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**Tenth Of December**-George Saunders 2013-01-03 WINNER OF THE 2014 FOLIO PRIZE AND SHORTLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD 2013 **Tenth of December**-George Saunders’s most wryly hilarious and disturbing collection yet, Tenth of December illuminates human experience and explores figures lost in a labyrinth of troubling preoccupations. A family member recollects a backyard pole dressed for all occasions; Jeff faces horrifying ultimatums and the prospect of DarkenfloxxTM in some unusual drug trials; and Al Roosten hides his own internal monologue behind a winning smile that he hopes will make him popular. With dark visions of the future riffing against ghosts of the past and the ever-settling present, this collection sings with astonishing charm and intensity.

**The Index of Self-Destructive Acts**-Christopher Beha 2020-05-05 “A significant novel, beautifully crafted and deeply felt. Beha creates a high honore of our era’s vanities. This is a novel to savour.” - Colum McCann Through baseball, finance, media, and religion, Beha traces the passing of the torch from the old establishment to the new meritocracy, exploring how each generation’s failure helped land us where we are today. What makes a life, Sam Waxworth sometimes wonders—self or circumstance? On the day Sam Waxworth arrives in New York to write for the Interviewer, a street-corner preacher declares that the world is coming to an end. A data journalist and recent media celebrity—he correctly forecast every outcome of the 2008 election—Sam knows a few things about predicting the future. But when projection meets reality, life gets complicated. His first assignment for the Interviewer is a profile of disgraced political columnist Frank Doyle, known to Sam for the sentimental works of baseball lore that first sparked his love of the game. When Sam meets Frank at Citi Field for the Mets’ home opener, he finds himself unexpectedly ushered into Doyle’s crumbling family empire. It, the metaphrastic, lost her investment bank to the financial crisis; Eddie, their son, hasn’t been the same since his second combat tour in Iraq; Eddie’s best friend from childhood, the spectacularly unsuccessful hedge funder Justin Price, is starting to see cracks in his spotless public image. And then there’s Frank’s daughter, Margo, with whom Sam becomes involved—just as his wife, Lucy, arrives from Wisconsin. While their lives seem inextricable, none of them know how close they are to losing everything, including each other. Sweeping in scope yet meticulous in its construction, The Index of Self-Destructive Acts is a remarkable family portrait and a masterful evocation of New York City and its institutions. Over the course of a single baseball season, Christopher Beha traces the passing of the torch from the old establishment to the new meritocracy, exploring how each generation’s failure helped land us where we are today. Whether or not the world is ending, Beha’s characters are all headed to apocalypses of their own making.

**The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip**-George Saunders 2015-11-24 “A modern fable for people of all ages that touches on the power of kindness, generosity, compassion, and community”–Dust jacket flap.

**Tenth of December**-George Saunders 2014 A collection of stories includes “Home,” a wryly whimsical account of a soldier’s return from war; “Victory Lap,” a tale about an inventive abduction attempt; and the title story, in which a suicidal cancer patient saves the life of a young misfit.

**Pastoralia**-George Saunders 2013-01-03 “Saunders is an astoundingly tuned voice—graceful, dark, authentic and funny—telling just the kind of stories we need to get us through these times” Thomas Pynchon In PASTORALIA elements of contemporary life are twisted, merged and amplified into a slightly skewed version of modern America. A couple live and work in a cavernous theme-park, where speaking is an instantly punishable offence. A born loser attends a self-help seminar where he is encouraged to rid himself of all the people who are ‘crapping in your oatmeal’. And a male exotic dancer and his family are terrorised by their decomposing aunt who visits them with a solemn message from beyond the grave. With an uncanny combination of deadpan naturalism and uproarious humour, George Saunders creates a world that is both indelibly original and yet hauntingly familiar...

**Lincoln in the Bardo**-George Saunders 2017-02-14 “A modern fable for people of all ages that touches on the power of kindness, generosity, compassion, and community”–Dust jacket flap.

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A Swim in a Pond in the Rain—George Saunders 2013-04-09 From the #1 New York Times bestseller and one of the most highly-acclaimed novelists of the 21st century, this is an incendiary political satire of unpremeditated imagination, spiky humor, and cautionary appreciation for the hysteric in everyone. Over six years in the writing, and brilliantly and beautifully packaged, this novella is Saunders’ first stand-alone, book-length work—and his first book for adults in five years.

The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil—George Saunders 2005-09-06 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Man Booker Prize-winning novel Lincoln in the Bardo and the Library of America’s One of O: The Oprah Magazine’s Best Books of the Year February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln’s beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. “My poor boy, he was too good for this earth,” the president says at the time. “God has called him home.” Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy’s body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of vengeance. Within this transitional state—called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo—a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie’s soul. Lincoln in the Bardo is an astonishing feat of imagination and a dark step forward from one of the most important and influential writers of his generation. Formally daring, generous in spirit, deeply concerned with matters of the heart, it is a testament to fiction’s ability to speak honestly and powerfully to the things that really matter to us. Saunders has invented a thrilling new format that deploys a kaleidoscopic, theatrical panorama of voices to ask a timeless, profound question: How do we live and love when we know that everything we love must end? “A luminous feast of generosity and humanity.”—Colson Whitehead, The New York Times Book Review “A masterpiece.”—Zadie Smith

The Brains-Dead Megaphone—George Saunders 2012-05-14 In this, his first collection of essays, Saunders trains his eye on the real world rather than the fictional and reveals it to be brimming with wonderful, marvellous strangeness. As he faces a political and cultural reality saturated with lazy media, false promises and political doublespeak, Saunders invokes the wisdom of American literary heroes Twain, Vonnegut and Barthelme and inspires us to re-examine our assumptions about the world we live in, as we struggle to discover what is really there.

One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses—Lucy Corin 2016-08-09 Lucy Corin’s “eye popping, enlightening read” (Publishers Weekly), now in paperback. At the heart of Lucy Corin’s dazzling collection are one hundred apocalypses: visions of loss and destruction, vexation and crisis, revelation and revolution, sometimes only a few lines long. In these haunting and wickedly funny stories, an apocalypse might come in the form of the end of a relationship or the end of the world, but they all expose the tricky landscape of our longing for a clean slate. In longer stories, contemporary American life is playfully, if disturbingly, distorted: the rite of passage for adolescent girls involves choosing the madman who will accompany them into adulthood; California burns to the ground while, on the east coast, life carries on; and a soldier returns home broke from war to encounter a witch who extends a dangerous offer. At once mournful and explosively energetic, One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses is “deeply rooted in the politics and upheaval of our times” (Lambda Literary).
books of the year, A Hologram for the King is a sprawling novel about the decline of American industry from one of the most important, socially-aware novelists of our time. In a rising Saudi Arabian city, far from weary, recession-scarred America, a struggling businessman named Alan Clay pursues a last-ditch attempt to stave off foreclosure, pay his daughter’s college tuition, and finally do something great. In A Hologram for the King, Dave Eggers takes us around the world to show how one man fights to hold himself and his splintering family together in the face of the global economy’s gale-force winds. This taut, richly layered, and elegiac novel is a powerful evocation of our contemporary moment—and a moving story of how we got here.

The Magician’s Book—Laura Miller 2008-12-03 Enchanted by Narnia’s fantastic world as a child, prominent critic Laura Miller returns to the series as an adult to uncover the source of these small books’ mysterious power by looking at their creator, Clive Staples Lewis. What she discovers is not the familiar, idealized image of the author, but a more interesting and ambiguous truth: Lewis’s tragic and troubled childhood, his unconventionally love life, and his intense but ultimately doomed friendship with J.R.R. Tolkien. Finally reclaiming Narnia “for the rest of us,” Miller casts the Chronicles as a profoundly literary creation, and the portal to a lifelong adventure in books, art, and the imagination.

Late-Life Love: A Memoir—Susan Gubar 2018-11-13 During a difficult year, acclaimed writer Susan Gubar celebrates her lasting partnership and the reciprocity of lovers in later life. On Susan Gubar’s seventieth birthday, she receives a beautiful ring from her husband. As she contemplates their sustaining relationship, she begins to consider how older lovers differ from their youthful counterparts—and from ageist stereotypes. While her husband confronts age-related disabilities that effectively ground them, Susan dawdles over the logistics of moving from their cherished country house to a more manageable place in town and starts seeking out literature on the changing seasons of desire. Throughout the complications of devoted caregiving, her own ongoing cancer treatments, apartment hunting, the dismantling of a household, and perplexity over the breakdown of a treasured friendship, Susan finds consolation in books and movies. Works by writers from Ovid and Shakespeare to Gabriel García Márquez and Marilynne Robinson lead Susan to appraise the obstacles many senior couples overcome: the unique sexuality of bodies beyond their prime as well as the trials of retirement, adult children, physical infirmities, the multiplications or subtractions of memories, and the aftereffects of trauma. On the page and in life, Susan realizes that age cannot wither love. A memoir proving that the heart’s passions have no expiration date, Late-Life Love rejoices in second chances.

George Saunders—Philip Coleman 2017-04-20 This timely volume explores the signal contribution George Saunders has made to the development of the short story form in books ranging from CivilWarLand in Bad Decline (1996) to Tenth of December (2011). The book brings together a team of scholars from around the world to explore topics ranging from Saunders’s treatment of work and religion, to biopolitics and the limits of the short story form. It also includes an interview with Saunders specially conducted for the volume, and a preliminary bibliography of his published works and critical responses to his work. It is essential reading for anyone interested in twenty-first century fiction.

The Indefinite State of Imaginary Morals—Rae Bryant 2011-06-01 In this visceral collection of stories by Rae Bryant, we explore the wits, moralities, edges and sometimes broken realities of lovers and friends, life and death, and the mundane tragedies in a normal day. From detachable women to cow tipping, kingfishers to drive-thru sex, Bryant pushes the boundaries and creates for her readers the amusing, the heartbreaking and the magically bizarre conditions of woman and man.

Things to Do When You’re Goth in the Country—Chavisa Woods 2017-05-16 Nominated for the 2018 Lambda Literary Award for Fiction Things to Do When You’re Goth in the Country is a funny and fantastical human, unique, and realistic. This is one of the best short story collections I’ve read in years. It should be required reading for anyone who’s trying to understand America in 2017. —Paul La Farge, author of The Night Ocean The eight stories in Things to Do When You’re Goth in the Country paint a vivid image of people living on the fringes in America, people who don’t do what you might expect them to. Not stories of triumph over adversity, but something completely other. Described in language that is brilliantly sardonic, Woods’s characters return repeatedly to places where they don’t belong—often the places where they were born. In “Zombie,” a coming-of-age story like no other, two young girls find friendship with a mysterious woman in the local cemetery. “Take the Way Home Tree to Sullivan Street” describes a lesbian couple trying to repair their relationship by dropping acid at a Mensa party. In “A New Mohawk,” a man in romantic pursuit of a female political activist becomes inadvertently much more familiar with the Palestine/Israel conflict than anyone would have thought possible. And in the title story, Woods brings us into the mind of a queer goth teenager who faces ostracism from her small-town evangelical church. In the background are the endless American wars and occupations and too many early deaths of friends and family. This is fiction that is fresh and of the moment, even as it is timeless.

The Lost Art of Reading—David L. Ulin 2010-06-01 Reading is a revolutionary act, an act of engagement in a culture that wants us to disengage. In The Lost Art of Reading, David L. Ulin asks a number of time–questions: why is literature so relevant now? What does it offer, especially now? Blending commentary with memoir, Ulin addresses the importance of the simple act of reading in an increasingly digital culture. Reading a book, flipping through hard pages, or shuffling them on screen - it doesn’t matter. The key is the act of reading, and it’s seriousness and depth. Ulin emphasizes the importance of reflection and pause allowed by stopping to read a book, and the accompanying focus required to let the mind run free in a world that is not one’s own. Are we willing to risk our collective interest in contemplation, nuanced thinking, and empathy? Far from preaching to the choir, The Lost Art of Reading is a call to arms, or, rather, to pages.

Rumi’s Secret—Brad Gooch 2017-01-17 The acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of Smash Cut, Flannery, and City Poet delivers the first popular biography of Rumi, the thirteenth-century Persian poet revered by contemporary Western readers. Ecstatic love poems of Rumi, a Persian poet and Sufi mystic born over eight centuries ago, are beloved by millions of readers in America as well as around the world. Yet there has been controversy over Shakespeare for his outpouring of creativity and to Saint Francis of Assisi for his spiritual wisdom. Yet his life has long remained the stuff of legend rather than intimate knowledge. In this breakthrough biography, Brad Gooch brilliantly brings to life the man and puts a face to the name Rumi, vividly coloring in his time and place—a world as rife with conflict as our own. The map of Rumi’s life is a map of the Middle East where, until the Mongol terror, to settle in Konya, Turkey. Rumi’s Secret reveals the unfolding of Rumi’s devotion to a “religion of love,” remarkable in his own time and made even more relevant for the twenty-first century by this compelling account.

The Definite Mind on the Indefinite State of Imaginary Morals—Rae Bryant 2011-06-01 This book is a collection of Nineteen selected stories by the renowned Russian authors. The most of the 27 illustrations are the pictures of the Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses worshiped before the influence of Christianity and monotheism. The authors and the stories are: The Queen Of Spades - By Alexandre S. Pushkin; The Cloak - By Nikolai V. Gogol; The District Doctor - By Ivan S. Turgenev; The Christmas Tree And The Wedding - By Fiodor M. Dostoyevsky; God Sees The Truth, But Waits - By Leon. Tolstoy; How A Muzhik Fed Two Officials - By M.Y. Saltkyov [N. Shchedrin]; Banquet Given By The Mayor, The Shades and A Phantasy - By Vladimir G. Korlenko; The Hunter - By Leon Tolstoy; The District Doctor - By Ivan S. Turgenev; The Fifth Of October - By Maxim Gorky; The Revolutionist - By Michail P. Artzybashew; The Outrage : A True Story - By Aleksandr I. Kuprin. Beat regards.Asinio Calcio
The Partly Cloudy Patriot—Sarah Vowell 2003-10
The author shares her perspective on such topics as the 2000 election, present-day civil rights activists, and the relationship between the United States and Canada.

Everything Beautiful Began After—Simon Van Booy 2011-07-05
“Apopverful meditation on the undying nature of love and the often cruel beauty of one’s fate. This is a novel you simply must read!” — André Dubus III, New York Times bestselling author of Townie From Simon Van Booy, the award-winning author of Love Begins in Winter and The Secret Life of Dr. Austen Driver, is also a multiple personality, a fact that Penny is only partially struggling to maintain an orderly coexistence: Aaron, the father figure; Andy Gage’s life. . . . While Andy deals with the outside world, more than a grief over his dead partner, it’s a grief over the fact that Andy Gage’s death wasn’t. Only his soul actually died, and when it died, it broke the prisoners of the heart. Therapeutically, these stories are about the triumph of the heart over grief. . . .”

Moving from the peculiarities of Florida to liminal spaces of travel in Mexico and the ruins of Athens. With echoes of Nicole Krauss’s The History of Love and CharlesBaxter’s The Feast of Love, Van Booy’s resonant tale of three isolated, disconnected, not-quite-defeated souls is a haunting meditation on the longings of the human heart.”

Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain, “Simon Van Booy knows a great deal about the complex longings of the human heart.”

The Oldwife’s Tale—Arnold Bennett 2019-09-25
Reproduction of the original. The Oldwife’s Tale by Arnold Bennett

Fruit of the Drunken Tree—Ingrid Rojas Contreras 2018-07-31
“One of the most dazzling and devastating novels I’ve read in a long time...Readers of Fruit of the Drunken Tree will surely be transformed.” — San Francisco Chronicle “Simultaneously propulsive and poetic, reminiscent of Isabel Allende...Listen to this new author’s voice — she has something powerful to say.” —Entertainment Weekly A mesmerizing debut set in Colombia at the height Pablo Escobar's violent reign about a sheltered young girl and a teenage maid who strike an unlikely friendship that threatens to undo them both Seven-year-old Chula and her older sister Cassandra enjoy carefree lives thanks to their gated community in Bogota, but the threat of kidnappings, car bombs, and assassinations haunts the very periphery of neighborhood walls, where the godlike drug lord Pablo Escobar continues to elude authorities and capture the attention of the nation. When their mother hires Petrona, a live-in maid from the city’s guerrilla-occupied slum, Chula makes it her mission to understand Petrona’s mysterious ways. But Petrona’s unusual behavior belies more than shyness. She is a young woman struggling to find her place in a world she doesn’t fully comprehend. The result is a surprising, perceptive, and evocative collection of stories that is also a moving exploration of our human condition.

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears—Laura van den Berg 2020-07-28
ONE OF TIME’S 10 BEST FICTION BOOKS OF 2020. Longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Prize. Named a Best Book of 2020 by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Daily Beast, Thrillist, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, Booklist, the Chicago Tribune, Kirkus, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and the National Book Critics Circle. The stories in Five-Carat Soul—none of them ever published before—spring from the place where identity, humanity, and history converge. They’re funny and poignant, insightful and unpredictable, imaginative and authentic—all told with McBride’s unrivaled storytelling skill and mordant wit. . . .” — Laura van den Berg, the award-winning author of Love Begins in Winter and The Secret Life of Dr. Austen Driver, is also a multiple personality, a fact that Penny is only partially struggling to maintain an orderly coexistence: Aaron, the father figure; Andy Gage’s life. . . . While Andy deals with the outside world, more than a grief over his dead partner, it’s a grief over the fact that Andy Gage’s death wasn’t. Only his soul actually died, and when it died, it broke the prisoners of the heart. Therapeutically, these stories are about the triumph of the heart over grief. . . .”

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of life: grieving, divorced, and hyperaware, searching, vulnerable, and unhinged, they exist in a world that deviates from our own only when you look too closely. With remarkable control and transcendent talent, van den Berg dissolves, in the words of the narrator of “Slumberland,” “that border between magic and annihilation,” and further establishes herself as a defining fiction writer of our time.

The Best American Short Stories 2017 - Meg Wolitzer 2017-10-03 The New York Times-bestselling author of The Interestings compiles a stunning anthology of literary short fiction with T.C. Boyle, Emma Cline and others. “If you know exactly what you are going to get from the experience of reading a story, you probably wouldn’t go looking for it; you need, in order to be an open reader of fiction, to be willing. To cast a vote for what you love and then wait for the outcome,” writes Meg Wolitzer in her introduction to this volume. The Best American Short Stories 2017 casts a vote for and celebrates all that is our country. Here you’ll find a man with a boyfriend and a girlfriend, naval officers trapped on a submarine, a contestant on America’s Funniest Home Videos, and a gay man desperate to be a father—unforgettable characters waiting for an outcome, burning with stories to tell. The Best American Short Stories 2017 includes entries by T.C. Boyle, Jai Chakrabarti, Emma Cline, Danielle Evans, Lauren Groff, Eric Puchner, Jim Shepard, Curtis Sittenfeld, Jenn Walter and others.

Red Notice - Bill Browder 2015-02-03 New York Times bestseller THE BOOK THAT EXPLAINS WHY RUSSIANS WANTED TO MEET WITH THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN “Part John Grisham-like thriller, part business and political memoir.” —The New York Times “[Red Notice] does for investing in Russia and the former Soviet Union what Liar’s Poker did for our understanding of Salomon Brothers, Wall Street, and the mortgage-backed securities business in the 1980s. Browder’s business saga meshes well with the story of corruption and murder in Vladimir Putin’s Russia, making Red Notice an early candidate for any list of the year’s best books” (Fortune). This is a story about an accidental activist. Bill Browder started out his adult life as the Wall Street maverick whose instincts led him to Russia just after the breakup of the Soviet Union, where he made his fortune. Along the way he exposed corruption, and when he did, he barely escaped with his life. His Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky wasn’t so lucky: he ended up in jail, where he was tortured to death. That changed Browder forever. He saw the murderous heart of the Putin regime and has spent the last half decade on a campaign to expose it. Because of that, he became Putin’s number one enemy, especially after Browder succeeded in having a law passed in the United States—the Magnitsky Act—that punishes a list of Russians implicated in the lawyer’s murder. Putin famously retaliated with a law that bans Americans from adopting Russian orphans. A financial caper, a crime thriller, and a political crusade, Red Notice is the story of one man taking on overpowering odds to change the world, and also the story of how, without intending to, he found meaning in his life.

Tenth of December: A Novel By George Saunders | Conversation Starters - dailyBooks 2016-09-06 Tenth of December: by George Saunders | Conversation Starters A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to... Create Hours of Conversation: • Foster a deeper understanding of the book • Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups • Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately • Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource to supplement the original book, enhancing your experience of Tenth of December. If you have not yet purchased a copy of the original book, please do before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.