

I Am Not Sidney Poitier

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Life Beyond Measure - Sidney Poitier

2009-10-13

The bestselling author and American icon offers lessons from his own remarkable life in the form of letters to his great-granddaughter The author of *The Measure of a Man* and one of the most revered actors in the history of Hollywood offers a book that features inspirational advice and personal stories from his extraordinary life. Written in the form of extended letters to his new great-granddaughter, Sidney Poitier offers perspective and wisdom gained from his memories of being a boy in the Bahamas; breaking the race barrier in theater and film during the Civil Rights Era; achieving stardom and success in Hollywood; and as a diplomat and humanitarian. In his role as father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Poitier shares his experience of the most important passages in life.

[The Water Cure](#) - 1902

The Measure of a Man - Sidney Poitier

2007-01-26

"I have no wish to play the pontificating fool, pretending that I've suddenly come up with the answers to all life's questions. Quite that contrary, I began this book as an exploration, an exercise in self-questing. In other words, I wanted to find out, as I looked back at a long and complicated life, with many twists and turns, how well I've done at measuring up to the values I myself have set." —Sidney Poitier In this luminous memoir, a true American icon looks back on his celebrated life and career. His body of work is arguably the most morally significant

in cinematic history, and the power and influence of that work are indicative of the character of the man behind the many storied roles. Sidney Poitier here explores these elements of character and personal values to take his own measure—as a man, as a husband and a father, and as an actor. Poitier credits his parents and his childhood on tiny Cat Island in the Bahamas for equipping him with the unflinching sense of right and wrong and of self-worth that he has never surrendered and that have dramatically shaped his world. "In the kind of place where I grew up," recalls Poitier, "what's coming at you is the sound of the sea and the smell of the wind and momma's voice and the voice of your dad and the craziness of your brothers and sisters...and that's it." Without television, radio, and material distractions to obscure what matters most, he could enjoy the simple things, endure the long commitments, and find true meaning in his life. Poitier was uncompromising as he pursued a personal and public life that would honor his upbringing and the invaluable legacy of his parents. Just a few years after his introduction to indoor plumbing and the automobile, Poitier broke racial barrier after racial barrier to launch a pioneering acting career. Committed to the notion that what one does for a living articulates to who one is, Poitier played only forceful and affecting characters who said something positive, useful, and lasting about the human condition. Here is Poitier's own introspective look at what has informed his performances and his life. Poitier explores the nature of sacrifice and commitment, pride and humility, rage and forgiveness, and paying the

price for artistic integrity. What emerges is a picture of a man in the face of limits—his own and the world's. A triumph of the spirit, *The Measure of a Man* captures the essential Poitier.

The Looking House - Fred Marchant

2009-05-26

"To my mind, what distinguishes Marchant's work is his willingness to take a hard look at human suffering while maintaining his unflinching, delicate tone." —The Journal house that floats on a muddy river in spring-time flood, house like a human head on the surface, house with a boy's face, turned up. —from "House on Water, House in Air" In *The Looking House*—Fred Marchant's new collection of poems—the poet lays out a map of human suffering, from wars within the psyche to wars that rage across the contemporary landscape. These intense, innovative lyrics stir and disturb, remaining aware of the way history bears down upon us and makes us responsible for the consequences of our choices. Marchant maps the shelters, the "precarious places" that give us refuge and "teach us everything." Such a place might be an open window at midnight in childhood, or the broken sill of a deserted hut on the coast of Donegal. In these poems a "looking house" can just as easily be a locked ward, a barracks, a movie theater at midday, or that room in Rome where Keats lay dying. These poems may show us a broken world, but they also offer glimpses of survival and renewal, of trust and reconnection.

I Am Not Sidney Poitier - PERCIVAL. EVERETT

2020-03-12

The sudden death of *Not Sidney Poitier*'s mother orphans him at age eleven. He is left with a name no one understands, an uncanny resemblance to an Oscar winning actor, and serious amount of shares in the Turner Corporation. Percival Everett's novel follows *Not Sidney*'s tumultuous life, as the social hierarchy scrambles to balance his skin colour with his fabulous wealth. Maturing under the less-than watchful eye of his adopted foster father, Ted Turner, *Not Sidney* learns to navigate a world that doesn't know what to do with him.

Native American Fiction - David Treuer

2013-05-21

An entirely new approach to reading, understanding, and enjoying Native American

fiction This book has been written with the narrow conviction that if Native American literature is worth thinking about at all, it is worth thinking about as literature. The vast majority of thought that has been poured out onto Native American literature has puddled, for the most part, on how the texts are positioned in relation to history or culture. Rather than create a comprehensive cultural and historical genealogy for Native American literature, David Treuer investigates a selection of the most important Native American novels and, with a novelist's eye and a critic's mind, examines the intricate process of understanding literature on its own terms. *Native American Fiction: A User's Manual* is speculative, witty, engaging, and written for the inquisitive reader. These essays—on Sherman Alexie, Forrest Carter, James Fenimore Cooper, Louise Erdrich, Leslie Marmon Silko, and James Welch—are rallying cries for the need to read literature as literature and, ultimately, reassert the importance and primacy of the word.

I Am Not Sidney Poitier - Percival Everett

2011-08-02

I Am Not Sidney Poitier is an irresistible comic novel from the master storyteller Percival Everett, and an irreverent take on race, class, and identity in America I was, in life, to be a gambler, a risk-taker, a swashbuckler, a knight. I accepted, then and there, my place in the world. I was a fighter of windmills. I was a chaser of whales. I was *Not Sidney Poitier*. *Not Sidney Poitier* is an amiable young man in an absurd country. The sudden death of his mother orphans him at age eleven, leaving him with an unfortunate name, an uncanny resemblance to the famous actor, and, perhaps more fortunate, a staggering number of shares in the Turner Broadcasting Corporation. Percival Everett's hilarious new novel follows *Not Sidney*'s tumultuous life, as the social hierarchy scrambles to balance his skin color with his fabulous wealth. Maturing under the less-than watchful eye of his adopted foster father, Ted Turner, *Not* gets arrested in rural Georgia for driving while black, sparks a dinnertable explosion at the home of his manipulative girlfriend, and sleuths a murder case in Smut Eye, Alabama, all while navigating the recurrent communication problem: "What's your name?" a

kid would ask. "Not Sidney," I would say. "Okay, then what is it?"

The Art of Daring - Carl Phillips 2014-08-05

The award-winning poet Carl Phillips's invaluable essays on poetry, the tenth volume in the celebrated Art of series of books on the craft of writing. In seven insightful essays, Carl Phillips meditates on the craft of poetry, its capacity for making a space for possibility and inquiry. What does it mean to give shapelessness a form? How can a poem explore both the natural world and the inner world? Phillips demonstrates the restless qualities of the imagination by reading and examining poems by Ashbery, Bogan, Frost, Niedecker, Shakespeare, and others, and by considering other art forms, such as photography and the blues. *The Art of Daring* is a lyrical, persuasive argument for the many ways that writing and living are acts of risk. "I think it's largely the conundrum of being human that makes us keep making," Phillips writes. "I think it has something to do with revision—how, not only is the world in constant revision, but each of us is, as well."

Glyph - Percival Everett 2014-02-18

In paperback for the first time, the much-beloved satirical novel *The New York Times* praised as "both a treatise and a romp" *Baby Ralph* has ways to pass the time in his crib—but they don't include staring at a mobile. Aided by his mother, he reads voraciously: "All of Swift, all of Sterne, *Invisible Man*, Baldwin, Joyce, Balzac, Auden, Roethke," along with a generous helping of philosophy, semiotics, and trashy thrillers. He's also fond of writing poems and stories (in crayon). But Ralph has limits. He's mute by choice and can't drive, so in his own estimation he's not a genius. Unfortunately for him, everyone else disagrees. His psychiatrist kidnaps him for testing, and once his brilliance is quantified (IQ: 475), a Pentagon officer also abducts him. Diabolically funny and lacerating in its critique of poststructuralism, *Glyph* has the feverish plot of a thriller and the philosophical depth of a text by Roland Barthes. If anyone can map the wilds of literary theory, it's Ralph, one of Percival Everett's most enduring creations.

Bunk - Kevin Young 2017-11-14

Longlisted for the National Book Award for Nonfiction "There Kevin Young goes again, giving us books we greatly need, cleverly

disguised as books we merely want.

Unexpectedly essential."—Marlon James Award-winning poet and critic Kevin Young tours us through a rogue's gallery of hoaxers, plagiarists, forgers, and fakers—from the humbug of P. T. Barnum and Edgar Allan Poe to the unrepentant bunk of JT LeRoy and Donald J. Trump. *Bunk* traces the history of the hoax as a peculiarly American phenomenon, examining what motivates hucksters and makes the rest of us so gullible. Disturbingly, Young finds that fakery is woven from stereotype and suspicion, race being the most insidious American hoax of all. He chronicles how Barnum came to fame by displaying figures like Joice Heth, a black woman whom he pretended was the 161-year-old nursemaid to George Washington, and *What Is It?*, an African American man Barnum professed was a newly discovered missing link in evolution. *Bunk* then turns to the hoaxing of history and the ways that forgers, plagiarists, and journalistic fakers invent backstories and falsehoods to sell us lies about themselves and about the world in our own time, from pretend Native Americans Grey Owl and Nasdijj to the deadly imposture of Clark Rockefeller, from the made-up memoirs of James Frey to the identity theft of Rachel Dolezal. In this brilliant and timely work, Young asks what it means to live in a post-factual world of "truthiness" where everything is up for interpretation and everyone is subject to a pervasive cynicism that damages our ideas of reality, fact, and art.

Re: F (gesture) - Percival Everett 2006

Everett achieves a primal sense of dislocation, forcing us to question how we determine the limits of the human. --Sven Birkets, *The New York Times*.

I Am Not Sidney Poitier - Percival Everett 2010-10-19

The novel follows the life of a young man named Not Sidney Poitier, after he was orphaned at age eleven and inherited a staggering number of shares in the Turner Broadcasting Corporation.

The Trees - Percival Everett 2021-09-21

Shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize Winner of the 2022 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award Finalist for the 2022 PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Longlisted for the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction An uncanny literary thriller addressing the painful legacy of lynching in the US, by the author of

Telephone Percival Everett's *The Trees* is a page-turner that opens with a series of brutal murders in the rural town of Money, Mississippi. When a pair of detectives from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation arrive, they meet expected resistance from the local sheriff, his deputy, the coroner, and a string of racist White townfolk. The murders present a puzzle, for at each crime scene there is a second dead body: that of a man who resembles Emmett Till. The detectives suspect that these are killings of retribution, but soon discover that eerily similar murders are taking place all over the country. Something truly strange is afoot. As the bodies pile up, the MBI detectives seek answers from a local root doctor who has been documenting every lynching in the country for years, uncovering a history that refuses to be buried. In this bold, provocative book, Everett takes direct aim at racism and police violence, and does so in a fast-paced style that ensures the reader can't look away. *The Trees* is an enormously powerful novel of lasting importance from an author with his finger on America's pulse.

Assumption - Percival Everett 2011-10-25

A baffling triptych of murder mysteries by the author of *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* Ogden Walker, deputy sheriff of a small New Mexico town, is on the trail of an old woman's murderer. But at the crime scene, his are the only footprints leading up to and away from her door. Something is amiss, and even his mother knows it. As other cases pile up, Ogden gives chase, pursuing flimsy leads for even flimsier reasons. His hunt leads him from the seamier side of Denver to a hippie commune as he seeks the puzzling solution. In *Assumption*, his follow-up to the wickedly funny *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*, Percival Everett is in top form as he once again upends our expectations about characters, plot, race, and meaning. A wild ride to the heart of a baffling mystery, *Assumption* is a literary thriller like no other.

A History of the African-American People (Proposed) by Strom Thurmond - 2013-12-20

"A truly funny sendup of the corrupt politics of academe, the publishing industry and politics, as well as a subtle but biting critique of racial ideology." —Publishers Weekly This "hilarious high-concept satire" (Publishers Weekly), by the PEN/Faulkner finalist and acclaimed author of

Telephone and *Erasure*, is a fictitious and satirical chronicle of South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond's desire to pen a history of African-Americans—his and his aides' belief being that he has done as much, or more, than any American to shape that history. An epistolary novel, *The History* follows the letters of loose cannon Congressional office workers, insane interns at a large New York publishing house and disturbed publishing executives, along with homicidal rival editors, kindly family friends, and an aspiring author named Septic. Strom Thurmond appears charming and open, mad and sure of his place in American history. "Outrageously funny . . . it could become a cult classic." —Library Journal "I think Percival Everett is a genius. I've been a fan since his first novel . . . He's a brilliant writer and so damn smart I envy him." —Terry McMillan, New York Times bestselling author of *It's Not All Downhill from Here* "God bless Percival Everett, whose dozens of idiosyncratic books demonstrate a majestic indifference to literary trends, the market or his critics."?The Wall Street Journal **Song of the Shank** - Jeffery Renard Allen 2014-06-17

A contemporary American masterpiece about music, race, an unforgettable man, and an unreal America during the Civil War era At the heart of this remarkable novel is Thomas Greene Wiggins, a nineteenth-century slave and improbable musical genius who performed under the name Blind Tom. *Song of the Shank* opens in 1866 as Tom and his guardian, Eliza Bethune, struggle to adjust to their fashionable apartment in the city in the aftermath of riots that had driven them away a few years before. But soon a stranger arrives from the mysterious island of Edgemere—inhabited solely by African settlers and black refugees from the war and riots—who intends to reunite Tom with his now-liberated mother. As the novel ranges from Tom's boyhood to the heights of his performing career, the inscrutable savant is buffeted by opportunistic teachers and crooked managers, crackpot healers and militant prophets. In his symphonic novel, Jeffery Renard Allen blends history and fantastical invention to bring to life a radical cipher, a man who profoundly changes all who encounter him.

Erasure - Percival Everett 2011-10-25

Percival Everett's *Erasure* is a blistering satire about race and writing Thelonious "Monk" Ellison's writing career has bottomed out: his latest manuscript has been rejected by seventeen publishers, which stings all the more because his previous novels have been "critically acclaimed." He seethes on the sidelines of the literary establishment as he watches the meteoric success of *We's Lives in Da Ghetto*, a first novel by a woman who once visited "some relatives in Harlem for a couple of days." Meanwhile, Monk struggles with real family tragedies—his aged mother is fast succumbing to Alzheimer's, and he still grapples with the reverberations of his father's suicide seven years before. In his rage and despair, Monk dashes off a novel meant to be an indictment of Juanita Mae Jenkins's bestseller. He doesn't intend for *My Pafology* to be published, let alone taken seriously, but it is—under the pseudonym Stagg R. Leigh—and soon it becomes the Next Big Thing. How Monk deals with the personal and professional fallout galvanizes this audacious, hysterical, and quietly devastating novel.

The Complete History of New Mexico - Kevin McIlvoy 2005

An innovative collection of short stories blends state history with personal history--all complementing a novella which is told through the eyes of a boy writing a research paper entitled "The Complete History of New Mexico." Original.

Damned If I Do - Percival Everett 2014-02-18

Damned If I Do is an exceptional new collection of short stories by Percival Everett, author of the highly praised and wickedly funny novel *Erasure*. People are just naturally hopeful, a term my grandfather used to tell me was more than occasionally interchangeable with stupid. A cop, a cowboy, several fly fishermen, and a reluctant romance novelist inhabit these revealing and often hilarious stories. An old man ends up in a high-speed car chase with the cops after stealing the car that blocks the garbage bin at his apartment building. A stranger gets a job at a sandwich shop and fixes everything in sight: a manual mustard dispenser, a mouthful of crooked teeth, thirty-two parking tickets, and a sexual-identity problem. Percival Everett is a master storyteller who ingeniously addresses issues of race and prejudice by simultaneously

satirizing and celebrating the human condition.

Sidney Poitier - Aram Goudsouzian 2004

The life and career of Sidney Poitier are analyzed in this biography of the actor, highlighting his work as the only black leading man during the civil rights era and the honors he has received for his work for racial equality in Hollywood.

Wounded - Percival Everett 2011-09-13

Time Out Chicago, Top 10 Book of 2005 Winner of the 2006 PEN USA Literary Award for Fiction. Training horses is dangerous—a head-to-head confrontation with 1,000 pounds of muscle and little sense takes courage, but more important, patience and smarts. It is these same qualities that allow John and his uncle Gus to live in the beautiful high desert of Wyoming. A black horse trainer is a curiosity, at the very least, but a familiar curiosity in these parts. It is the brutal murder of a young gay man, however, that pushes this small community to the teetering edge of intolerance. Highly praised for his storytelling and ability to address the toughest issues of our time with humor, grace, and originality, *Wounded* by Percival Everett offers a brilliant novel that explores the alarming consequences of hatred in a divided America.

Percival Everett by Virgil Russell - Percival Everett 2013-02-05

"Anything we take for granted, Mr. Everett means to show us, may turn out to be a lie." —Wall Street Journal * Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize * Finalist for the PEN / Faulkner Award for Fiction * A story inside a story inside a story. A man visits his aging father in a nursing home, where his father writes the novel he imagines his son would write. Or is it the novel that the son imagines his father would imagine, if he were to imagine the kind of novel the son would write? Let's simplify: a woman seeks an apprenticeship with a painter, claiming to be his long-lost daughter. A contractor-for-hire named Murphy can't distinguish between the two brothers who employ him. And in Murphy's troubled dreams, Nat Turner imagines the life of William Styron. These narratives twist together with anecdotes from the nursing home, each building on the other until they crest in a wild, outlandish excursion of the inmates led by the father. Anchoring these shifting plotlines is a running commentary between father and son

that sheds doubt on the truthfulness of each story. Because, after all, what narrator can we ever trust? Not only is Percival Everett by Virgil Russell a powerful, compassionate meditation on old age and its humiliations, it is an ingenious culmination of Everett's recurring preoccupations. All of his prior work, his metaphysical and philosophical inquiries, his investigations into the nature of narrative, have led to this masterful book. Percival Everett has never been more cunning, more brilliant and subversive, than he is in this, his most important and elusive novel to date.

Telephone - Percival Everett 2020-05-05

An astonishing new novel of loss and grief from "one of our culture's preeminent novelists" (Los Angeles Times) Zach Wells is a perpetually dissatisfied geologist-slash-paleobiologist. Expert in a very narrow area—the geological history of a cave forty-four meters above the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon—he is a laconic man who plays chess with his daughter, trades puns with his wife while she does yoga, and dodges committee work at the college where he teaches. After a field trip to the desert yields nothing more than a colleague with a tenure problem and a student with an unwelcome crush on him, Wells returns home to find his world crumbling. His daughter has lost her edge at chess, she has developed mysterious eye problems, and her memory has lost its grasp. Powerless in the face of his daughter's slow deterioration, he finds a mysterious note asking for help tucked into the pocket of a jacket he's ordered off eBay. Desperate for someone to save, he sets off to New Mexico in secret on a quixotic rescue mission. A deeply affecting story about the lengths to which loss and grief will drive us, *Telephone* is a Percival Everett novel we should have seen coming all along, one that will shake you to the core as it asks questions about the power of narrative to save.

To Sir, With Love - E. R. Braithwaite
2014-01-14

This schoolroom drama that inspired the classic Sidney Poitier film is "a microcosm of the racial issues . . . A dramatic picture of discrimination" (Kirkus Reviews). With opportunities for black men limited in post-World War II London, Rick Braithwaite, a former Royal Air Force pilot and Cambridge-educated engineer, accepts a

teaching position that puts him in charge of a class of angry, unmotivated, bigoted white teenagers whom the system has mostly abandoned. When his efforts to reach these troubled students are met with threats, suspicion, and derision, Braithwaite takes a radical new approach. He will treat his students as people poised to enter the adult world. He will teach them to respect themselves and to call him "Sir." He will open up vistas before them that they never knew existed. And over the course of a remarkable year, he will touch the lives of his students in extraordinary ways, even as they in turn, unexpectedly and profoundly, touch his. Based on actual events in the author's life, *To Sir, With Love* is a powerfully moving story that celebrates courage, commitment, and vision, and is the inspiration for the classic film starring Sidney Poitier.

Famous Builder - Paul Lisicky 2015-09-01

Paul Lisicky remembers being not much like other boys his age, but rather the awkward thirteen-year-old with "arms thick as drinking straws," who composes tunes in his head that he might later send to *Folk Mass Today* or to the producers of *The Partridge Family*. Born into a family whose incremental success bumps them up a notch from their immigrant upbringing and into suburban America, Paul puts his creative, undaunted energy into drawing intricate housing development plans and writing liturgical music. In the lively, loving essays contained in *Famous Builder*, Lisicky explores the constant impulse to rebuild the self. With gracious, thoughtful candor and pitch-perfect humor, he explores the very personal realms of childhood dreams and ambitions, adolescent sexual awakenings, and adult realities.

Montaro Caine - Sidney Poitier 2013

A first novel by the Presidential Medal of Freedom-winning actor and author of *Life Beyond Measure* follows the experiences of a corporate CEO who, two decades after discovering a coin made of materials not known on Earth, finds his views on faith, race and the meaning of life challenged by a wrenching battle for ownership of the coin.

I AM NOT SIDNEY POITIER - Percival Everett
2020

The Book of Not - Tsitsi Dangarembga

2021-05-18

The powerful sequel to *Nervous Conditions*, by the Booker-shortlisted author of *This Mournable Body* *The Book of Not* continues the saga of Tambudzai, picking up where *Nervous Conditions* left off. As Tambu begins secondary school at the Young Ladies' College of the Sacred Heart, she is still reeling from the personal losses that have been war has inflicted upon her family—her uncle and sister were injured in a mine explosion. Soon she'll come face to face with discriminatory practices at her mostly-white school. And when she graduates and begins a job at an advertising agency, she realizes that the political and historical forces that threaten to destroy the fabric of her community are outside the walls of the school as well. Tsitsi Dangarembga, honored with the 2021 PEN Award for Freedom of Expression, digs deep into the damage colonialism and its education system does to Tambu's sense of self amid the struggle for Zimbabwe's independence, resulting in a brilliant and incisive second novel.

So Much Blue - Percival Everett 2017-06-13

Tells the story of a painter who will not show his wife, children, or his best friend his work in progress, made up all of shades of blue. An artist ponders a painting he wants to keep private along with the back stories that inspired it, the secrets that continue to haunt him.

Half an Inch of Water - Percival Everett 2015-09-15

A collection of short stories centered around the West includes tales of a deaf Native American girl wandering in the desert and a young boy coping with the death of his sister by angling for trout in the creek where she drowned.

Conversations with Percival Everett - Joe Weixlmann 2013-06-12

For the first eighteen years of his career, Percival Everett (b. 1956) managed to fly under the radar of the literary establishment. He followed his artistic vision down a variety of unconventional paths, including his preference for releasing his books through independent publishers. But with the publication of his novel *Erasure* in 2001, his literary talent could no longer be kept under wraps. The author of more than twenty-five books, Everett has established himself as one of America's--and arguably the world's--premier twenty-first-century fiction

writers. Among his many honors since 2000 are Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards for *Erasure* and *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* (2009) and three prominent awards for his 2005 novel *Wounded* the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Fiction, France's Prix Lucioles des Libraires, and Italy's Premio Vallombrosa Gregor von Rezzori Prize. Interviews collected in this volume several of which appear in print or in English translation for the first time--display Everett's abundant wit as well as the independence of thought that has led to his work being described as "characteristically uncharacteristic." At one moment he speaks with great sophistication about the fact that African American authors are forced to overcome constraining expectations about their subject matter that white writers are not. And in the next he talks about training mules or quips about "Jim Crow," a pet bird Everett had on his ranch outside Los Angeles. Everett discusses race and gender, his ecological interests, the real and mythic American West, the eclectic nature of his work, the craft of writing, language and linguistic theory, and much more.

God's Country - Percival Everett 1994-03-30

Details the adventures in the old West of Marder, a coward and racist, and of Bubba, a Black tracker, as they try to find Marder's kidnapped wife

Brief Loves That Live Forever - Andreï Makine 2015-08-04

A beautifully observed and moving account of love and the human spirit in the Soviet era In Soviet Russia the desire for freedom is also a desire for the freedom to love. Lovers live as outlaws, traitors to the collective spirit, and love is more intense when it feels like an act of resistance. Now entering middle age, an orphan recalls the fleeting moments that have never left him--a scorching day in a blossoming orchard with a woman who loves another; a furtive, desperate affair in a Black Sea resort; the bunch of snowdrops a crippled childhood friend gave him to give to his lover. As the dreary Brezhnev era gives way to perestroika and the fall of Communism, the orphan uncovers the truth behind the life of Dmitri Ress, whose tragic fate embodies the unbreakable bond between love and freedom. "Makine has been compared to Stendhal, Tolstoy and Proust; our best historians

of the Soviet era queue up to pronounce him one of the finest living writers on the period; and he is regularly tipped to be among the contenders for the next Nobel in literature." -The Daily Telegraph

Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl - Diane Seuss 2018-05-01

Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award
Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize
Diane Seuss's brilliant follow-up to *Four-Legged Girl*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Still life with stack of bills
phone cord
cig butt
and freezer-burned Dreamsicle
Still life with Easter Bunny
twenty caged minks
and rusty meat grinder
Still life with whiskey
wooden leg
two potpies
and a dead parakeet
Still life with pork rinds
pickled peppers
and the Book of Revelation
Still life with feeding tube
oxygen
half-eaten raspberry Zinger
Still life with convenience store
pecking order
shotgun blast to the face —from "American Still Lives"
Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl takes its title from Rembrandt's painting, a dark emblem of femininity, violence, and the viewer's own troubled gaze. In Diane Seuss's new collection, the notion of the still life is shattered and Rembrandt's painting is presented across the book in pieces—details that hide more than they reveal until they're assembled into a whole. With invention and irreverence, these poems escape gilded frames and overturn traditional representations of gender, class, and luxury. Instead, Seuss invites in the alienated, the washed-up, the ugly, and the freakish—the overlooked many of us who might more often stand in a Walmart parking lot than before the canvases of Pollock, O'Keeffe, and Rothko. Rendered with precision and profound empathy, this extraordinary gallery of lives in shards shows us that "our memories are local, acute, and unrelenting."

A Song of Love and Death - Peter Conrad 1996-03

A Song of Love and Death examines the art of opera with the same creative insight that Susan Sontag's *On Photography* brought to its medium. It is an eloquent inquiry into the meaning of our boldest art, its expression of human irrationality and its power to disturb and excite us.

In the Heat of the Night - John Ball 1992-11
A corpse end up in the gutter. The black man

arrested turns out to be a detective from California. No witnesses, no clues, no apparent motives. All the police have is the talented stranger to help them solve the case.

Pym: A Novel - Mat Johnson 2012-09-04

"THE SHARPEST AND MOST UNUSUAL STORY I READ LAST YEAR . . . [Mat] Johnson's satirical vision roves as freely as Kurt Vonnegut's and is colored with the same sort of passionate humanitarianism."—Maud Newton, *New York Times Magazine*
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The Washington Post* • *Vanity Fair* • *Houston Chronicle* • *The Seattle Times* • *Salon* • *National Post* • *The A.V. Club*
Recently canned professor of American literature Chris Jaynes has just made a startling discovery: the manuscript of a crude slave narrative that confirms the reality of Edgar Allan Poe's strange and only novel, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*. Determined to seek out Tsalal, the remote island of pure and utter blackness that Poe describes, Jaynes convenes an all-black crew of six to follow Pym's trail to the South Pole, armed with little but the firsthand account from which Poe derived his seafaring tale, a bag of bones, and a stash of Little Debbie snack cakes. Thus begins an epic journey by an unlikely band of adventurers under the permafrost of Antarctica, beneath the surface of American history, and behind one of literature's great mysteries. "Outrageously entertaining, [Pym] brilliantly re-imagines and extends Edgar Allan Poe's enigmatic and unsettling *Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*. . . . Part social satire, part meditation on race in America, part metafiction and, just as important, a rollicking fantasy adventure . . . reminiscent of Philip Roth in its seemingly effortless blend of the serious, comic and fantastic."—Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*
"Blisteringly funny."—Laura Miller, *Salon*
"Relentlessly entertaining."—*The New York Times Book Review*
"Imagine Kurt Vonnegut having a beer with Ralph Ellison and Jules Verne."—*Vanity Fair*
"Screamingly funny . . . Reading Pym is like opening a big can of whoop-ass and then marveling—gleefully—at all the mayhem that ensues."—*Houston Chronicle*

The Adventures of Form and Content - Albert Goldbarth 2017-01-03

An astounding work of doubles by Albert

Goldbarth, "a dazzling virtuoso who can break your heart" (Joyce Carol Oates) Albert Goldbarth's first book of essays in a decade, *The Adventures of Form and Content* is about the mysteries of dualities, the selves we all carry inside, the multiverses that we are. This collection takes its shape from the ACE Doubles format of the 1950s: turn this book one way, and read about the checkered history of those sci-fi and pulp fictions, or about the erotic poetry of Catullus and the gravelly songs of Springsteen, or about the high gods and the low-down blues, a city of the holy and of the sinful; turn this book the other way, and read about prehistoric cave artists and NASA astronauts, or about illness and health, or about the discovery of planets and the discovery of oneself inside an essay, or about soul ships and space ships, the dead and the living; or turn the book any way you want, and this book becomes an adventure of author and reader, form and content. Goldbarth's essays have pioneered and inspired new forms of nonfiction writing for thirty years. Robert Atwan, the series editor for *The Best American Essays*, praises his work by stating, "These essays are a whole new breed . . . Goldbarth has spliced strands of the old genre with a powerful new genre—and the results are miraculous." *The Adventures of Form and Content* is a new, ingenious work of hilarity and humanity that reminds us of the capabilities and impossibilities of art.

The Fugitives - Christopher Sorrentino
2016-02-09

In their growing involvement with one another, each becomes a pawn in the other's game. As we weave among these characters, learning about their lives and motivations, and uncovering the

conflicts and contradictions between their stories, we realize that the storyteller is not the only one with secrets to conceal that all three are fugitives of one kind or another. All the Sorrentino touches that have thrilled admirers are here: sparkling dialogue, satirical wit, attention to the details of everyday life, dizzily inventive prose but it is the deeply imagined interior lives of its all too human main characters that set this novel apart. Moving, funny, tense, and mysterious, *The Fugitives* is a love story, a ghost story, and a crime thriller.

Spring - David Szalay 2012-01-17

The U.S. debut of leading U.K. author David Szalay, named one of *The Daily Telegraph's* twenty best British novelists under forty James is a man with a checkered past—sporadic entrepreneur, one-time film producer, almost a dot-com millionaire—now alone in a flat in Bloomsbury, running a shady horse-racing-tips operation. Katherine is a manager at a luxury hotel, a job she'd intended to leave years ago, and is separated from her husband. The novel unfolds in 2006, at the end of the money-for-nothing years, as a chance meeting leads to an awkward tryst and James tries to make sense of a relationship where "no" means "maybe" and a "yes" can never be taken for granted. David Szalay builds a novel of immense resonance as he cycles through perspectives that add layers of depth to the hesitations, missteps, and tensions as James tries to win Katherine. James's other pursuit is money, and Spring follows his investments and schemes, from a half share in a thoroughbred to a suit-and-tie day job he's taken to pay the bills. Spring is a sharply tuned novel so nuanced and precise in its psychology that it establishes Szalay as a major talent.