

A literary psychological thriller set in Melbourne's queer scene with the suspense of *The Talented Mr Ripley* and the gritty emotional landscape of Christos Tsiolkas and Bryan Washington.

'The twenty-first-century bright young things in Thomas Vowles's very impressive debut novel are aloofly beautiful and nonchalantly evil. It's a rush of a read, pleasurable and disturbing in equal measure.' Christos Tsiolkas

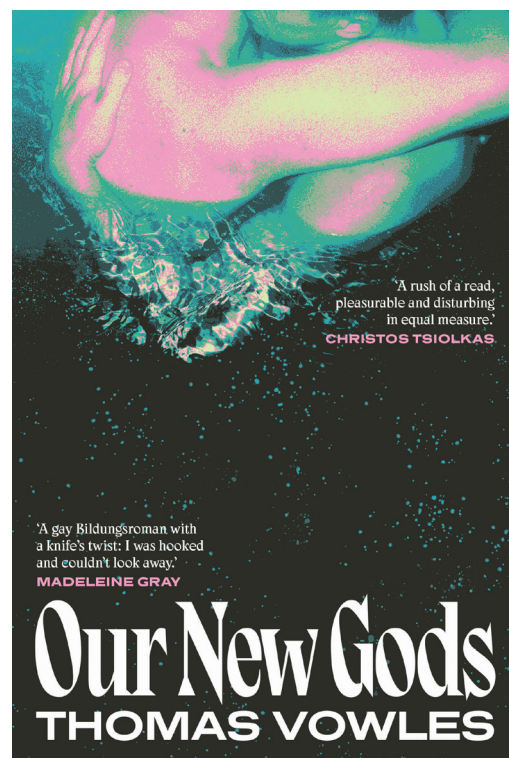
Ash has recently arrived in Melbourne and fallen in love with his charismatic new friend, James. After witnessing a disturbing altercation at a party, Ash suspects that James's mysterious boyfriend is hiding a sinister side. Is he dangerous? Or is Ash's jealousy fuelling paranoid delusions?

A compulsive novel that offers no easy answers, *Our New Gods* marks the electrifying debut of a major talent. It has an assuredness that reflects Thomas Vowles's success as a screenwriter: the atmosphere is taut, the plot twists are dizzying, and the story will haunt readers long after the final page.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thomas Vowles lives in Naarm/Melbourne. As a screenwriter, he's worked with production companies based in Los Angeles, London and Australia. He released a collection of short stories as an episodic zine, and is a graduate of Central Film School, London, and the Faber Academy.



BOOK DETAILS

C-format paperback | 978 0 7022 6893 9
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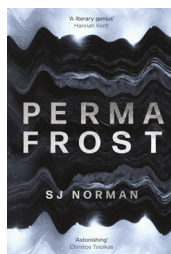
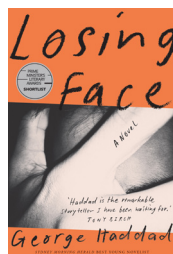
'Enthralling, dark, elegant, sexy, electrifying. This taut debut has it all. Thomas Vowles is a thrilling new voice in Australian fiction.'

Emily Bitto

'Thomas Vowles has written something sui generis – a heaving, sinister, sweaty vision of contemporary queer Melbourne. *Our New Gods* is a gay Bildungsroman with a knife's twist: I was hooked and couldn't look away.'

Madeleine Gray

FURTHER
READING



QUESTIONS OVER PAGE

Questions

1. How does *Our New Gods* engage with the tropes and conventions of the psychological-thriller genre?
2. What other books or films explore queer stories in specific genres? Why do you think there aren't more?
3. What are the queer elements of this novel?
4. How does the title relate to the themes of the novel?
5. *Our New Gods* makes use of memory and flashback. How did these scenes shape your understanding of Ash?
6. What role do parents – and fathers in particular – play in the novel?
7. How did your feelings towards Ash change over the course of *Our New Gods*, and why? What about your feelings towards James?
8. What do we learn about Ash through his interactions with Sam, Omni and Hector?
9. What do you think sex offers the characters, especially Ash and James?
10. On page 42, Ash considers the pleasure in degradation. Where else in the book is this idea explored?
11. What are the similarities between Booth and Ash?
12. Why do you think Ash starts to question James's narrative?
13. On page 57, Ash says, 'The difficult task of our lives was to act in the face of uncertainty.' What does he mean?

Questions

14. Have you ever disfigured yourself for love?
15. What images from the novel have stayed with you?
16. Why do you think the author chose to end the book on a note of ambiguity?