

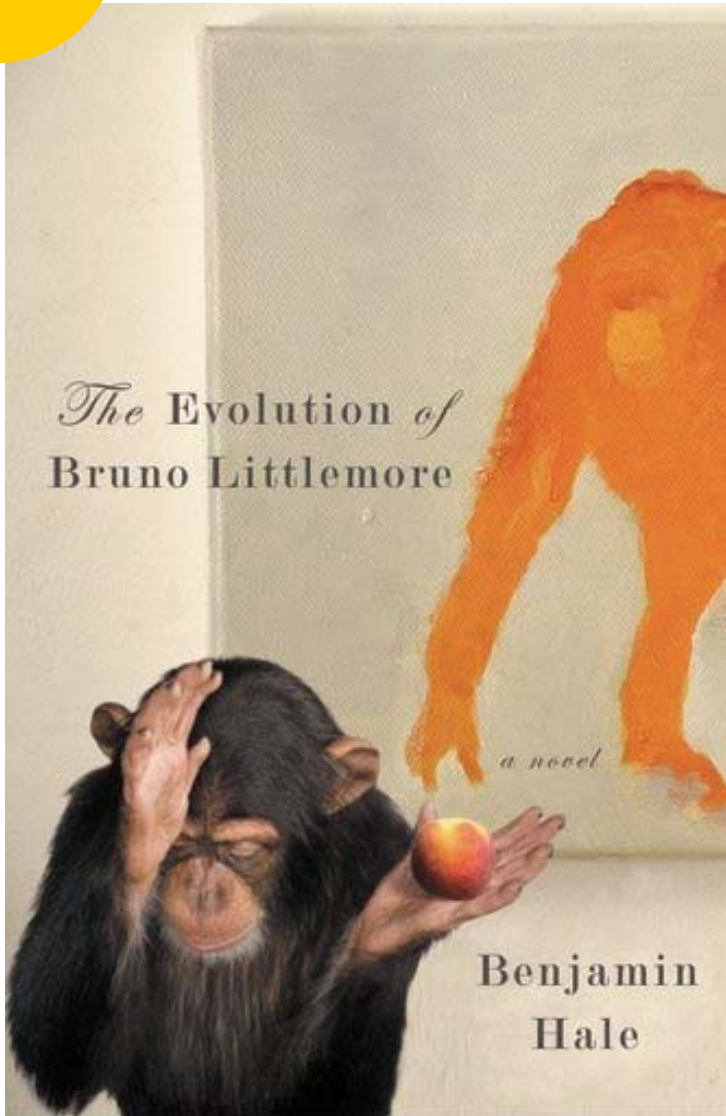
"One of the Most Anticipated Novels of the Year"\*

For Fans of *Water for Elephants* and *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*

# THE EVOLUTION OF BRUNO LITTLEMORE

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## THE EVOLUTION OF BRUNO LITTLEMORE Benjamin Hale

"Benjamin Hale is a writer of rare and exciting talent. We'll be reading his books for years. Dive in."  
—Anthony Swofford, author of *Jarhead*

"An enormous, glorious rattlebag of a book. Benjamin Hale's extremely loud debut has echoes of the acerbic musings of Humbert Humbert and the high-pitched shrieking of Oskar Matzerath. Hale's narrator, Bruno Littlemore, is a bouncing, pleading, longing, lost, loony, bleeding, pleading, laughing, beseeching wonder."  
— Edward Carey, author of *Observatory Mansions* and *Alva & Irva*

Bruno Littlemore is quite unlike any chimpanzee in the world. Precocious, self-conscious and preternaturally gifted, young Bruno, born and raised in a habitat at the local zoo, falls under the care of a university primatologist named Lydia Littlemore. Learning of Bruno's ability to speak, Lydia takes Bruno into her home to oversee his education and nurture his passion for painting. But for all of his gifts, the chimpanzee has a rough time caging his more primal urges. His untimely outbursts ultimately cost Lydia her job, and send the unlikely pair on the road in what proves to be one of the most unforgettable journeys—and most affecting love stories—in recent literature.

Like its protagonist, this novel is big, loud, abrasive, witty, perverse, earnest and amazingly accomplished. THE EVOLUTION OF BRUNO LITTLEMORE goes beyond satire by showing us not what it means, but what it feels like to be human—to love and lose, learn, aspire, grasp, and, in the end, to fail.

**BENJAMIN HALE** is a 26-year-old graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop, where he received a Provost's Fellowship to complete his novel, which also went on to win a Michener-Copernicus Award. He has been a night shift baker, a trompe l'oeil painter, a cartoonist, an illustrator and a technical writer. He grew up in Colorado and now lives in New York.

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