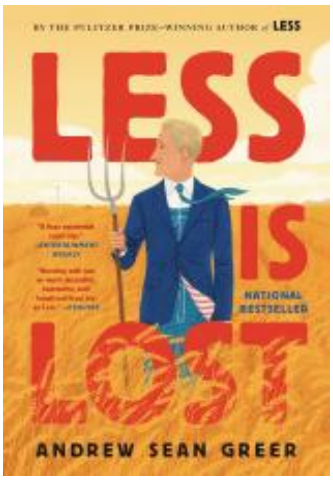
Less Is Lost

by Andrew Sean Greer



About the Book

In the follow-up to the ?bedazzling, bewitching, and be-wonderful? (*New York Times*) bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning LESS, the awkward and lovable Arthur Less returns in an unforgettable road trip across America.

?Go get lost somewhere, it always does you good.?

For Arthur Less, life is going surprisingly well: he is a moderately accomplished novelist in a steady relationship with his partner, Freddy Pelu. But nothing lasts: the death of an old lover and a sudden financial crisis has Less running away from his problems yet again as he accepts a series of literary gigs that send him on a zigzagging adventure across the US.

Less roves across the ?Mild Mild West,? through the South and to his mid-Atlantic birthplace, with an ever-changing posse of writerly characters and his trusty duo --- a human-like black pug, Dolly, and a rusty camper van nicknamed Rosina. He grows a handlebar mustache, ditches his signature gray suit, and disguises himself in the bolero-and-cowboy-hat costume of a true ?Unitedstatesian?...with varying levels of success, as he continues to be mistaken for either a Dutchman, the wrong writer or, worst of all, a ?bad gay.?

We cannot, however, escape ourselves --- even across deserts, bayous and coastlines. From his estranged father and strained relationship with Freddy, to the reckoning he experiences in confronting his privilege, Arthur Less must eventually face his personal demons. With all of the irrepressible wit and musicality that made LESS a bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning, must-read breakout book, LESS IS LOST is a profound and joyous novel about the enigma of life in America, the riddle of love and the stories we tell along the way.

Discussion Guide

1. LESS IS LOST picks up nine years after LESS, with Arthur Less and Freddy Pelu now well into their middle age. If

you?ve read LESS, what is the experience like encountering these characters again at a different stage in their lives? What has changed for them? What hasn?t?

2. Less? former ?great love? is Robert Brownburn. Previously, Less was the younger, more naïve figure, and Brownburn was the older, poetic ?genius? of the couple. In what ways does Less and Brownburn?s previous relationship mirror Freddy and Less? current one in LESS IS LOST? How do their relationships differ?

3. A central theme in LESS IS LOST is processing grief through the death of Less? previous partner. How is grief portrayed through Less and Freddy, and how does each of them struggle to cope? How can grieving a former lover affect one?s current relationship?

4. LESS IS LOST follows Less? expansive cross-country road trip, from Palm Springs and Santa Fe to stops in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia and all over Delaware. What are some of your favorite descriptions of America (ex: food, setting, the locals) in the book?

5. Less? steadfast travelling companions become a black pug, Dolly, and a camper van nicknamed Rosina. How does Greer examine the loneliness one experiences when travelling or being away from home? Have you yourself ever stumbled into an unlikely friendship or unknown territory, and what was that experience like?

6. Greer examines writerly success and financial instability through Less as a ?Minor American Novelist.? What does success in your career mean to you, and does it align in any way with Greer?s perspective?

7. What were some instances when Less was confronted with questions about heritage, race and his own privilege during his road trip? How does Greer specifically challenge the theme of belonging through Less? relationship with his father?

8. As he did in LESS, Greer explores the idea that we cannot escape ourselves in LESS IS LOST through his runaway protagonist, Arthur Less. In what ways does Less? road trip give him clarity on his relationships, age and career? What are some questions left unanswered?

9. How did you feel reading the reveal of Freddy?s own journey at the end?

10. What are some moments or lines in the book that made you laugh out loud?

Author Bio

Andrew Sean Greer is the bestselling author of eight works of fiction, including Pulitzer Prize winner LESS and its companion, LESS IS LOST. He is the recipient of the Northern California Book Award, the California Book Award, the New York Public Library Young Lions Award, the O. Henry award for short fiction, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Public Library. Greer lives in Venice.

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