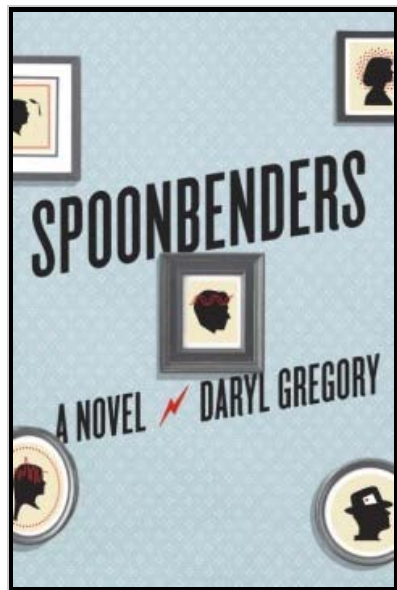


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## Spoonbenders

by Daryl Gregory

Price: \$26.95(Hardcover)

Published: June 27, 2017

☆☆☆☆☆

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** A generations-spanning family of psychics--both blessed and burdened by their abilities--must use their powers to save themselves from the CIA, the local mafia, and a skeptic hell-bent on discrediting them in this hilarious, tender, magical novel about the invisible forces that bind us. The Telemachus family is known for performing inexplicable feats on talk shows and late-night television. Teddy, a master conman, heads up a clan who possess gifts he only fakes: there's Maureen, who can astral project; Irene, the human lie detector; Frankie, gifted with telekinesis; and Buddy, the clairvoyant. But when, one night, the magic fails to materialize, the family withdraws to Chicago where they live in shame for years. Until: As they find themselves facing a troika of threats (CIA, mafia, unrelenting skeptic), Matty, grandson of the family patriarch, discovers...

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### About The Author

Daryl Gregory

DARYL GREGORY is the author of *Afterparty*, *The Devil's Alphabet*, and other novels for adults and young readers. His novella *We Are All Completely Fine* won the World Fantasy Award and the Shirley Jackson Award. He lives in Oakland, California.

### Release Info

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### What We Say

Here's the pitch: "Spoonbenders" is like the Redford-Newman movie "The Sting," but with psychics. And a cute dog. And a ray gun straight out of Buck Roger)! And it's so unclassifiable and fun you might find it at the bookstore filed under fiction or mystery or even sci-fi, but you should definitely find it now and start reading. The Amazing Telemachus Family were (almost) world-famous practitioners of E.S.P. and the like...until they are exposed as frauds on "The Mike Douglas Show" back in the 1970s. Now it's the 1990s and this sad-sack group is burdened by the memory of what might have been. Oh, and they're burdened by actual psychic powers. (They weren't ALL faking it.) That's not as fun as it sounds. It turns out knowing

when someone is lying isn't exactly great for relationships, being able to manipulate objects with your mind won't usually get you more than some free pinball games and the ability to astral project out of your body is just plain embarrassing when you're a 14 year old boy and it only works if you're thinking dirty thoughts about your cousin (not by blood!). In this winning, very funny and grounded novel by Daryl Gregory, the rough life of the Telemachus family is beset by dangers like the Mafia, shadowy government agencies that know psychic ability is real and even the allure of online dating. (You can't tell if someone is lying when reading a computer screen, so it's kind of awesome for a mind reader who wants to try and trust her date for a change.) "Spoonbenders" has all the genre-flipping fun the premise suggests. But it's also aching and lovely and sweet, filled with memorable characters like grandfather Ted (who was just a card sharp and con man when he met the love of his life, a woman with real psychic powers), Irene (who had to grow up too fast when her mom died because even being the World's Greatest Psychic won't protect you from cancer) and Buddy (the child cursed with knowledge of the future who must desperately plan for the climactic showdown and pray he doesn't forget something). Highly recommended. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

“Masterful. . . . gracefully balances the outrageous melodrama of Chicago mobsters and shadowy government agencies with the ordinary mysteries of family dynamics. . . . Readers will emerge from the fray sure they know each Telemachus down to the smudges on their hearts. A skillfully written family drama that employs quirk and magic with grace.” —Kirkus Reviews (Starred) “This gloriously imaginative novel featuring a family of somewhat reluctant psychics has a nifty trick up its sleeve—as whimsical and eccentric as the Telemachus family is, their hopes and desires perfectly mirror our own. Spoonbenders is hilarious, heartfelt and brimming with humanity.” —Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney, New York Times bestselling author of The Nest “Imagine amazing powers—but do so with uncommon creativity, rigor, and humor. You might, if you're lucky, arrive at the delicious drama of the girl who can smell lies; the all-at-once-ness of the boy who can’t not see the future; the great dilemma of the psychic pressed into service as a spy. Daryl Gregory's novel traces the line where gift balances against curse and by the end, we realize he isn’t only talking about amazing powers after all. Spoonbenders is X-Files...

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