



HUCKLEBERRY & JAMES, A BLACK PENCIL DRIVEN INTO AMERICA'S WOUND

As Trump's America prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence in 2026 — at the cost of a sweeping whitewash of its history — Huckleberry Finn returns to the spotlight in a new light. Novelist Percival Everett seizes Mark Twain's foundational tale and "recenters" it: in *James*, he tells, in the first person, the story of Jim, the enslaved man who is Huck's companion. A masterpiece, crowned by the 2024 National Book Award and the 2025 Pulitzer Prize, *James* opens a window onto an America long obscured in Twain's work.

One hundred and sixty years after the abolition of slavery, this subversive tale asks: what if "Black" and "white," in the great maelstrom of ancestral mixing, no longer meant anything at all? What if it all came down to social labels? Retracing Huck and Jim—*James*'s 1,200-km journey down the Mississippi, Everett plunges us into America's shadow zones, cutting against the tide of history on the march.

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Direction

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