



# The Hottest State: A Novel

By *Ethan Hawke*

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William's affair with Sarah will take him from a tenement on the Lower East Side to a hotel room in Paris, from a flip proposal of marriage to the extremities of outraged need and the wisdom that comes only to true survivors. Anyone who reads **The Hottest State** will encounter a writer who can charm, dazzle, and break the heart in a single paragraph.

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## **The Hottest State: A Novel** By Ethan Hawke Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #317803 in Books
- Published on: 1997-09-30
- Released on: 1997-09-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.96" h x .54" w x 5.21" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

Yes, it's "that" Ethan Hawke. Ethan Hawke the actor. In this slim debut novel, he tells a coming-of-age tale of a fairly unpleasant young actor from Texas named William who lives in Manhattan and is working his way through an ugly little relationship with a singer/songwriter named Sarah. William's parents married young and split up early and he's not too happy with the world at large. Sarah can't quite make heads or tails of her mother. The pair has sex in the bathroom and talks quite a bit about their relationship. It all has a certain ring of truth, but at this point it's probably safe to say that Hawke's movie agent will probably make a better living off the young actor/writer than Hawke's literary agent.

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Player of confused but adorable Gen X Romeos in films like *Reality Bites* and *Before Sunrise*, Hawke, 25, is easily conjured up as a stand-in for 21-year-old William Harding, the disaffected narrator of this slim first novel, a boy-meets-girl, girl-dumps-boy saga set in a grungy New York of aspiring actors, writers and singers. That William, a college dropout and budding actor, falls fast and hard for Sarah Wingfield, who fronts a band, teaches preschool and is a bit "funny looking," comes as a revelation to him, given his history of using his good looks for quick sex. Sarah casts William's sexual yearnings?and his white trash boyhood?into sharp relief by reading Adrienne Rich, toting a list of rape statistics and refusing to sleep with him. Their doomed romance is intercut with William's memories of his parents' breakup, of talks with his best friend and of his overheated teen relationship with Samantha, who still flits in and out of his life. When Sarah suddenly, inexplicably rejects him after William returns from making a movie in Paris, he descends into self-loathing and homosexual panic?and trashes his apartment. His callow cynicism about women and his flattened out, '90s rendition of Holden Caulfield ("Samantha wanted to have sex. She wasn't doing me any goddamn favors") grow wearisome. But Hawke's emotionally raw account of a world inescapably contracted is oddly affecting and sure to make many a teenage heart go pit-a-pat. Paperback rights to Vintage; audio rights to Time Warner AudioBooks; author tour.

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### **From Library Journal**

Plenty of 25-year-olds have written novels worse than Hawke's, but very, very few of them wind up getting published. When singer/love interest Sarah asks actor/ protagonist William if he likes acting, William replies, " 'It's the only thing I've ever been good at.' " Hawke's novel does nothing to introduce any distance between creator and character on this score, although viewers of his films might disagree. The story is simple. William moves to New York, meets Sarah, and takes her to Paris. He doesn't treat her all that well, so she dumps him. Along the way the reader is treated to so many mixed metaphors, confused images, laughable similes, and hackneyed, banal emotional moments that one can only stop laughing long enough to wonder how this material got past a professional editor. A sample from a sex scene in which William and Sarah switch clothes: "I walked closer to her?this woman in my underwear?seized by a strong desire to make it with her, to burst through her dress, taking her like a Scotsman (I am part Scottish)." Or after an extended tryst: "The scent of sex was thick. I never wanted to take a shower again." Not recommended.?Adam Mazmanian, "Library Journal"

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Hilda Szymanski:**

What do you with regards to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific The Hottest State: A Novel to read.

**Nancy Tandy:**

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**Homer Gardner:**

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**Glen Hall:**

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