



## The Prince of Tides: A Novel

By Pat Conroy

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**Pat Conroy's *New York Times*–bestselling Southern drama about the destructive repercussions of keeping an unspeakable family secret**

Tom Wingo has lost his job, and is on the verge of losing his marriage, when he learns that his twin sister, Savannah, has attempted suicide again. At the behest of Savannah's psychiatrist, Dr. Susan Lowenstein, Tom reluctantly leaves his home in South Carolina to travel to New York City and aid in his sister's therapy.

As Tom's relationship with Susan deepens, he reveals to her the turbulent history of the Wingo family, and exposes the truth behind the fateful day that changed their lives forever.

Drawing richly from the author's own troubled upbringing, *The Prince of Tides* is a sweeping, powerful novel of unlocking the past to overcome the darkest of personal demons—it's Pat Conroy at his very best.

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## **The Prince of Tides: A Novel By Pat Conroy Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

For sheer storytelling finesse, Conroy will have few rivals this season. His fourth novel is a seductive narrative, told with bravado flourishes, portentous foreshadowing, sardonic humor and eloquent turns of phrase. Like *The Great Santini*, it is the story of a destructive family relationship wherein a violent father abuses his wife and children. Henry Wingo is a shrimper who fishes the seas off the South Carolina coast and regularly squanders what little money he amasses in farcical business schemes; his beautiful wife, Lila, is both his victim and a manipulative and guilt-inflicting mother. The story is narrated by one of the children, Tom Wingo, a former high school teacher and coach, now out of work after a nervous breakdown. Tom alternately recalls his growing-up years on isolated Melrose Island, then switches to the present in Manhattan, where his twin sister and renowned poet, Savannah, is recovering from a suicide attempt. One secret at the heart of this tale is the fate of their older brother Luke; we know he is dead, but the circumstances are slowly revealed. Also kept veiled is "what happened on the island that day" a grisly scene of horror, rape and carnage that eventually explains much of the sorrow, pain and emotional alienation endured by the Wingo siblings. Conroy deftly manages a large cast of characters and a convoluted plot, although he dangerously undermines credibility through a device by which Tom tells the Wingo family saga to Savannah's psychiatrist. Some readers may find here a pale replica of Robert Penn Warren's powerful evocation of the Southern myth; others may see resemblances to John Irving's baroque imaginings. Most, however, will be swept along by Conroy's felicitous, often poetic prose, his ironic comments on the nature of man and society, his passion for the marshland country of the South and his skill with narrative. 250,000 first printing; \$250,000 ad/promo; movie rights to United Artists; BOMC main selection; author tour. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

YA In order to aid a psychiatrist who is treating his psychotic sister, Tom Wingo arrives in Manhattan and describes figures from his youth, among them an abusive father, a mother obsessed with being accepted by Colleton's tawdry elite, eccentric grandparents, stolid brother Luke, and sensitive, poet-sister Savannah. Despite the book's length, scenes such as Grandmother Tolitha's visit to Ogletree's funeral home to try out coffins, Grandfather's yearly re-enactment of the stations of the Cross, Mrs. Wingo's passive-aggressive retaliation by serving her husband dog food, Luke's Rambo-like attempt to keep Colleton from becoming a nuclear plant site, and a bloody football game with the team's first black player deserve students' attention. While Conroy's skills at characterization and storytelling have made the book popular, his writing style may place it among modern classics. He adds enough detail so that readers can smell the salty low-country marsh, see the regal porpoise Snow against the dark ocean, and taste Mrs. Wingo's gourmet cooking and doctored dog food. The story is wholly Tom's; Conroy resists the temptation to include the vantage points of other characters. It is the reluctance of Tom to tell all, to recount rather than recreate his family's past, and to face up to the Wingos' mutual rejections that maintain the tension just below the story's surface. It is Tom's coming clean about his past that lays bare the truth and elevates *Prince of Tides* above a scintillating best seller. Alice Conlon, Univ. of Houston  
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From Library Journal

Savannah Wingo, a successful feminist poet who has suffered from hallucinations and suicidal tendencies since childhood, has never been able to reconcile her life in New York with her early South Carolina tidewater heritage. Her suicide attempt brings her twin brother, Tom, to New York, where he spends the next few months, at the request of Savannah's psychiatrist, helping to reconstruct and analyze her early life. In

beautifully contrasting memories which play childhood fears against the joys and wonders of being alive, Tom creates and communicates the all-consuming sense of family which is Savannah's major strength as a poet and her tragic flaw as a human being. Conroy has achieved a penetrating vision of the Southern psyche in this enormous novel of power and emotion. BOMC main selection. Thomas L. Kilpatrick, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., Carbondale  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sheila Nathan:**

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Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want sense happy read one using theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The actual *The Prince of Tides: A Novel* is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

#### **Phyllis Spencer:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled *The Prince of Tides: A Novel* can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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