



# The Namesake

*By Steven Parlatto*

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## **The Namesake** By Steven Parlatto

Gifted artist? Standout student? All his teachers are sure certain that Evan Galloway can be the graduate who brings glory to small, ordinary St. Sebastian's School. As for Evan, however, he can't be bothered anymore. Since the shock of his young father's suicide last spring, Evan no longer cares about the future. In fact, he believes that he spent the first fifteen years of his life living a lie. Despite his mother's encouragement and the steadfast companionship of his best friend, Alexis, Evan is mired in rage and bitterness. Good memories seem ludicrous when the present holds no hope. Then Evan's grandmother hands him the key--literally, a key--to a locked trunk that his father hid when he was the same age as Evan is now. Digging into the trunk and the small-town secrets it uncovers, Evan can begin to face who his father really was, and why even the love of his son could not save him.

In a voice that resonates with the authenticity of grief, Steven Parlatto tells a different kind of coming-of-age story, about a boy thrust into adulthood too soon, through the corridor of shame, disbelief, and finally...compassion.

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Fifteen-year-old Evan Galloway is struggling to deal with his father's recent suicide, but going to the same Catholic school that his father attended and dealing with his mother's emotional detachment don't make it any easier. So when his grandmother gives him a footlocker that belonged to his father, Evan is all too eager to discover some answers to his nagging questions. He expects to find old posters and mementos, but what he doesn't count on is finding his dad's old journals. As Evan goes on a journey to connect with his late father, he makes a chilling discovery that as a boy, his father was sexually molested by a Catholic priest, and Evan is able to slowly piece together the role this played in the man's suicide. The story is powerful, and the plot is well crafted, but the writing alternates between choppy and engaging, and the dialogue often feels forced. The story is slow to unfold, and reluctant readers are unlikely to push past the first few pages. Committed and patient readers, however, will take something away from this thoughtful coming-of-age story.-Candyce Pruitt-Goddard, Hartford Public Library, CTα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

"The story is powerful, and the plot is well crafted . . . [a] thoughtful coming-of-age story." --*School Library Journal*

"Parlato constructs an introspective debut about the aftershocks of family trauma. Evan's journey . . . is complex and solidly woven. Parlato's . . . ambitious, well-executed plot twists and nimbly handled cast make him a name to watch." --*Publishers Weekly*

"Before his father killed himself, [Evan's] home life was pretty normal . . . Now there's a hole in that life that can't be filled or explained. Parlato's debut novel . . . is a painstaking dissection of a father's past and its reverberations in his son's life. A memorable, disturbing story, carefully wrought." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"Steven Parlato's *The Namesake* is an emotionally stimulating young adult novel that delves into the powerful topic of abuse. Using dry wit, incredible similes and metaphors, and a very thought-provoking storyline, Parlato introduces the reader to an original and unforgiving exploration of the teenage psyche." --*Blogcritics*

"Steven Parlato's *The Namesake* totally knocked me off my feet. This is the type of book that keeps you reading, especially if you enjoy dark humor. It's jarring to be sure, but well worth your time." --*Hopelessly Devoted Bibliophile*

"The novel shapes up to be one of the best contemporary reads I have ever read. The further I got into the book, the more I became convinced that [the author] was a genius with his writing. The characters were all perfectly laid out. I was able to connect with each and every one of them." --*The Subtle Chronicler*

From the Author

Evan Galloway, the protagonist of *The Namesake*, has been a part of my life for over ten years. At times, he was my primary focus, pushing aside flesh-and-blood folks, demanding to be heard. There were also dormant stretches when I was unable - or perhaps unwilling - to listen. His has not been an easy story to tell, but it is one I knew I had to attempt. Creating *The Namesake* has taken me to places both unexpected and familiar.

The story began taking shape in my first graduate class at Wesleyan University. It was a leap of faith, after writing papers about young adult novels, to imagine I could write a novel of my own. I've been fortunate in that leap to have had the support of incredible teachers, friends and family.

In his book, *On Writing*, Stephen King likens stories to "found things, like fossils in the ground," defining "writing as excavation." I've found this to be true, and there were definitely times I doubted my agility in digging carefully enough to unearth the thing unharmed. As Evan's story deepened, taking dark and surprising twists, I've felt at times it was my job just to hang on and listen.

Through his struggle to know his lost father, Evan learns an awful lot about himself. For me, creating Evan has been a learning experience as well. I've discovered how poetry can inform my fiction, how the tiniest detail can make all the difference, and how faith truly can sustain us. My faith in this story grew slowly, nurtured by that early support I mentioned.

Recently, *The Namesake* has garnered pre-release attention and praise, winning the Young Adult category of the 2011 Tassy Walden Awards for New Voices in Children's Literature. When I read an excerpt at the awards ceremony, someone compared my book to *The Catcher in the Rye*; my agent, Victoria Marini, has likened it to the work of the supremely talented John Green; and my editor, the amazing Jacquelyn Mitchard, referred to my writing as "masterful." All this acclaim is, of course, wonderful as I prepare for the release of my debut novel. At its heart, though, this book is simply Evan's chance to share his story, to relate his painful journey with truth and humor.

*The Namesake* is an important work for me on so many levels, and I'm truly honored and humbled to share it with you. I hope you'll enjoy it.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jennifer Mendoza:**

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *The Namesake* as your daily resource information.

#### **Arthur Bailey:**

The book untitled *The Namesake* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

**Anna Bailey:**

You are able to spend your free time to study this book this publication. This The Namesake is simple bringing you can read it in the park, in the beach, train and soon. If you did not have much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

**Linda McGrane:**

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