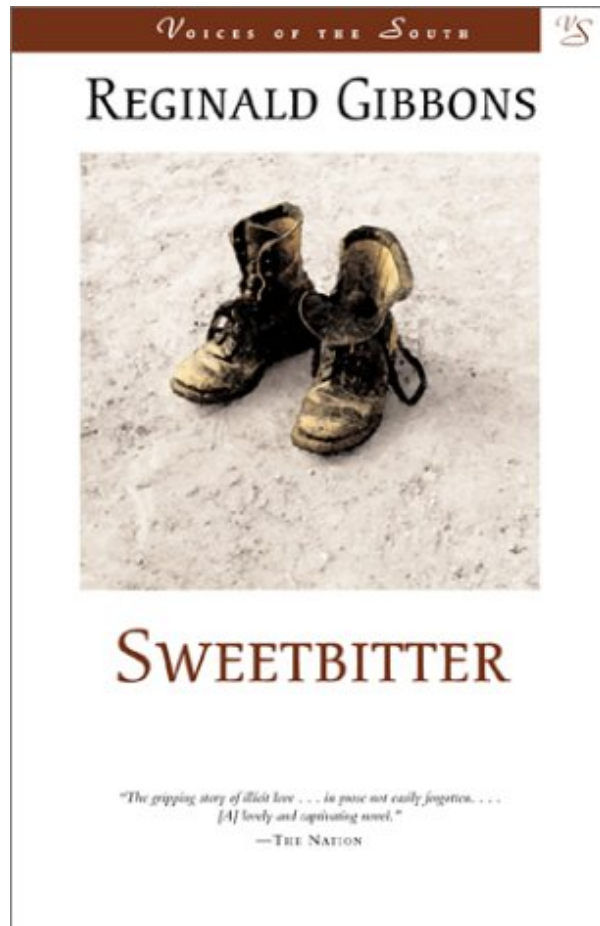


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SWEETBITTER

*"The gripping story of illicit love . . . is gone not easily forgotten. . . .
[A] lovely and captivating novel."*

—THE NATION

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Sweetbitter: A Novel (Voices Of The South) By Reginald Gibbons. Learning to have reading habit resembles discovering how to attempt for consuming something that you really don't desire. It will need even more times to help. Furthermore, it will certainly likewise little make to serve the food to your mouth and also ingest it. Well, as reviewing a publication Sweetbitter: A Novel (Voices Of The South) By Reginald Gibbons, in some cases, if you ought to review something for your brand-new works, you will feel so woozy of it. Also it is a publication like Sweetbitter: A Novel (Voices Of The South) By Reginald Gibbons; it will certainly make you really feel so bad.

From Publishers Weekly

Poet and editor Gibbons's first novel is the story of a half-Indian, half-white young man at the turn of the century whose affair with a white woman makes him the target of violent racists.

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From Library Journal

Gibbons's first novel takes place in east Texas in 1910 during the time of white rule-not by law but by lynch mob. Amid the suffocating racism and fear, half-Choctaw, half-white Reuben Sweetbitter and Martha Clarke, a white woman, fall in love. Forbidden to be seen together, they escape to the town of Harriet, where an influential friend of Martha helps them settle down and raise a family. Atypical of love stories, this realistic work maintains a historical perspective in lending the couple short-lived happiness. Martha's brother James comes for vengeance, and Reuben flees to the forest, which has always been his refuge from the white world. Reuben and Martha's love is strong, but, dishearteningly, racism is stronger. Timely in the subject of interracial love, this authentic, richly detailed novel plumbs sacrifice, fear, and the loss of one's identity, bringing the anguish of the two young lovers to life. Highly recommended.

Lisa Degliantoni, "Library Journal"

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Gibbons is a celebrated poet, the highly respected editor of TriQuarterly magazine, and a novelist of truly impressive scope, subtlety, and power. His first novel is not the sort of autobiographical coming-of-age tale we've come to expect from novice novelists in spite of the fact that it's set in his home state of Texas. Instead, this is a novel about the coming-of-age of America and the violent conflicts between races and cultures that mar our history. Gibbons' hero, Reuben, embodies the covert mingling of blood that fueled the hatred and paranoia of the South. Reuben, half Choctaw and half white, loses the only parent he knew when his Choctaw mother dies in 1896. He is taken in by a generous black woman who graces him with his full name, Reuben Saved Sweetbitter, and teaches him to read. Reuben grows up handsome, strong, independent, smart, and adept at navigating the treacherous currents that divide whites, blacks, and reds. But then he falls in love with Martha, the fair-skinned, wild-haired, willful, and sensual daughter of a prominent lawyer. Their forbidden passion is enough to get them killed in this land of virulent racism and the KKK. Clearly, this is an

adventure story and a romance, but in Gibbons' hands, it's that and much more. Reuben muses that there are "too many worlds," and Gibbons captures the rhythm of each, masterfully describing every nuance of attitude, from fear to compassion to cowardliness to courage. Exquisitely rendered and deeply felt, this is as astute and absorbing as fiction gets. Donna Seaman

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A gripping tale of illicit love between half-Choctaw, half-white Reuben Sweetbitter and Martha Clarke, a white woman, set in 1910 Texas. Voices of the South. Advertising.

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- Published on: 2003-02-01
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- Binding: Paperback
- 421 pages

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- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I liked it very much

By Susan M. Branting

I stumbled on this book by chance. I liked it very much. The dense writing gives a vivid portrait of the protagonist and the terrible trials he must endure. This is probably not a book for everyone; however, if you read to experience what it's like to be another person, a person who is radically different from yourself, you will find this book engrossing.

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Couldn't put it down. Beautiful love story.

By Dana Shull

This book is the story of Ruben S. (for Saved) Sweetbitter, a half Choctaw boy who meets and falls in love with Martha, the well-to-do daughter of a white lawyer in Three Rivers, Texas, at the turn of the century. Though they know their love is forbidden, Martha loves Ruben and sees him secretly until a young man, who works with Ruben at a sawmill, and who has designs on Martha himself, sees them together and reports back to Martha's family.

Martha's mother pleads with her daughter to denounce the Indian boy but Martha refuses, being too much in love to care about the consequences. Because of her refusal, Martha's father kicks her out of the house, causing her to run away with Ruben, thereby saving Ruben's life from a band of vigilantes. After traveling many miles on foot, the two finally find what they believe to be a safe haven.

This book moved me intensely. It is the best book I have read in probably five years and I read upwards of forty novels a year.

2 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

a long read!

By A Customer

I was intrigued by the cover description, and I did enjoy many things about this book. I liked the way Gibbons wrote different view points of different races, and how he realistically portrayed the running away of Reuben and Martha-it was not a sugar-coated adventure. Their love had it's ups and downs. However I did not like the ending because I personally like neat and tidy endings (even though those are unrealistic!), this ending was too abrupt, and nothing else was written about what happened to Martha and their children.

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