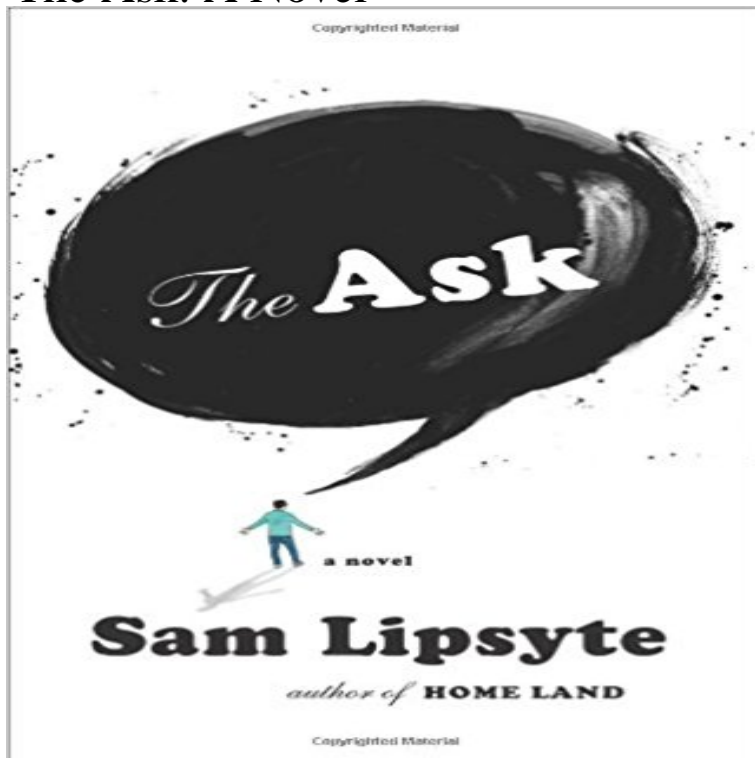


## The Ask: A Novel



Milo Burke, a development officer at a third-tier university, has not been developing: after a run-in with a well-connected undergrad, he finds himself among the burgeoning class of the newly unemployed. Grasping after odd jobs to support his wife and child, Milo is offered one last chance by his former employer: he must reel in a potential donor? a major ask? who, mysteriously, has requested Milos involvement. But it turns out that the ask is Milos sinister college classmate Purdy Stuart. And the give wont come cheap. Probing many themes? or, perhaps, anxieties? including work, war, sex, class, child rearing, romantic comedies, Benjamin Franklin, cooking shows on death row, and the eroticization of chicken wire, *The Ask* is a burst of genius by a young American master who has already demonstrated that the truly provocative and important fictions are often the funniest ones.

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