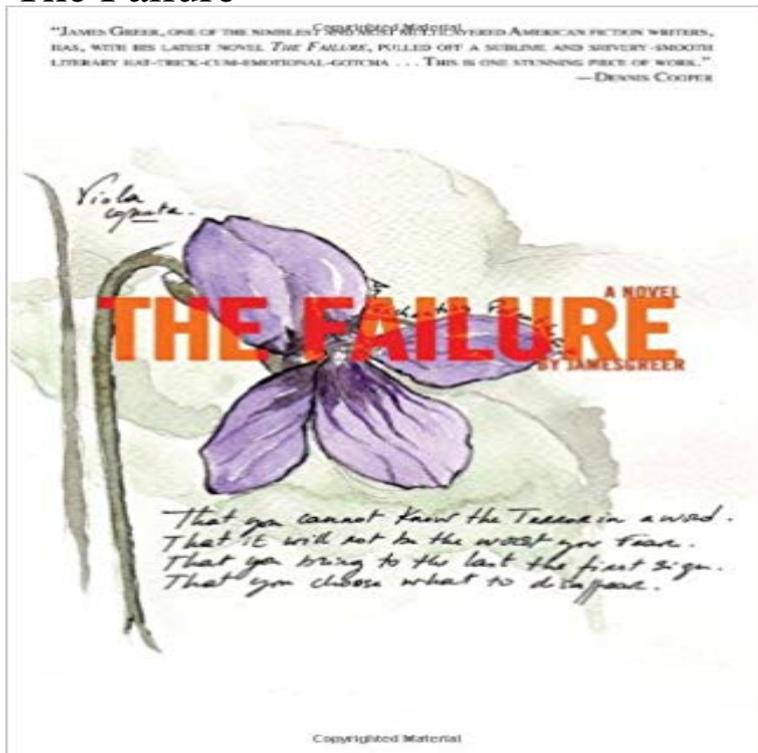


# The Failure



The Failure is a picaresque novel set in Los Angeles about two guys who conceive and badly execute a plan to rob a Korean check-cashing store in order to finance the prototype for an impossibly ridiculous Internet application. James Greer, one of the nimblest and most multilayered American fiction writers, has, with his latest novel *The Failure*, pulled off a sublime and shivery-smooth literary hat-trick-cum-emotional-gotcha. I defy anyone to come up with an equation to explain how this book's first impression as a ridiculously clever, funny crime story can gradually disclose a metanovel built from far more encyclopedic scratch only to reveal upon its conclusion a central, overriding thought so heartfelt literally it trembles your lower lip. This is one stunning piece of work. --Dennis Cooper, author of *Ugly Man* James Greer's *The Failure* is such an unqualified success, both in conception and execution, that I have grave doubts he actually wrote it. --Steven Soderbergh James Greer is the author of the novel *Artificial Light* (Akashic Books), which won a California Book Award for Best Debut Novel, and the nonfiction book *Guided By Voices: A Brief History* (Grove Press), a biography of the band for which he once played bass guitar. He is currently working with director Steven Soderbergh on a rock musical about Cleopatra starring Catherine Zeta-Jones. He lives in Los Angeles.

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