

## **RIVER An American Dreaming**

by Christoph Keller

### *Short Description*

**RIVER An American Dreaming** is a hallucinatory novel about a buried river, a legendary snake, and a nation dreaming itself into madness. Christoph Keller blends myth, satire, and urban archaeology to explore the fevered roots of the American experiment. At the center sits Kurt H. Adler, a wheelchair-using archaeologist drawn into a vortex of violence, possession, and vision. Echoing Lenape cosmology, Bulgakov, and Mephistopheles, *RIVER* is a rare literary feat: unsettling, lyrical, and urgently of our time.

### *Full Description*

***A buried river, a legendary snake, and a nation dreaming itself into madness—RIVER is a hallucinatory excavation of the American experiment.***

In *RIVER An American Dreaming*, Christoph Keller conjures a work of rare imaginative ambition: at once a mythic thriller, an excavation of buried histories, and a razor-edged meditation of the fate of the other. Set in New York City during the haunted year of 2011, the novel unfolds as a great unearthing—of an ancient river, a legendary Lenape snake, and the fever dreams at the very root of American dreaming.

At the novel's center sits Kurt H. Adler, a wheelchair-bound archaeologist whose mind is as trenchant as it is tormented. A series of bizarre and violent incidents—a curator snipping hair from strangers, a subway miracle, a motorcyclist leaving a trail of blood—pull him into an inquiry that leads not only beneath the city, but into the shadow-realms of identity, possession, and belief.

Echoing Goethe's Mephistopheles, Bulgakov's Devil, and indigenous cosmologies long overwritten by conquest, Keller composes a hallucinatory portrait of a nation in the grip of its own mythology. His language is exact, exuberant, laced with dark humor and lyrical grace.

In an era when reality itself feels increasingly fictive, *RIVER* is both provocation and antidote—a novel that dares to dream America differently, by returning to the riverbed where its dreaming began.