



Capital: A Novel

By John Lanchester

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One of the most talked about books of the year, *Capital* is a sweeping social novel by the writer hailed on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review* as “a brainy, pleasure-loving polymath.”

Celebrated novelist John Lanchester (author of *The Debt to Pleasure*) returns with an epic novel that captures the obsessions of our time. It’s 2008 and things are falling apart: Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers are going under, and the residents of Pepys Road, London—a banker and his shopaholic wife, an old woman dying of a brain tumor and her graffiti-artist grandson, Pakistani shop owners and a shadowy refugee who works as the meter maid, the young soccer star from Senegal and his minder—are receiving anonymous postcards reading “We Want What You Have.” Who is behind it? What do they want? Epic in scope yet intimate, capturing the ordinary dramas of very different lives, this is a novel of love and suspicion, of financial collapse and terrorist threat, of property values going up and fortunes going down, and of a city at a moment of extraordinary tension.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Delightful. . . . Fresh, astutely observed, and a lot of fun.” (Sebastian Smee - Boston Globe)

“Brilliant.” (Lizzie Skurnick - NPR Books)

“Full of spectacular comedy—and menace. . . . The effect is like one of those cut-away illustrations that show the interior of every room in an apartment complex.” (Ron Charles - Washington Post)

“A big, funny, sure-footed novel . . . rich in observation and warm in spirit.” (Dan Koiss - Slate)

“Like getting a crash course in the transformation of British mores and class distinctions. [A] nuanced portrait of a country in flux.” (Liesl Schillinger - New York Times Book Review)

“As enrapturing as it is psychologically acute. . . . *Capital* portrays an authentic slice of contemporary life on the eve of change in a way that recalls Franzen—with a welcome touch of wry humor.” (Bookpage)

“*Capital* comes in a great tradition of novels which are filled with the news of now, in which the intricacies of the present moment are noticed with clarity and relish and then brilliantly dramatized. It is clear that its characters, its wisdom, and the scope and range of its sympathy, will fascinate readers into the far future.” (Cólín Toibín, author of *Brooklyn*)

“Brimming with perception, humane empathy and relish, its portrayal of this metropolitan miscellany is, in every sense, a capital achievement.” (Times on Sunday (UK))

“Precise, humane and often hilarious, John Lanchester’s *Capital* teems with life. Its Dickensian sweep and its clear-eyed portrayal of the end of a strange era make this novel not only immensely enjoyable, but important, too.” (Claire Messud, author of *The Emperor’s Children*)

“Searching, expert, on the money. I loved it.” (Joseph O’Neill, author of *Netherland*)

About the Author

John Lanchester is the author of *Capital*, a novel, and *I.O.U.*, a New York Times best-selling book on the financial crisis. A regular contributor to *The New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*, he lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Dupre:

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