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The Wilshire Sun

Joshua Baldwin

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The Wilshire Sun

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The Wilshire Sun Joshua Baldwin

“Like the naive main characters in so many American novels and films—say, Nathanael West’s *The Day of the Locust* and David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive*—Baldwin’s Jacob discovers Los Angeles is much different than he expected. . . . In [his] delightful novella, disarming slackers live life on their terms, bringing to mind younger versions of *The Big Lebowski.”*—Minneapolis *Star Tribune*

“With his surreal and paranoid debut novella, Baldwin makes a solid contribution to the subset of literature that explores the Hollywood dream . . . treating readers to a tantalizing glimpse beyond the edge of sanity.”—*Publishers Weekly*

"Baldwin's characters search for fame in the shape-shifting landscape of Hollywood. He has a voice that follows the mirage even after it disappears. *The Wilshire Sun* is a surreal, giddily original debut that plumbs the myth of Los Angeles."—James Frey

The Wilshire Sun is a mirthful novella about a whimsical, hapless, over-aspiring, under-achieving young writer from Brooklyn who moves to Los Angeles hoping to write for the movies. With understated deadpan humor and dynamic, sly, original language and off-kilter imagery, Joshua Baldwin has created a novella that may remind readers of an improbable roundtable meeting of Tao Lin, James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, and Jack Benny. The elements of the novella's constitution—clipped pieces of fast-paced immediate narrative interspersed with epistolary matter and off-the-cuff riffs on junk food, screenwriting, Walt Whitman, big brothers, bum grandfathers, and crackpot friends—offer a delightfully absurd portrait of the artist as a young man for our times in the City of Angels.

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