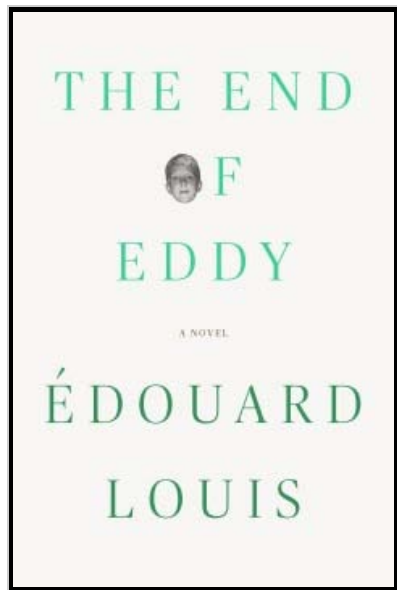


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## The End of Eddy

A Novel

by Édouard Louis, Michael Lucey

**Price: \$25.00**(Hardcover)

Published: May 02, 2017

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** An autobiographical novel about growing up gay in a working-class town in Picardy. Every morning in the bathroom I would repeat the same phrase to myself over and over again . . . Today I'm really gonna be a tough guy. Growing up in a poor village in northern France, all Eddy Bellegueule wanted was to be a man in the eyes of his family and neighbors. But from childhood, he was different -- girlish, intellectually precocious, and attracted to other men. Already translated into twenty languages, The End of Eddy captures the violence and desperation of life in a French factory town. It is also a sensitive, universal portrait of boyhood and sexual awakening. Like Karl Ove Knausgaard or Edmund White, Édouard Louis writes from his own undisguised experience, but he writes with an openness and a compassionate intelligence that are all...

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### About The Author

Édouard Louis, Michael Lucey

Born Eddy Bellegueule in Hallencourt, France, in 1992, Édouard Louis is a novelist and the editor of a scholarly work on the social scientist Pierre Bourdieu. He is the coauthor, with the philosopher Geoffroy de Lagasnerie, of "Manifesto for an Intellectual and Political Counteroffensive," published...

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### Release Info

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### What We Say

The author Édouard Louis is a 24 year old French intellectual. That seems a reasonable designation since he's penned a scholarly work on the philosopher Pierre Bourdieu, an impassioned political cri du coeur reprinted in English by the Los Angeles Review of Books and now an autobiographical first novel already translated in more than 20 languages. One looks for and finds a blurb from Edmund White, which is only appropriate. However, "The End Of Eddy" does not have the emotional resonance of White's classic "A Boy's Own Story" except in spurts. Louis grew up in a small village under very impoverished terms, battling against the constraining world in which he was born, a world that demanded he conform even

though it knew perfectly well this feminine, girlish, high-voiced artistè, this orchid couldn't fit in no matter how desperately he tried. Our hero is mercilessly accurate and quite funny in nailing the despairing voice of the people around him, the poorly educated folk who drink themselves into a stupor at night and brawl with one another to hold at bay their unspoken, almost unrecognized despair over the misery of their brutal lives. Much of the book feels repetitive for while Louis captures the voices of those around him -- often with empathy and even sympathy -- we circle the same ideas again and again. However, he's excellent at observing, at detailing the horrible "complicity" of the bullied (a complicity that is perhaps the most damaging aspect of it all). And the book springs to life when things happen: Eddy is horrified and delighted when his older cousin initiates group sex with Eddy and two other young boys. He tries (and tries) to have a girlfriend. And the escape of an arts scholarship outside of his town (and away from the bullies) is tellingly revealed as one small step and not the complete rebirth Eddy (and we) hope for. If Louis has worked through all the insights he stored up in his young life, perhaps his next novel will embrace the narrative that powers the final third of this one. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

"Excellent . . . Already translated into 20 languages, this concise novel adroitly captures the downstream effects of reactionary rural culture, heightened by the rise of hard-right ideology and the destabilization of the working class in contemporary Europe, granting its reader an extraordinary portrait of trauma and escape." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "A seamless, universal portrait of the experience of growing up gay and gradually coming to accept oneself." —Michael Cart, Booklist (starred review) "[One of] Europe's new literary superstars . . . Even in the wake of Knausgaard and Ferrante it is hard to find a literary phenomenon that has swept Europe quite like the autobiographical project of Édouard Louis." —Ane Farsethas, LitHub "A bracingly pitiless account of the psychic and physical violence that lies at the root of masculine identity. Louis's remarkably visceral story of growing up queer in working class France quickly transcends its setting precisely because it delivers us into it with such emotional force." —Adam Haslett, author of Imagine Me Gone "Édouard Louis speaks of violence, both social and familiar, with tremendous force and feeling. Revelatory, queerly tough,...

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