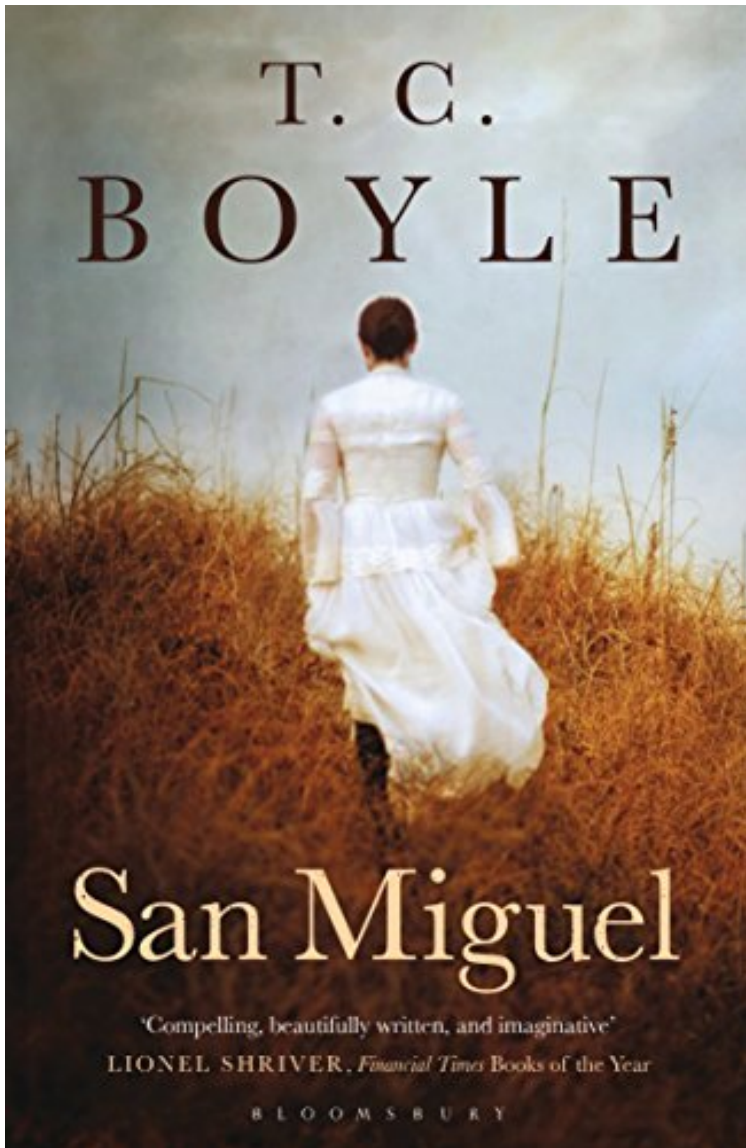


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# San Miguel



*Par T. C. Boyle*  
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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurThe schooner from Santa Barbara arrives at the tiny, desolate island on New Year's Day, 1888. As the trunks are unloaded onto the wet sand, thirty-eight-year-old Marantha Waters looks at the cliffs falling away into the churning sea. This is the first day of her new life on San Miguel. Joined by her husband, a fiercely possessive Civil War veteran who will take over the operation of the sheep ranch on the island, Marantha strives to persevere in the face of brutal isolation. But the constant wind and sheep-ravaged wasteland shatter her illusions; her husband promised paradise. As he obsessively resolves to stay - and becomes increasingly distant from her and their adopted daughter Edith - Marantha's blighted lungs grow weaker in the dampness. Two years later, Edith, now a spirited teenager and an aspiring actress, will exploit

every opportunity to escape the captivity her father has imposed on her. March, 1930. Another family - and another bride - arrives on San Miguel. Elise Lester, a librarian from New York City, and her husband Herbie, a World War I veteran full of manic energy, achieve a celebrity of sorts as the news cameras take an interest in these wayward people living in the wild. But the unyielding island is haunted by its history. Will the family be able to cling together as the war threatens to pull everything apart? San Miguel is a vivid and gripping story of hard lives pitched against the elements, the desires of stubborn men and the unbearable burden of love, from master American storyteller T. C. Boyle.

Revue de presse Praise for San Miguel Mesmerizing and elegiac the star of the book is the island itself, San Miguel, in all its glorious barrenness the island is entirely cut off from civilization for weeks or months at a time. Boyle skillfully captures that tension-filled quietude in the pared-down, mundane details of clearing, cooking, caring for livestock and enduring the tedium of unchanging days it is a brave stylistic choice that pays off, allowing the reader a visceral experience of what life was like at that time. Tatjana Soli, *The New York Times Book Review* An absorbing work of historical fiction based on the lives of two real families who resided on San Miguel island in the 19th and 20th centuries the intensity of Boyle's narrative never lets it flag San Miguel lures you away by yourself, off to a quiet, lonely place, and makes you think about how lives play out and then pass across the natural world. Ron Charles, *The Washington Post* A saga of women, three women brought to the island by men Boyle has carved out a beautiful, damp, atmospheric novel, sharp and exacting [his] spirited novels are a reckoning with consequence laced with humor, insight, and pathos. Terry Tempest Williams, *The San Francisco Chronicle* Although his sentences are vivid and vigorous, and his observations are, as always, uncannily precise, the reader is aware not so much of the writer as of the three stalwart women whose rich stories he tells. The Atlantic Throughout his career, Boyle has shown a fascination with remote, forgotten places as a kind of stage where various shadings of the American character are revealed As always, he fills his pages with wonderfully precise character studies and lush descriptions of the physical landscape. Hector Tobar, *The Los Angeles Times* While the prose remains as exuberant and biting as ever, Boyle has stripped away every trace of his landmark irony to stunning effect the never suggests that [the Lesters] or any of these people deserved their fate. In the past, Boyle has moved characters around like puppets to score satirical points. In San Miguel, he sets them free. Jennifer Reese, *National Public Radio* A book about the fallacy of more, of ownership, of second starts Boyle is one of the most stylish, electric writers around. Here, though, he puts away the razzle-dazzle of his tool kit to write his way into the heart and mind of a woman with diminishing horizons. John Freeman, *The Minneapolis Star Tribune* The story of two families who lived on the windiest and wildest of the Channel Islands the layering of these isolated lives, the archeology of human habitation, the different responses to self-sufficiency make this one of the most satisfying novels in Boyle's canon. Susan Salter Reynolds, *Los Angeles Magazine* In T.C. Boyle's San Miguel, two strong women generations apart are seduced and mistreated by the same powerful entity not a man but a starkly beautiful, barely inhabited island off the California coast Boyle portrays the heartbreaking toll San Miguel takes on these couples in a novel as beguiling as the island itself. O The Oprah Magazine Presentation de l'diteur The schooner from Santa Barbara arrives at the tiny, desolate island on New Year's Day, 1888. As the trunks are unloaded onto the wet sand, thirty-eight-year-old Marantha Waters looks at the cliffs falling away into the churning sea. This is the first day of her new life on San Miguel. Joined by her husband, a fiercely possessive Civil War veteran who will take over the operation of the sheep ranch on the island, Marantha strives to persevere in the face of brutal isolation. But the constant wind and sheep-ravaged wasteland shatter her illusions; her husband promised paradise. As he obsessively resolves to stay - and becomes increasingly distant from her and their adopted daughter Edith - Marantha's blighted lungs grow weaker in the dampness. Two years later, Edith, now a spirited teenager and an aspiring actress, will exploit every opportunity to escape the captivity her father has imposed on her. March, 1930. Another family - and another bride - arrives on San Miguel. Elise Lester, a librarian from New York City, and her husband Herbie, a World War I veteran full of manic energy, achieve a celebrity of sorts as the news cameras take an interest in these wayward people living in the wild. But the unyielding island is haunted by its history. Will the family be able to cling together as the war threatens to pull everything apart? San Miguel is a vivid and gripping story of hard lives pitched against the elements, the desires of stubborn men and the unbearable burden of love, from master American storyteller T. C. Boyle.