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Paths to Contemporary French Literature, Volume 1

A Novel

Georges Perec's Geographies

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HAMMOND LOVE

Georges Perec: A Life in Words Random House

Although the great French novelists of the last two centuries are widely read in America, there is a widespread notion that little of importance has happened in French literature since the heyday of Sartre, Camus, and the nouveau roman. Some might argue that even well read Americans are ignorant about what is happening in European literature generally. Certainly, there has never been so few translations of foreign books in the United States, or so little coverage of foreign writers. Curious American readers need new, up-to-date information and analyses about what is happening elsewhere. *Paths to Contemporary French Literature* is a stimulating and much-needed guide to the major currents of one of the world's great literatures. This critical panorama of contemporary French literature introduces English-language readers to over fifty important writers and poets, many of whom are still little known outside of France. Emphasizing authors who are admired by their peers (as opposed to those with overnight reputations), John Taylor offers a compelling insider's view. The pioneering essays included in this book offer incisive analyses of the ideas motivating current writing and delve into a writer's or poet's entire output. Although some names may be familiar (Marguerite Duras, Hulne Cixous, Philippe Jaccottet, Henri Michaux), the reader obtains fresh reappraisals of their seminal work. Especially noteworthy, however, are Taylor's lively introductions to many other key writers who either have not yet crossed the English Channel, let alone the Atlantic. Combating the notion that French literature is overtly intellectual, inaccessible, or interested only in formal experimentation, Taylor shows that many French writers are instead acutely inquisitive about the outside world, shrewd observers of reality, even very funny. Although not conceived as a reference book, the volume possesses some qualities of a reference work: a good bibliography, reliable dates and biographical facts. *Paths to Contemporary French Literature* will be of interest to students of French literature and culture, literary scholars, and readers of contemporary fiction and poetry.

Gadsby Melville House

Two men, driving from opposite directions along a lonely road in France, find themselves forced to exchange cars when a tree renders the road impassable. From that moment on, a spate of Hitchcockian events unfold.

Routledge

'Dazzling' Crime Monthly 'My kind of book' Belfast Telegraph

'Captivating' My Weekly Magazine 'Suspenseful' Country Life

Magazine _____ November 1924. The

Endeavour sets sail to New York with 2,000 passengers - and a killer - on board . . . When an elderly gentleman is found dead at

the foot of a staircase, ship's officer Timothy Birch is ready to declare it a tragic accident. But James Temple, a strong-minded Scotland Yard inspector, is certain there is more to this misfortune than meets the eye. Birch agrees to investigate, and the trail quickly leads to the theft of a priceless painting. Its very existence is known only to its owner . . . and the dead man. With just days remaining until they reach New York, and even Temple's purpose on board the Endeavour proving increasingly suspicious, Birch's search for the culprit is fraught with danger. And all the while, the passengers continue to roam the ship with a killer in their midst . . . 'A very clever plot and a final twist which will delight Agatha Christie fans. You'll love it.' Ragnar Jónasson 'With twist after gut-punching twist, *A Fatal Crossing* really is an ingenious thriller. Highly recommended.' M. W. Craven 'The action unfolds at a rip-roaring pace in this perfectly executed homage to the Golden Age of crime, which features a deviously devised plot boasting a final twist worthy of Christie herself. I loved it!' Anita Frank 'Twists and turns cartwheel to a blindsiding finish!' *Woman's Weekly*

Shadows in the City of Light Simon and Schuster

"It's hard to see how anyone is ever going to better this User's Manual to the life of Georges Perec" - Gilbert Adair, *Sunday Times* Winner of the Prix Goncourt for Biography, 1994 George Perec (1936-82) was one of the most significant European writers of the twentieth century and undoubtedly the most versatile and innovative writer of his generation. David Bellos's comprehensive biography - which also provides the first full survey of Perec's irreverent, polymathic oeuvre - explores the life of an anguished, comical and endearingly modest man, who worked quietly as an archivist in a medical research library. The French son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, he remained haunted all of his life by his father's death in the war, fighting to defend France, and his mother's in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His acclaimed novel *A Void* (1969) - written without using the letter "e" - has been seen as an attempt to escape from the words "père", "mere", and even "George Perec". His career made an auspicious start with *Things: A Story of the Sixties* (1965), which won the Prix Renaudot. He then pursued an idiosyncratic and ambitious literary itinerary through the intellectual ferment of Paris in the 1960s and 1970s. He belonged to the Ouvrier de Littérature Potentielle (Oulipo), a radically inventive group of writers whose members included Raymond Queneau and Italo Calvino. Perec achieved international celebrity with *Life A User's Manual* (1978), which won the Prix Medicis and was voted Novel of the Decade by the Salon du Livre. He died in his mid-forties after a short illness, leaving a truly puzzling detective novel, *53 Days*, incomplete. "Professor Bellos's book enables us at once to relish the most wilfully bizarre aspects of Perec's oeuvre and to understand the whys and wherefores of his protean nature" - Jonathan Romney, *Literary Review*

[When Angels Speak of Love](#) Penguin Group Australia

"Not A Wake" is a collection of poetry, short stories, a play, a movie script, crossword puzzles and other surprises, constructed according to a unique principle: counting the number of letters in successive words of the text (the first word has 3 letters, the next word has 1 letter, the next word has 4 letters, and so on) reveals the first 10,000 digits of the famous mathematical number pi (3.14159265358979...). Fans of the number pi, constrained writing (such as Georges Perec's "La Disparition"), wordplay, puzzles, or experimental prose and poetry will find much to savor in this, the first book-length work based on the pi constraint. [Georges Perec and the Oulipo](#) Farrar, Straus and Giroux Art museums today face the challenge of opening themselves up as institutions to a changing society. This publication offers new perspectives on museological trends that are developing in various countries and cultures. Through increasingly flexible, inclusive and unexpected museum typologies, institutions aim to give their visitors greater access to art. The essays define the role of the museum as a medium of social change, as a protagonist in an education process and as a technologically innovative platform. Art historians, but also practitioners from the museum world - including curators, architects and psychologists - examine what is expected of art museums using case studies and against the background of the humanities and social sciences.

[The Holy Innocents](#) SUNY Press

A Void David R. Godine Publisher

Ella Minnow Pea Random House

The beguiling, never-before-translated dream diary of Georges Perec In *La Boutique Obscure* Perec once again revolutionized literary form, creating the world's first "nocturnal autobiography." From 1968 until 1972—the period when he wrote his most well-known works—the beloved French stylist recorded his dreams. But as you might expect, his approach was far from orthodox. Avoiding the hazy psychoanalysis of most dream journals, he challenged himself to translate his visions and subconscious churnings directly into prose. In laying down the nonsensical leaps of the imagination, he finds new ways to express the texture and ambiguity of dreams—those qualities that prove so elusive. Beyond capturing a universal experience for the first time and being a fine document of literary invention, *La Boutique Obscure* contains the seeds of some of Perec's most famous books. It is also an intimate portrait of one of the great innovators of modern literature.

In Praise of Potential Literature David R. Godine Publisher

Main description: What sort of society could bind together Jacques Roubaud, Italo Calvino, Marcel Duchamp, and Raymond Queneau and Daniel Levin Becker, a young American obsessed with language play? Only the Oulipo, the Paris-based experimental collective founded in 1960 and fated to become one of literature's quirkiest movements. An international organization of writers, artists, and scientists who embrace formal and procedural constraints to achieve literature's possibilities, the Oulipo (the

French acronym stands for Oworkshop for potential literature0) is perhaps best known as the cradle of Georges Perec's novel *A Void*, which does not contain the letter e. Drawn to the Oulipo's mystique, Levin Becker secured a Fulbright grant to study the organization and traveled to Paris. He was eventually offered membership, becoming only the second American to be admitted to the group. From the perspective of a young initiate, the Oulipians and their projects are at once bizarre and utterly compelling. Levin Becker's love for games, puzzles, and language play is infectious, calling to mind Elif Batuman's delight in Russian literature in *The Possessed*. In recent years, the Oulipo has inspired the creation of numerous other collectives: the OuMuPo (a collective of DJs), the OuMaPo (marionette players), the OuBaPo (comic strip artists), the OuFlarfPo (poets who generate poetry with the aid of search engines), and a menagerie of other Ou-X-Pos (workshops for potential something). Levin Becker discusses these and other intriguing developments in this history and personal appreciation of an iconic-and iconoclastic-group.

W, Or, The Memory of Childhood Harvill Secker

The highly anticipated new crime thriller in the DCI Jack Hawksworth series. 'There is a connection, Jack. Find it, or you'll never find him.' Police are baffled by several deaths, each unique and bizarre in their own way - and shockingly brutal. Scotland Yard sends in its crack DCI, the enigmatic Jack Hawksworth, who wastes no time in setting up Operation Mirror. His chief wants him to dismiss any plausibility of a serial killer before the media gets on the trail. With his best investigative team around him, Jack resorts to some unconventional methods to disprove or find a link between the gruesome deaths. One involves a notorious serial killer from his past, and the other, a smart and seductive young journalist who'll do anything to catch her big break. Discovering he's following the footsteps of a vigilante and in a race against time, Jack will do everything it takes to stop another killing - but at what personal cost for those he holds nearest and dearest? By the bestselling author of *Bye Bye Baby* and *Beautiful Death* comes this heart-stopping new thriller that questions whether one life is worth more than another. 'Mirror Man is a gritty, action-packed and heart-stopping thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end....a seriously addictive page-turner, and yet another standout read from the very talented Fiona McIntosh.' Better Reading

A User's Manual Northwestern University Press

As much a masterpiece of translation as a novel, 'A Void' contains not one single letter e anywhere in the main body of the text. This clever and unusual novel is full of plots and sub-plots, of trails in pursuit of trails and linguistic conjuring tricks

Many Subtle Channels Make Now Press

Darkly funny account of the office worker's mindset by the celebrated French novelist A long-suffering employee in a big corporation has summoned up the courage to ask for a raise. But as he runs through the looming encounter in his mind, his neuroses come to the surface: What is the best day to see the boss? What if he doesn't offer you a seat when you go into his office? *The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise* is a hilarious account of an employee losing his identity—and possibly his sanity—as he tries to put on the most acceptable face for the corporate world, with its rigid hierarchies and hostility to new ideas. If he follows a certain course of action, so this logic goes, he will succeed—but, in accepting these conditions, are his attempts to challenge his world of work doomed from the outset? Neurotic and pessimistic, yet endearing, comic and never less than entertaining, Perec's Woody Allen-esque underling presents an acute and penetrating vision of the world of office work, as pertinent today as it was when it was written in 1968.

The Key of the Tower Faber & Faber

Georges Perec, novelist, filmmaker and essayist, was one of the most inventive and original writers of the twentieth century. A fascinating aspect of his work is its intrinsically geographical nature. With major projects on space and place, Perec's writing speaks to a variety of geographical, urban and architectural concerns, both in a substantive way, including a focus on cities, streets, homes and apartments, and in a methodological way, experimenting with methods of urban exploration and observation, classification, enumeration and taxonomy.

Harvard University Press

Fiction by the French author Georges Perec which takes the form of pastiches of academic and scientific papers.

Species of Spaces and Other Pieces Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG

Combining fiction and autobiography in a quite unprecedented way, Georges Perec leads the reader inexorably towards the horror that lies at the origin of the post-World War Two world and at the crux of his own identity.

La Boutique Obscure Penguin Group USA

This selection of non-fictional work from the author of *Life, a User's Manual*, demonstrates Georges Perec's characteristic lightness of touch, wry humour and accessibility.

Poems 1960-1970 Atlas Press (GB)

At the bottom of the world, there is an island. It is a land of rugged wilderness, of ice and snow and blistering heat ... They say extinct tigers still roam there. They say other things roam,

too. When a school group of teenage girls go missing in the remote wilderness of Tasmania's Great Western Tiers, the people of Limestone Creek are immediately on alert. Not long ago, six young girls went missing in the area of those dangerous bluffs, and the legends of 'the Hungry Man' still haunt locals to this day. Now, authorities can determine that the teacher, Eliza Ellis, was knocked unconscious, so someone on the mountain was up to foul play. Jordan Murphy, father of missing student Jasmine and the town's local dealer, instantly becomes prime suspect, but Detective Con Badenhorst knows that in a town this size - with corrupt cops, small-town politics, and a teenage YouTube sensation - anyone could be hiding something, and bluffing comes second nature. When a body is found, mauled, at the bottom of a cliff, suspicion turns to a wild animal - but that can't explain why she, like all victims past and present, was discovered barefoot, with her shoes found nearby, laces neatly tied. What happened up there on the bluffs? Somebody knows... unless the local legends are true...

Paris in Postwar French Jewish Writing UCL Press

"An ingenious pocket universe." —Caitlin Horrocks, *The New York Times* Book Review "Gunnhild Øyehaug is a magician of the highest rank."—Catherine Lacey On an ordinary day in Bergen, Norway, in the late 1990s, Anna is reading in the garden while her two-year-old daughter, Laura, plays on her tricycle. Then, in one startling moment, Anna misreads a word, an alternate universe opens up, and Laura disappears. Twenty years or so later, life has gone on as if nothing happened, but in each of the women's lives, something is not quite right. Both Anna and Laura continue to exist, but they are invisible to each other and forgotten in each other's worlds. Both are writers and amateur pianists. They are married; Anna had two more children after Laura disappeared, and Laura is expecting a child of her own. They worry about their families, their jobs, the climate—and whether this reality is all there is.

124 Dreams Wildside Press LLC

Reproduction of the original: *Gadsby* by Ernest Vincent Wright

A Void Penguin

In this ingenious book Perec creates an entire microcosm in a Paris apartment block. Serge Valene wants to make an elaborate painting of the building he has made his home for the last sixty years. As he plans his picture, he contemplates the lives of all the people he has ever known there. Chapter by chapter, the narrative moves around the building revealing a marvellously diverse cast of characters in a series of every more unlikely tales, which range from an avenging murderer to an eccentric English millionaire who has devised the ultimate pastime...

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