

This provocative satirical novel dares to question the prevailing notion that the cure-all for society's ills is a heavy dose of positive thinking. Written as a chapter-by-chapter response to the self-help manual *The Secret*, *Son of Soothsayer* is both a sprawling family saga and critical look at the cult of new age philosophy. The book traces the coming-of-age of narrator Clayton Blaine, who lives in the shadow of a mother so steeped in the cult of positive thinking that she thinks she can alter the universe by the sheer force of concentration. Through a series of sometimes comic, sometimes poignant snapshots of Clayton's adolescence, readers will be captivated by the family's ruinous attempts at enlightenment and moved by their resolve to mine truth from the rubble, no matter the cost.



Simon A. Smith

A Chicago novelist, teacher and script writer, Simon holds a BA in fiction writing and a MEd in secondary education. His fiction has appeared in many journals, including *Hobart Pulp*, *Whiskey Island*, *Juke* and *Outside Splendor*. His journalism has also aired on Chicago Public Radio and appeared in the *Chicago Reader*. He lives in the Albany Park neighborhood with his wife and son.



Son of Soothsayer

A NOVEL

SIMON A. SMITH

