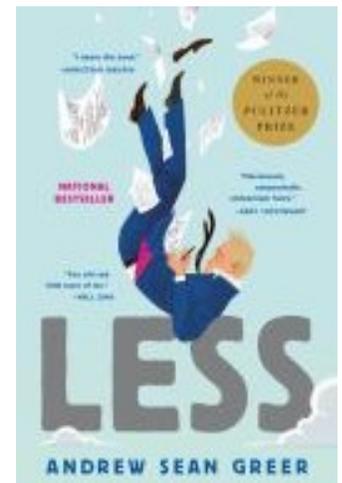


Less: A Novel

Andrew Sean Greer

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had days, weeks, years, like what Arthur Less is feeling — times when nothing, absolutely nothing, seems to be going your way? What's your solution?
2. Everyone points to the book's laugh-out-loud humor. What do you find particularly funny — dialogue, Arthur's haplessness and pratfalls, random observations, the entire tone of the book?
3. How would you describe Arthur? Are you sympathetic to him, or is he primarily a self-pitying guy in midlife crisis? Does he exhibit any humanity or is he too self-indulgent to connect with others? Or do you find yourself falling and rooting for him? Does your attitude toward him change during the course of the novel?
4. Talk about the writing seminar Arthur gives in Berlin — his inventiveness in attempting to get students to fall in love with literature.
5. What do you think of the consolation his former lover/mentor offers him during the phone call from Japan? Is turning 50 all that bad (for those who've been there, done that)?
6. So at the end of his journeys, what has Arthur Less come to understand about his life and life in general?
7. Finally, were you surprised by the big reveal at the end?





Less: A Novel

Andrew Sean Greer

About the Author

Andrew Sean Greer is an American novelist and short story writer. Born in Washington D.C., he is the son, and identical twin, of two scientists. He attended Brown University, where he was the commencement speaker at his own graduation, with his off-the-cuff remarks criticizing Brown's admissions policies setting off a near riot.

Following graduation Greer lived in New York, working in various jobs — as a chauffeur, theater tech, television extra — to support his habit as an unsuccessful writer. After several years, he headed to graduate school at the University of Montana in Missoula where he received an M.F.A. From Missoula, he moved to Seattle and two years later to San Francisco where he now lives.

While in San Francisco, Greer began publishing his short fiction in magazines; over the years his stories have appeared in *Esquire*, *Paris Review*, *New Yorker*, among others, and they have been anthologized in *The Book of Other People*, and *The PEN/ O. Henry Prize Stories 2009*. His collection of stories, *How It Was for Me*, was released in 2000.

He published his first novel, *The Path of Minor Planets*, in 2001 and since then has had a string of generally well-regarded, if not always top-selling books: *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* (2003), perhaps his best-known; *The Story of a Marriage* (2008), *The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells* (2013); and *Less* (2017)

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