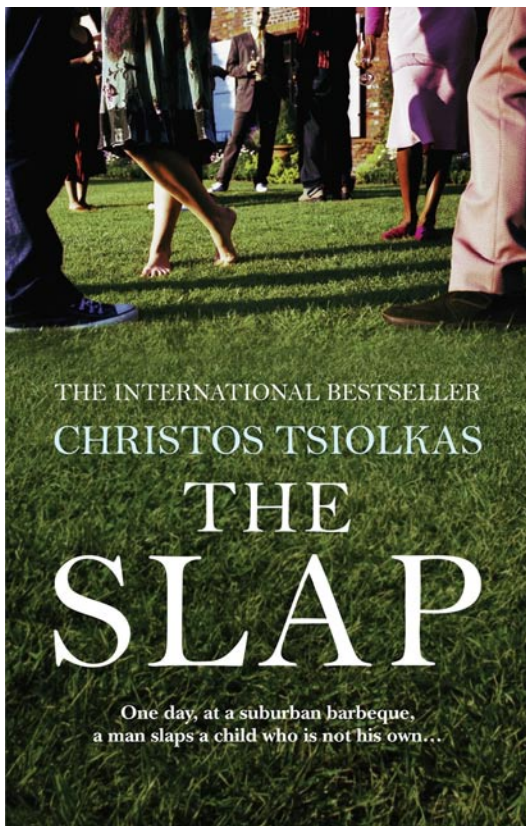




Reader's Guide



Other books by Christos Tsiolkas

Loaded (1996)
The Jesus Man (1999)
Dead Europe (2005)

The Slap

Christos Tsiolkas

Grove Atlantic - Tuskar Rock Press
Price £12.99

www.themanbookerprize.com



About the author

Christos Tsiolkas is the author of three previous novels: *Loaded* (filmed as *Head-On*), *The Jesus Man* and *Dead Europe*, which won the 2006 Age Fiction Prize and the 2006 Melbourne Best Writing Award. *The Slap* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2009 and was shortlisted for the 2009 Miles Franklin Literary Award and the ALS Gold Medal. *The Slap* has been on Australian bestseller lists since its publication in 2008, and in 2009 it was the fourth biggest-selling title by an Australian author. It has also been a Canadian bestseller. Christos Tsiolkas is also a playwright, essayist and screenwriter. He lives in Melbourne.

The Slap

At a suburban barbecue one afternoon, a man slaps an unruly three-year-old boy.
The boy is not his son.
It is a single act of violence, but the slap reverberates through the lives of everyone who witnesses it.
Christos Tsiolkas presents the impact of this apparently minor domestic incident through the eyes of eight characters. The result is an unflinching interrogation of the modern family, a deeply thought-provoking novel of boundaries and their limits...

Discussion points

The Slap explores the inner lives of each of its eight main characters. Which of the characters did you most identify with and which most irked you?

Do you agree, "the great thing about *The Slap* is that it cannot be neatly summarised"?

How far do you think that the privet fenced 'zombie suburbia', as one character describes it, is an analogy of contemporary Australian society?

The focus shifts from one character to another in the eight sections of the novel, did you find this seamless or was the structure confusing?

"Discomfort is sometimes what is most precious to me about great art," Tsiolkas recently told an interviewer. To what extent did you find *The Slap* an uncomfortable read?

Themed reading

Lionel Shriver *We Need to Talk about Kevin*
David Nicholls *One Day*
Amanda Craig *Hearts and Minds*
Richard Flanagan *The Unknown Terrorist*

Useful links

www.themanbookerprize.com
www.atlantic-books.co.uk
www.allenandunwin.com