

PARTIAL PAYMENTS

*Essays on Writers
and
Their Lives*

JOSEPH
EPSTEIN

Partial Payments Essays On Writers And Their Lives

Jay Parini



Partial Payments Essays On Writers And Their Lives:

Partial Payments Joseph Epstein, 1989 A collection of essays by Joseph Epstein on authors to whom he feels indebted has revered and learned from

Estranging the Familiar George Douglas Atkins, 1992 In *Estranging the Familiar* G Douglas Atkins addresses the often lamented state of scholarly and critical writing as he argues for a criticism that is at once theoretically informed and personal The revitalized critical writing he advocates may entail but is not limited to a return to the essay the form critical writing once took and the form that is now enjoying a resurgence of popularity and excellence Atkins contends that to reach a general audience criticism must move away from the impersonality of modern criticism and contemporary theory without embracing the old fashioned essay The venerable familiar essay may remain the basis Atkins writes but its conventional openness receptivity and capaciousness must extend to theory philosophy and the candor that seems to mark the tail end of the twentieth century In noting the timeliness if not the necessity of a return to the essay Atkins also considers our culture's parallel return to the personal When the essay combines good writing with the concerns of the personal Atkins says it becomes a form of criticism that is readable vital and potentially attractive to a large readership Atkins hopes critics will tap into the revitalized interest the essay now enjoys without ignoring the considerable insights and advances of contemporary theory He argues that despite claims to the contrary there is no inherent incompatibility between the essay and modern theory As Atkins considers various experiments in critical writing from Plato to the present notably feminist interest in the personal and autobiographical he contends that these attempts although undeniably important fall short of the desired goal when they emphasize the merely expressive and neglect the artful quality good writing can bring to personal criticism The final third of the book consists of a series of experiments in critical writing that represent the author's own attempts to bridge the gap between theory and popular criticism between an academic and a general audience In essays that illustrate the rhetorical power of the form Atkins describes the reciprocal relationship between his life experience and a reading of *The Odyssey* explains the role that theory has played in his personal development and chronicles his attempts to find a voice as a writer

Never Say You've Had a Lucky Life Joseph Epstein, 2024-04-16 A rich and comic portrait of the radical changes in American life and the literary world over the last eighty years An autobiography usually requires a justification The great autobiographies those by Benvenuto Cellini Jean Jacques Rousseau Benjamin Franklin and Henry Brooks Adams were justified by their authors living in interesting times harboring radically new ideas or participating in great events Joseph Epstein qualifies on none of these counts His life has been quiet lucky in numerous ways and far from dramatic But it has also been emblematic of the great changes in our country since World War II He grew up in a petit bourgeois Midwestern milieu and the city of Chicago looms large in his life He drew a lucky ticket in the parent lottery and his was a happy boyhood spent on playgrounds and hanging around drug stores At high school dances he was the rumba king and at drive in movies he was never allowed to go as far with girls as he so ardently desired At twenty six after two

years in the army he found himself married the father or stepfather of four children and living in New York on the meager salary of a magazine subeditor He was ablaze with ambition and fettered by frustration He broke out by moving to Little Rock Arkansas to direct the city's anti poverty program at the height of the Civil Rights movement His writing career blossomed he began teaching at Northwestern University and for twenty five years edited one of great intellectual magazines Never Say You've Had a Lucky Life is an intimate look at one life steeped in radical change from a traditionally moral culture to a therapeutic one from an era when the extended family was strong to its current diminished status from print to digital life featuring the war of pixel on print and on But for all the seriousness of Epstein's themes this book is memorable for its comic point of view and the constant reminder of how unpredictable various and wondrously rich life can be *The Making of a Bestseller* Arthur T. Vanderbilt, 1999-01-01

Writer F Scott Fitzgerald's career itself is a metaphor for the vagaries of book publishing If Fitzgerald would have had his way we would today refer to *The Great Gatsby* as either Gold Hatted Gatsby Trimalchio in West Egg or The High Bouncing Lover A few years before *Gatsby* Fitzgerald had become a literary sensation at the age of 23 Helen Hooven Santmyer a contemporary of Fitzgerald's would not have a successful novel published until she was 88 and living in a nursing home In this book the author explores that mysterious place in publishing where art and commerce can either clash mesh or both Along the way a wide range of authors from the literary greats to today's commercial superstars editors agents and publishers share their thoughts insights and experiences What inspires writers John Steinbeck for example wrote every novel as if it were his last as if death were imminent Why are some books successful and appreciated while others fall into oblivion The answers are often elusive never absolute but the stories and anecdotes are always fascinating *Postmortem Postmodernists* Laura E. Savu, 2009 This book scrutinizes the genre of the author as character with respect to three broad issues authorship the posthumous and cultural revisionism that arise in reading such works from a contemporary perspective Late twentieth century fiction postmodernizes romantic and modern authors not only to understand them better but also to understand itself in relation to a past literary tradition aesthetic paradigms cultural formations etc that has not really passed Penelope Fitzgerald's *The Blue Flower* Peter Ackroyd's *The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde* and Chatterton Peter Carey's *Jack Maggs* Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* Colm Toibin's *The Master* and Geoff Dyer's *Out of Sheer Rage* Wrestling with D H Lawrence the mighty dead Harold Bloom are brought back to life reanimated and bodied forth in new textual bodies that project a post modern understanding of the author as a historically and culturally contingent subjectivity constructed along the lines of gender sexual orientation class and nationality Laura E Savu is a lecturer at the University of Bucharest [Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide](#), 1991 *Contemporary Literary Criticism* Jeffery Hunter, 2005-06 Contemporary Literary Criticism covers authors who are currently active or who died after December 31 1959 Each print volume in this long standing series profiles approximately 6-8 novelists poets playwrights and other creative and nonfiction writers by providing full text or excerpted criticism taken from books magazines literary

reviews newspapers and scholarly journals Approximately 90 95% of critical essays are full text Each of the approximately 200 essays per volume is prefaced by a full citation and annotation and most entries in the print series include an author portrait Other features of CLC in print include A format familiar to librarians Fully indexes by author name title and nationality Coverage of nearly 3 000 authors More than 200 volumes in print since 1974 Each volume includes cumulative author name topic and nationality indexes as well as a volume specific title index A cumulative title index to the entire series is available separately

The New Diaspora Avinoam Patt, Mark Shechner, Victoria Aarons, 2015-05-01 Readers of contemporary American fiction and Jewish cultural history will find *The New Diaspora* enlightening and deeply engaging

The Novel, Who Needs It? Joseph Epstein, 2023-07-18 In this brief but highly engaging book Joseph Epstein argues for the primacy of fiction and specifically of the novel among all intellectual endeavors that seek to describe the behavior of human beings Reading superior fiction he holds arouses the mind in a way that nothing else quite does He shows how the novel at its best operates above the level of ideas in favor of taking up the truths of the heart No other form probes so deeply into that eternal mystery of mysteries human nature than does the novel Along the way Epstein recounts how we read fiction differently than much else we read He sets out how memory works differently in the reading of fiction than in that of other works He notes that certain novels are best read at certain ages and suggests that novels like movies might do well to carry ratings with some novels best read no later than one s early twenties others not to be read before the age of forty The knowledge one acquires from reading novels differs from all other kinds of knowledge for the subject of all superior fiction is human existence itself in all its variousness and often humbling confusion The spirit of the novel entails questioning much that others consider home truths This is demonstrated by the fact that so many important philosophers social scientists jurists and other intellectuals have been devoted readers of fiction among them Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr Michael Oakeshott Edward Shils and Clifford Geertz *The Novel Who Needs It* takes up those current elements in the culture that militate against the production of first rate fiction Prominent among them are the rise of online reading the expansion of creative writing programs the artistically discouraging effects of political correctness and the pervasiveness of therapeutic thinking throughout contemporary culture As for the title *The Novel Who Needs It* Joseph Epstein s answer is that we all do

The New York Times Book Review , 1989 Presents extended reviews of noteworthy books short reviews essays and articles on topics and trends in publishing literature culture and the arts Includes lists of best sellers hardcover and paperback

American Writers Jay Parini, 2004-10 Contains biographical and critical essays on the work of important American writers Presents scholar signed essays prepared by experts in the field

The George H. Thompson Collection of Henry Louis Mencken , 2009 Catalog of the George H Thompson Collection of Henry Louis Mencken at the Sheridan Libraries of the Johns Hopkins University

The World & I , 1991 **Families in Society** , 1999 **A Closer Look** Sidney I.

Dobrin, Anis S. Bawarshi, 2003 Organized alphabetically by author this is a composition reader that features 84 essays by 21

of the most important writers of our time The focus of the book is on writing itself the choices writers make in developing expository essays and making arguments *Neoconservative Criticism* Mark Royden Winchell,1991 **Dreiser Studies**,1991 *The publishers weekly* ,1991 Cassette Books Library of Congress. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped,1991 Talking Book Topics ,1991 Includes audio versions and annual title author index

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