

Simple SIMON

WILLIAM POE

"Simple Simon's message of reconciliation and hope is truly for anyone who has struggled to resolve the truth they know about themselves with the way others see them. The power of forgiveness and acceptance can resonate with all readers."

—MELISSA WUSKE, CLARION FOREWORD REVIEWS

"... Simon remains an extremely compelling character, and readers will find themselves invested in Simon's fate. He may be self-destructive, but he's always trying to adhere to a moral compass—although one that's been badly damaged by his life experiences. It's an engaging story throughout, and it's rarely obvious where Simon will wind up. A sweeping, unpredictable fictional autobiography."

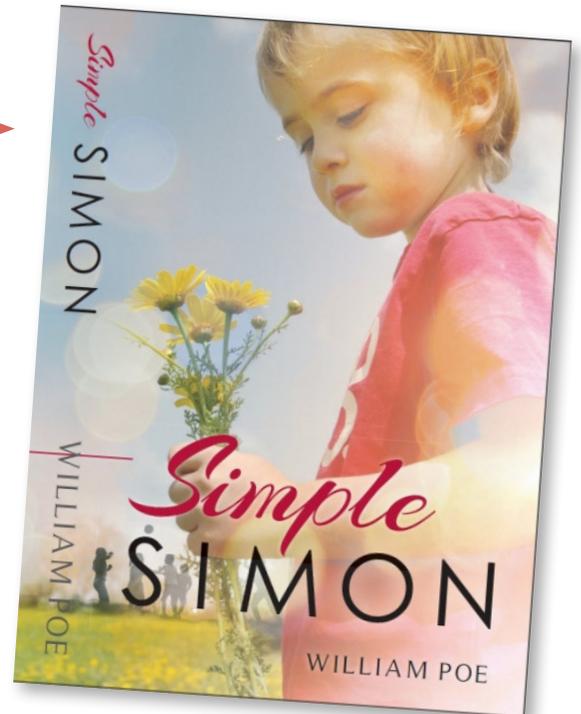
—KIRKUS REVIEWS

"... Poe's narrative moves quickly and smoothly, and fills in the blanks left in Simon Says. These first novels by Poe will leave his readership wondering—and waiting for—what he comes up with next."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Simon Says (978-0-615-55957-5), begins the story of Simon Powell, an artistic young man struggling with his sexual identity against conservative mores in the fictional hamlet of Sibley, Arkansas. As a young adult, Simon finds solace in Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. After leaving the group, despite finding success as a film distributor, Simon turns to drugs and alcohol while seeking love on the darker avenues of Hollywood, a lifestyle that ends with Simon entering rehab. *Simple Simon* takes readers on Simon's journey of self-discovery as his counselor encourages him to explore his past through writing. Simon's fate, both emotional and physical, remains in question. The story continues in the soon to be published, *Simon's Mansion*. Simon returns to school and pursues his dream of becoming an artist, but his past dealings with pornographers and Spanish mafia threaten the life of his lover.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: A writer and visual artist, **William Poe** earned his bachelor's from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock before earning his master's from the University of Nebraska. At 18, he joined the Reverend Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and remained there for most of the next decade. His novels, *Simon Says* and *Simple Simon*, draw upon his experiences growing up in Arkansas, his involvement in a controversial church and his struggle to overcome addiction while carving out an identity for himself as a gay man.



LGBT FICTION, HISTORICAL FICTION

462 pages

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AWARDS

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LGBT Category

2013 Foreword INDIES Book of the
Year Award Finalist: Gay & Lesbian
(Adult Fiction)