and confidence, not to mention the courage, of a seasoned master. What a great, grand treat."—**Peter Straub**

"I was blown away by Andrew Davidson's *The Gargoyle*. It reminded me of *Life of Pi*, with its unanswered (and unanswerable) contradictions. A hypnotic, horrifying, astonishing novel that manages, against all odds, to be redemptive."—**Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants***



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