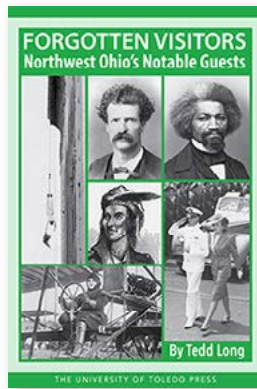


**Long, Tedd. *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio's Notable Guests.***

Toledo, OH: University of Toledo Press, 2020.

Like listening to someone unknowingly speaking into a live microphone, Tedd Long's stories in *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio's Notable Guests* are interesting for what they reveal about the true character of their subjects, especially those who have been distorted by historians or mythologized in the popular press.



For instance, readers learn about a twenty-eight-year-old Lieutenant Robert E. Lee (of Civil War fame) who was sent to survey the disputed Michigan/Ohio border line in 1835. Lee sarcastically reported to the governor of the Michigan Territory that he had killed the lighthouse keeper on Canada's Point Pelee Island in Lake Erie, but apologized only for stealing some glass lampshades from the neglected lighthouse.

Readers also learn that Mark Twain turned down an invitation to write for the *Toledo Blade* in 1869 because he was jealous of its owner, David Ross Locke, who was a rival humorist writing under the pen name Petroleum V. Nasby. Harry Houdini was terrified by his own magic tricks. And Frederick Douglass, while speaking in Toledo, revealed his distrust of Abraham Lincoln for being "soft" on the South.

Local history may be Long's passion, but storytelling is his true calling. The author admits that he is bored by recitations of historical facts. As such, Long chose the characters in this book not for their historical importance (although all are famous), but for the drama, intrigue, humor, or improbability of a single event that took place in their lives while visiting Northwest Ohio. He confirms he was scrupulous about checking the sources of his stories that were mostly gleaned from old newspapers—fake news not being a recent phenomena—and the book is also indexed, including a bibliography at the end of each chapter. Long reports the backstories of these notable visitors to Northwest Ohio with the enthusiasm and urgency of a newsboy street hawker, quoting William Faulkner who wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Nothing links the subjects of Long's stories together, which are as diverse as Sojourner Truth and Jumbo the Elephant. He writes about twenty-three forgotten visitors over a period of 210 years, beginning with the famous explorers Zebulon Pike and William Clark who were here with General Anthony Wayne in 1794. The book ends with Neil Young's unannounced appearance at a Pearl Jam rock concert at the Toledo Sports Arena on October 2, 2004. Any reader will certainly find someone of interest to them in this collection.

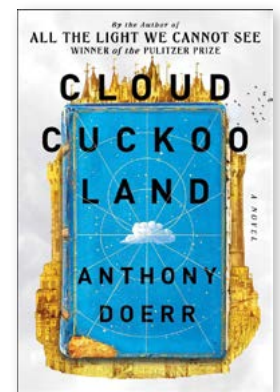
REVIEWED BY CARROLL MCCUNE, FREELANCE WRITER, HASKINS, OH

**FICTION**

**Doerr, Anthony. *Cloud Cuckoo Land.***

New York, NY: Scribner, 2021.

Anthony Doerr's previous novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, built a World War II plot that won him both fans and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. His new novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, blazes a new trail, spanning three time periods and introducing five disconnected protagonists whose disparate threads eventually—and brilliantly—weave together.



We first meet Anna, a young orphan living in Constantinople around the 1450s. Anna and her sister, Maria, have been taken in by nuns and taught the fine art of embroidery. Unfortunately, Anna is not as skilled as her sister and longs for the world beyond the city walls. But overhearing an ancient Greek poem recited aloud, and then meeting the scholar, Licinius, opens up a world of learning and books that promises Anna a path to more.

Not far away, in the same time period, we meet Omeir in the mountains of Bulgaria. The young Ottoman boy is born with a cleft lip, which means certain abandonment by his family. However, his grandfather cannot bear to sacrifice him, so the family leaves their small village to settle in the foothills of the Rhodope Mountains. Omeir and Anna's paths collide after the fall of Constantinople, when they escape the city to start anew.