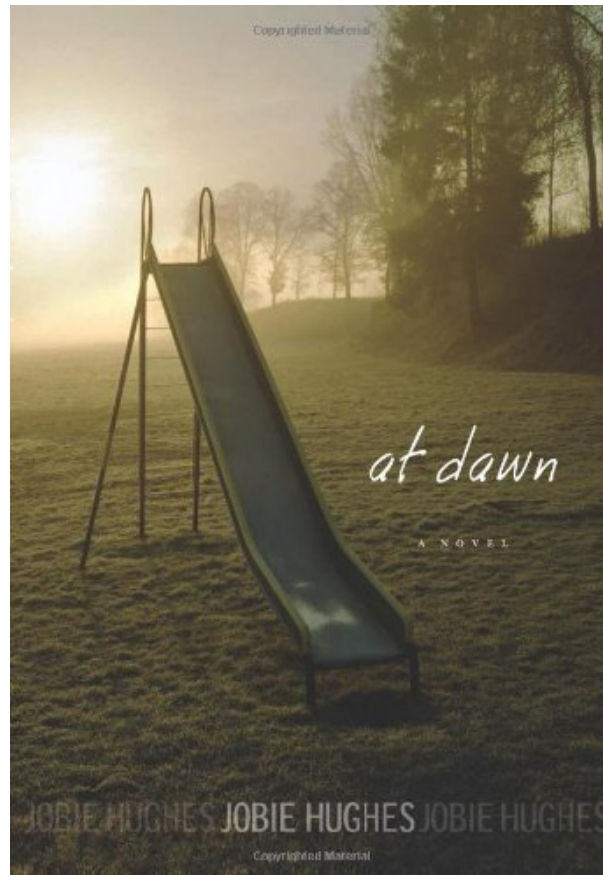
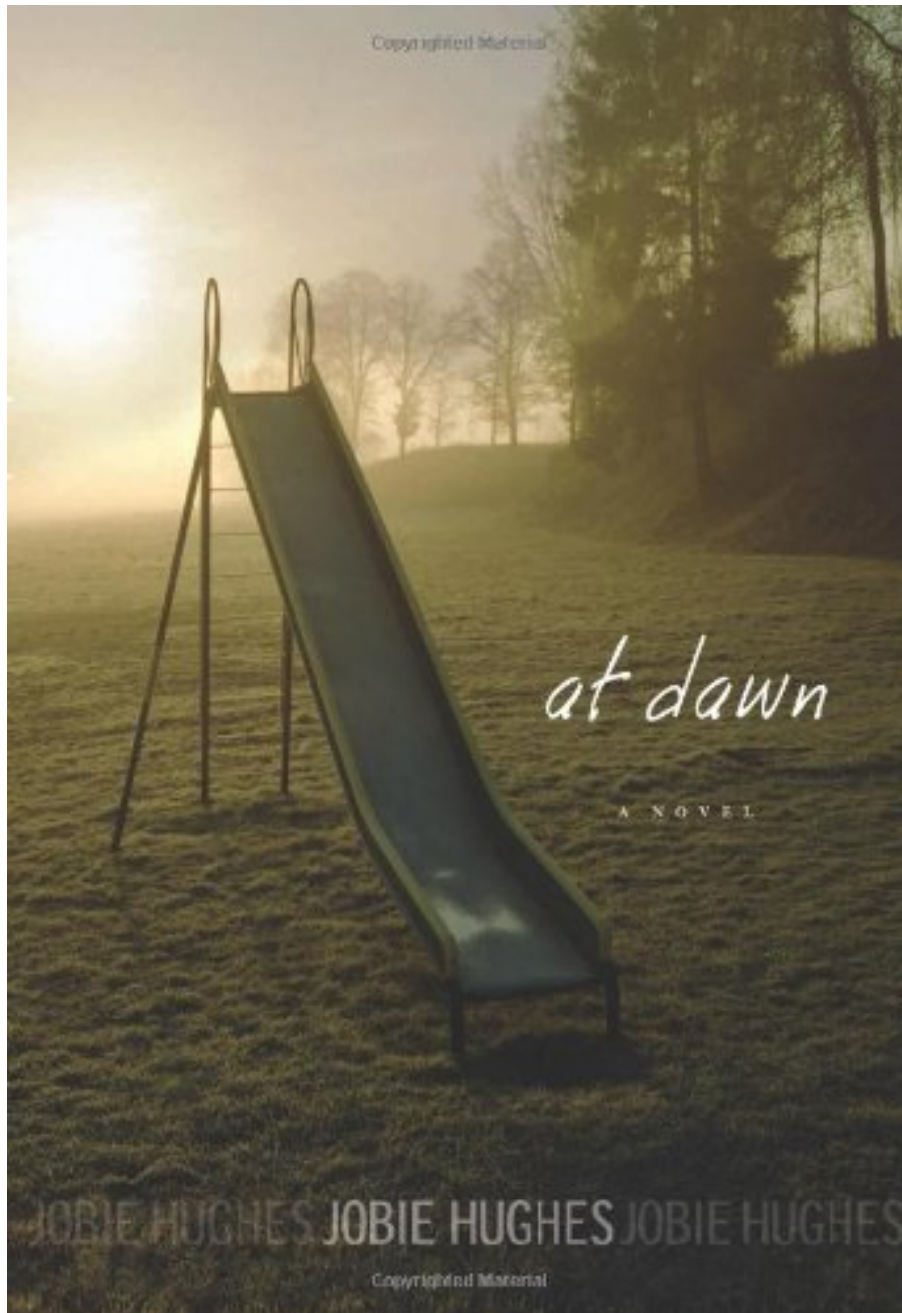


AT DAWN BY JOBIE HUGHES



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Praise for At Dawn

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From the Back Cover

"At Dawn is the brave, rare sort of novel that finds extraordinary meaning in ordinary lives. The characters are beautifully complex, honorable and compassionate, and yet, like so many of us, deeply flawed and emotionally scarred. The writing is clean and sharp and vivid, and in reading Jobie Hughes I'm reminded of the tremendous power of simple honesty in storytelling. This is a fine book by a fine writer."

--James Brown, author of *The Los Angeles Diaries* and *This River*

"Hughes' debut novel, *At Dawn*, follows a former All-American wrestler, and is there any better metaphor for contemporary American life? We're all wrestling, tussling with the economy, no jobs, doing the best we can. Hughes doesn't flinch from the tough existential questions. He embraces them."

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About the Author

Jobie Hughes was born in Renton, Washington, but raised from the age of three in the quaint and mostly blue-collar town of Spencer, Ohio. He was a high school state champion in wrestling, attended Ohio University on an athletic scholarship, and graduated with a business degree. After five years of banal work earning minimal pay, he left capitalism behind and moved to New York City to attend Columbia University's School of the Arts. He graduated in May 2009 with an MFA in Creative Writing. Hughes currently lives in Michigan. He is the author of two previous novels, both of which were #1 New York Times best sellers and have sold over a million copies worldwide. His work has been translated into twenty-six languages and published in forty-eight countries.

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Caught in a riptide of haphazard underemployment, at turns violent and unpredictable and with no family or friends to speak of, Stratton Brown longs for the chance to escape his small-town past and build a new life. He sets out for Chicago, where he meets a new and fresh hell: a nine-to-fiver in a nondescript, meaningless company while falling headlong into an obsessive love affair with a woman he believes may be a bit too attached to her abusive ex-boyfriend. Is this all America has to offer its twentysomethings? He'll soon have to figure out that, beneath the gruff labor of building a new life, lies the presence of something much more true: a way past his violent childhood and a new path to the American dream.

At Dawn is the literary debut of a fresh and powerful male voice in fiction.

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coming of age

By GoNyGoNyGo

This book is extremely well crafted. It's drenched in emotion... I actually read this book months ago and have had several moments where I think back to the characters - they still live in my head. I highly recommend this book.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful and brave book from a young author...

By Mcgillmd21

If you like Bukowski, Fante, and Exley chances are good you will like *At Dawn*. It fits nicely with those brazen and honest semi-autobiographical works. Hughes book shows some of the untidiness of life and bares the flaws of its protagonist. But, in the end, it helps us to realize we are not alone as flawed human beings. Not all stories have nice, happy endings. But there is still triumph in failure as it is in failure that we truly grow.

A great book by Jobie Hughes. I look forward to his future works and to see how he develops as a writer. Highly recommended.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Alright

By Madam Librarian

It took me a hot second to get into this book about a young man down and out on his luck, but once I did get into it, I read it in one sitting.

Stratton leaves New York life and heads to Chicago with nothing but a duffle bag and \$300 in his pocket. He soon learns that achieving the American dream isn't going to be easy. Stratton is desperate for anything, anything that will help him forget his troubled past, but he soon discovers that he has to reconcile the horrible things that happened in his youth or he'll lose everything he's tried so hard to achieve.

There are some pretty good characters in the book and I particularly enjoyed getting to learn about Gene, a former Vietnam vet and Stratton's landlord. He seems a perfect elderly gentleman who I would love to have a drink with.

Overall, this book isn't quite a beach read but it is good nonetheless. Just don't expect to be in a chipper mood at the end. It's a gritty look at life, but it's real and relatable.

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