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# THE EULOGIST: A Novel

## By Terry Gamble

“Gamble’s writing is delicate... A sprawling yet richly drawn family saga.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Gamble has crafted an epic tale of antebellum America as seen through the eyes of immigrants. ... [An] excellent story.” —*Booklist*

“A standout depiction of family dynamics.” —*Publishers Weekly*

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An exquisitely crafted novel set in Ohio in the decades leading up to the Civil War and narrated by the unapologetically progressive Olivia Givens, **THE EULOGIST** by Terry Gamble is “an epic tale of antebellum America as seen through the eyes of immigrants.” (*Booklist*)

The story begins with the Givens family’s arrival in America from Ireland in 1819. Cheated out of their ancestral estate in Northern Ireland, the Givens siblings, alongside their parents, travel down the Ohio River in search of a place to rebuild. They settle in the burgeoning village of Cincinnati, the southernmost city in the free states, with slaveholding Kentucky just over the river.

In what *Publishers Weekly* calls “a standout depiction of family dynamics,” Olivia and her brothers are soon left to fend for themselves in an unfamiliar land alongside unfamiliar people. James, scholarly and with an entrepreneurial spirit, marries into a prosperous family and soon starts a successful business while Erasmus, with a fondness for both alcohol and attention, seeks God as a self-styled preacher. And then there’s Olivia, seemingly destined for spinsterhood until she enters into a surprising partnership and marriage with Silas Orpheus, a local doctor who spurns social mores and boldly encourages his new wife’s independence and curiosity.

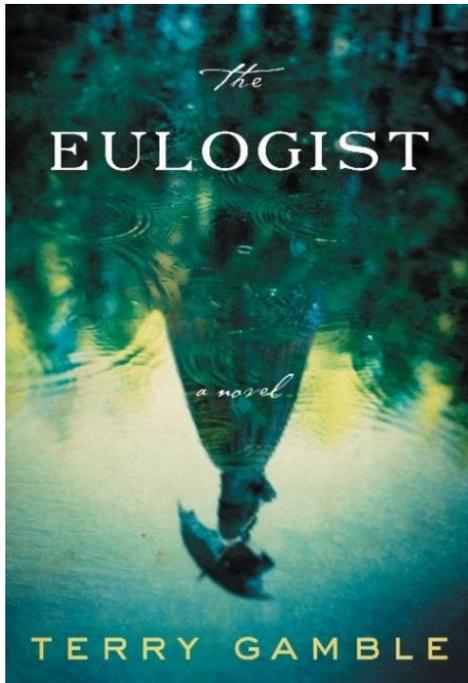
As the years pass, however, the political and cultural shifts occurring in the Givenses’ adopted home cannot be ignored: Jacksonian Populism is bubbling, religious evangelism is experiencing a resurgence, an industrial revolution is imminent, and most starkly, the injustice of slavery—and the struggle for emancipation—divides the nation.

### A Family Story, An Immigrant Story

Like the Givens family, Terry Gamble’s ancestors also emigrated from Ireland and settled in Cincinnati during a time of rapid industrial and technological change. When the Panic of 1837 hit, James Gamble teamed up with his brother-in-law, William Procter, and together they built the highly successful company we now know as Procter & Gamble. In researching *The Eulogist*, Terry Gamble hadn’t intended to write about race or religion, or the challenges of being a woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but “at some point, the research faded into the background, and story and character emerged,” she says.

In this “inventive, spirited, and captivating story” (Jessica Shattuck) set in a tumultuous era defined by social and ethical issues that remain relevant today, readers of **THE EULOGIST** soon see this family of immigrants—initially indifferent to the slavery that exists just over the river—actively work for its end, performing courageous, often dangerous, and occasionally foolhardy acts of moral rectitude that will reverberate through their lives, and the lives of those they help, for generations to come.

## Praise for THE EULOGIST by Terry Gamble



“With more twists and turns than the Ohio River, *The Eulogist* brings us to the source of our nation’s spirit, introducing us to **characters we won’t forget**, no matter whether we loathe them or love them, culminating on a **pitch-perfect** note: forgiveness.”

—Sally Cabot Gunning,  
author of *The Widow’s War* and *Monticello: A Daughter and Her Father*

“A **captivating** historical novel of family loyalties and conflict, and the borders between freedom and slavery, *The Eulogist* is a searing portrait of the Ohio Valley and its pre-Civil War turmoil with **beautifully drawn characters.**”

—Paulette Jiles,  
author of *Enemy Women* and *News of the World*

“In the Givens siblings, Terry Gamble has created a vivid and fierce-souled trio who navigate some of the strongest crosscurrents of American history.

**This is an inventive, spirited, and captivating story.**”

—Jessica Shattuck,  
*New York Times* bestselling author of *The Women in the Castle*

“This is **history at its liveliest pace, its most surprising turns, and its strangest twists** in the narrow borderlands between antebellum north and south. *The Eulogist* challenges us to engage with both the living and the dead, the loved and the betrayed, the captive and the free. I am convinced by every irreverent, astonishing thread in this tale.”

—Linda Spalding,  
award-winning author of *A Reckoning*

“This **gripping** historical novel follows an Irish-American immigrant family as they search for their place in the free border state of Ohio – and the momentous choices they must each make in the face of the insidious reach of slavery. **An essential read.**”

—Lalita Tademy,  
*New York Times* bestselling author of *Cane River*, *Red River*, and *Citizens Creek*



**Terry Gamble** was born in Pasadena, California. Her first two novels, *The Water Dancers* and *Good Family*, are based in Northern Michigan where she spent her childhood summers. *The Eulogist* is set in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the author’s ancestors landed when they emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1819. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan, Terry lives in Northern California with her artist husband and an ancient cat.

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