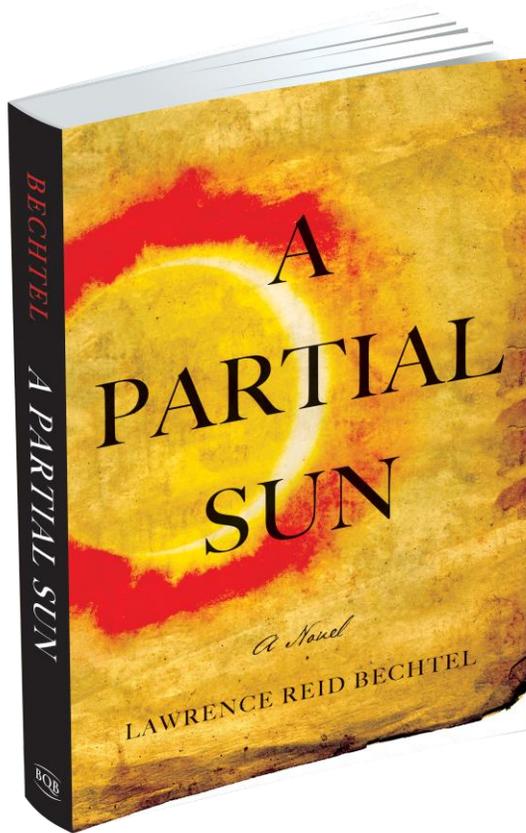


A Partial Sun, An Historical Novel Based on a True Story

Written by Lawrence Reid Bechtel



Struggling between loyalty to his master, Thomas Jefferson, and the lure of risky freedom held out by African-American mentors, a Monticello slave struggles to find himself in 1790's Philadelphia, the "Athens of America."

About the Book

In *A Partial Sun*, his debut novel, author Lawrence Reid Bechtel has captured the story of Isaac Granger as told through the eyes of amateur historian Reverend Charles Campbell.

In 1852, after much searching through the Black districts of Petersburg, Virginia, the amateur historian Charles Campbell finally located Isaac Granger, a former slave of the late Thomas Jefferson. Though disinterested at first in sharing his memories, Isaac was at last persuaded by the persistent Reverend to tell the full story of his time in Philadelphia as a young man in the early 1790s.

It was supposed to have been a simple story: he would apprentice with a Quaker tinsmith and then return to Monticello produce tin ware for sale in such abundance that "Old Master" might pay down his plantation's crippling debts. But Isaac was impressionable, and more thoughtful than Mr. Jefferson knew.

About the Author

Sculptor and author Lawrence Reid Bechtel began his journey toward the writing of *A Partial Sun* with two bronze portrait sculptures: the first of Thomas Jefferson and the second of Isaac Granger, who had grown up as a slave at Monticello, Jefferson's plantation. During the course of this work, and the extensive research it involved, Bechtel read about Isaac's brief account of his time in Philadelphia as a tinsmith's apprentice, and felt compelled to write an historical novel built from that account.

A former English teacher at Virginia Tech, book reviewer for The Roanoke Times, and creator of three CD's worth of short stories, Bechtel is presently working on the sequel novels for this series.

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