

Reporter Clarence Thomas Jr. is looking for a great story, former country music teen star Faith Spack has parlayed her fame into a job at the White House, and the two-term incumbent president is campaigning for a constitutionally dubious third term.

After an outbreak at a campaign rally, a mysterious new pandemic of “weeping sickness” sweeps the nation, threatening the president’s hold on the Oval Office. Desperate to retain power, he enlists the mystical pro wrestler Rasputin to help ensure his reelection and guarantee additional seasons of his presidential reality TV show, *The Real West Wing*.

But as Rasputin’s appeal threatens to exceed the president’s, and the wrestler’s supposedly supernatural powers start to seem like the real thing, the campaign finds itself trapped in a spandex-clad destiny no number of executive orders can control, one in which both Clarence and Faith are compelled to play increasingly large parts.

Hilarious, propulsive, and tragically relevant, *Rasputin Swims the Potomac* is both an escape and a warning, a scathing satire that explores the twists and turns of American democracy as it hurtles toward authoritarianism.

**Ben Fountain** has received the Joyce Carol Oates Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Fiction, the Barnes & Noble Discover Award for Fiction, and a Whiting Award, and has been a finalist for the National Book Award and runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. A former practicing attorney in Texas, he now lives in eastern North Carolina.

**Read by Ron Butler**



Runtime: 12h. 55m. • Unabridged

© 2026 Ben Fountain © 2026 by Macmillan Audio, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. Jacket design by Phil Pascuzzo. Jacket art: Washington Crossing the Delaware © SJArt / Alamy; waves © Ani\_Ka / Getty Images. [www.macmillanaudio.com](http://www.macmillanaudio.com)

**playaway**  
PRODUCTS

© 2026 Playaway. Patented.  
All rights reserved.  
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA  
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.  
[www.playaway.com](http://www.playaway.com)

The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.

47672  
ISBN 978-1-250-49173-2



9 781250 491732



AUDIO

RASPUTIN SWIMS  
THE POTOMAC

BEN FOUNTAIN

Adult



PLAYAWAY  
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK

