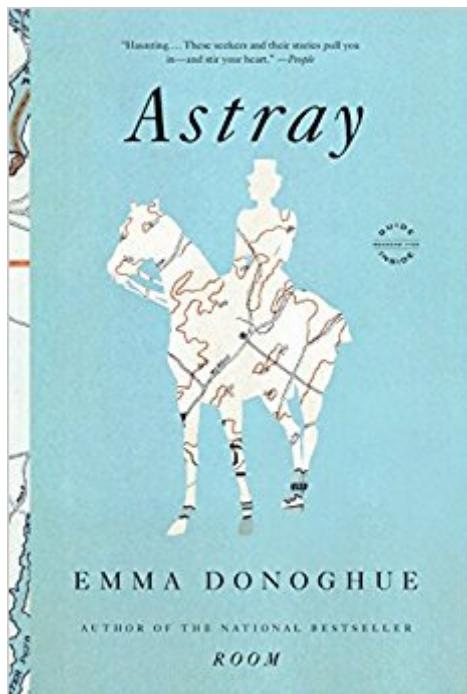


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# Astray



## Synopsis

A trainer coaxes his beloved elephant onto a ship carrying him to a life of fame. A mother searches for her baby girl, sent away on a train headed west. A teenage soldier wrestles with his conscience far from home. The fascinating characters who roam the pages of Emma Donoghue's stories have all gone astray. They are emigrants, runaways, drifters, gold miners and counterfeiters, attorneys and slaves. They cross countless borders. They travel for love or money, incognito or under duress.

The celebrated author of *Room* transports us from Puritan Massachusetts to Revolutionary-era New Jersey, from antebellum Louisiana to a highway in Toronto, lighting up four centuries of wanderings that have profound echoes in the present and offering us a moving meditation on restless times.

## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* Inspired by various newspaper articles and stories from the last four centuries, Booker Prize finalist Donoghueâ™s (*Room*, 2010) masterful new short story collection explores the ways peopleâ™s lives can take unexpected and unprepared-for turns. A fallen woman in Victorian England supports herself and her child by the only means available to her until her younger brother comes up with another option. As the Civil War rages on, a slave and his mistress plot a daring escape. A bitter Puritan seeks revenge upon two women who spurned him. A woman sails toward Canada to join her husband, not knowing heâ™s fallen gravely ill with cholera. A lawyer sets his sights on a wealthy young widow who seeks his help. A young woman makes a startling discovery about her politically powerful father after his death in New York City at the dawn of the twentieth century. Donoghue details the particular historical source that inspired her at the end of each story, and she discusses how each one fits in with her overall theme in the afterward. Revolutionary-era New Jersey, Civil Warâ™era Texas, the gold rush Yukon, and many other settings come to life in this wonderfully imaginative, transporting collection. --Kristine Huntley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Time and again, Emma Donoghue writes books that are unlike anything I have ever seen before, and *ASTRAY* is no exception. There is such a deep and compassionate imagination at work in every story in this collection that *ASTRAY* feels almost like an act of clairvoyance."â•-Ann Patchett, author of *State of Wonder*"Emma Donoghue is one of the great literary ventriloquists of our time. Her imagination is kaleidoscopic. She steps borders and boundaries with great ease and style. In her hands the centuries dissolve, and then they crystallize back again into powerful words on the

page."•Colum McCann, author of Let the Great World Spin

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