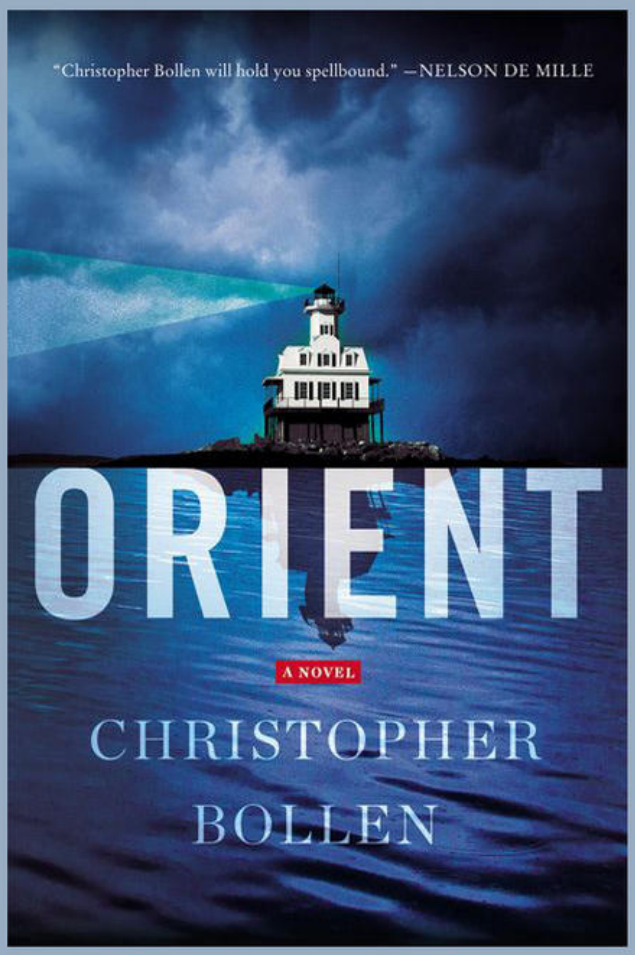
Books

Book Review: "Orient"

By Christopher Bollen '98CC (HarperCollins)

By
Sally Lee
|
Fall 2015



When Paul Benchley rescues a homeless teen from the streets of Manhattan and invites him to his summer home in the sleepy village of Orient, New York, he sets off

a series of events that starts with a drowning and ends in multiple murders. The plot of *Orient* resembles that of a Stephen King novel: carcasses of mutant creatures wash up on the beach; innocents die in cruel ways; and the villagers all but wave pitchforks as moneyed city slickers invade their hamlet. Christopher Bollen's thriller may be, at times, a little far-fetched, but the author adeptly captures the insular vibe of a small town. The tensions between the affluent New York artists who want to make a home in Orient and the suspicious families who have lived there for generations are cleverly and authentically articulated. Bollen '98CC is an editor at large at *Interview* magazine, and his fictional artists seem drawn from real life: they may sometimes behave outrageously, but their musings on the uneasy relationship between art and commerce are thought-provoking and insightful. In the end, however, the baser human instincts of greed and envy drive the plot to its conclusion and the truly surprising revelation of whodunit.

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