

Augustus John Williams

In his entry in Ig's Bookmarked series, best-selling author Steve Almond takes on John Willams's classic American novel, Stoner.

First Published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

This book will be of interest to students, teachers, researchers and practitioners in sociology, social policy and health service studies.

Regarded as little more than a stammering fool, the nobleman Claudius quietly survives the intrigues, bloody purges and mounting cruelty of the imperial Roman dynasties. He watches and records the activities of the wise Augustus and his villainous wife Livia, the sadistic Tiberius and the insane excesses of Caligula. Written in the form of Claudius' autobiography, this is the first part of Robert Graves's brilliant account of the madness and debauchery of ancient Rome.

Europe in 1618 was riven between Protestants and Catholics, Bourbon and Hapsburg--as well as empires, kingdoms, and countless principalities. After angry Protestants tossed three representatives of the Holy Roman Empire out the window of the royal castle in Prague, world war spread from Bohemia with relentless abandon, drawing powers from Spain to Sweden into a nightmarish world of famine, disease, and seemingly unstoppable destruction.

FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD AND THE PEN ART OF THE ESSAY AWARD Over the past decade and a half, Daniel

Mendelsohn's reviews for The New York Review of Books, The New Yorker, and The New York Times Book Review have earned him a reputation as "one of the greatest critics of our time" (Poets & Writers). In *Waiting for the Barbarians*, he brings together twenty-four of his recent essays—each one glinting with "verve and sparkle," "acumen and passion"—on a wide range of subjects, from Avatar to the poems of Arthur Rimbaud, from our inexhaustible fascination with the Titanic to Susan Sontag's *Journals*. Trained as a classicist, author of two internationally best-selling memoirs, Mendelsohn moves easily from penetrating considerations of the ways in which the classics continue to make themselves felt in contemporary life and letters (Greek myth in the Spider-Man musical, Anne Carson's translations of Sappho) to trenchant takes on pop spectacles—none more explosively controversial than his dissection of *Mad Men*. Also gathered here are essays devoted to the art of fiction, from Jonathan Littell's Holocaust blockbuster *The Kindly Ones* to forgotten gems like the novels of Theodor Fontane. In a final section, "Private Lives," prefaced by Mendelsohn's *New Yorker* essay on fake memoirs, he considers the lives and work of writers as disparate as Leo Lerman, Noël Coward, and Jonathan Franzen. *Waiting for the Barbarians* once again demonstrates that Mendelsohn's "sweep as a cultural critic is as impressive as his depth."

For fans of *The Orchardist* and *The Cove* and from the author of bestselling *In the Fall*, an epic historical novel that fearlessly addresses the largest questions of love, justice, and how to live. "Wonderfully entertaining, deeply

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moving, beautifully written . . . In my estimation, Jeffrey Lent is our most American writer since Mark Twain and one of the two of three best novelists of our time."--Howard Frank Mosher

At the close of the Civil War, weary veteran Malcolm Hopeton returns to his home in western New York State to find his wife and hired man missing and his farm in disrepair. A double murder ensues, the repercussions of which ripple through a community with spiritual roots in the Second Great Awakening. Hopeton has gone from the horrors of war to those far worse, and arrayed around him are a host of other people struggling to make sense of his crime. Among them is Enoch Stone, the lawyer for the community, whose spiritual dedication is subverted by his lust for power; August Swartout, whose wife has left earthly time and whose eye is set on eternity; and a boy who must straddle two worlds as he finds his own truth and strength. Always there is love and the memory of love--as haunting as the American Eden that Jeffrey Lent has so exquisitely rendered in this unforgettable novel. *A Slant of Light* is a novel of earthly pleasure and deep love, of loss and war, of prophets and followers, of theft and revenge, in an American moment where a seemingly golden age has been shattered. This is Jeffrey Lent on his home ground and at the height of his powers. The acclaimed historian and author of *Caesar* presents "a first-rate popular biography" of Rome's first emperor, written "with a storyteller's brio" (*Washington Post*). The story of Augustus' life is filled with drama and contradiction, risky gambles and unexpected success. He began as a teenage warlord whose only claim to

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power was as the grand-nephew and heir of the murdered Julius Caesar. Mark Antony dubbed him “a boy who owes everything to a name,” but he soon outmaneuvered a host of more experienced politicians to become the last man standing in 30 BC. Over the next half century, Augustus created a new system of government—the Principate or rule of an emperor—which brought peace and stability to the vast Roman Empire. In this highly anticipated biography, Goldsworthy puts his deep knowledge of ancient sources to full use, recounting the events of Augustus’ long life in greater detail than ever before. Goldsworthy pins down the man behind the myths: a consummate manipulator, propagandist, and showman, both generous and ruthless. Under Augustus’ rule the empire prospered, yet his success was constantly under threat and his life was intensely unpredictable.

Nominated as one of America’s best-loved novels by PBS’s *The Great American Read*. A love story, an adventure, and an epic of the frontier, Larry McMurtry’s Pulitzer Prize–winning classic, *Lonesome Dove*, the third book in the *Lonesome Dove* tetralogy, is the grandest novel ever written about the last defiant wilderness of America. Journey to the dusty little Texas town of Lonesome Dove and meet an unforgettable assortment of heroes and outlaws, whores and ladies, Indians and settlers. Richly authentic, beautifully written, always dramatic, *Lonesome Dove* is a book to make us laugh, weep, dream, and remember.

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First published in 1948, *Nothing but the Night* marked the auspicious beginning of John Williams' career as a novelist--a career that would go on to include the classics *Stoner* and the National Book Award winning *Augustus*. In the person of Arthur Maxley, Williams investigates the terror and the waywardness of a man who has suffered an early traumatic experience. As a child, Maxley witnessed a scene of such violence and of such a nature that the evocation of Greek tragedy is inescapable. Now, years later, we move through a single significant day in the grown Arthur Maxley's life, the day when he is to meet his father, who has been absent for many years. With rare economy and clarity, the story moves at an ever-increasing pace to its unforgettable end.

The personalities of the Twelve Caesars of ancient Rome - Julius Caesar and the first eleven Roman emperors who followed him - have profoundly impressed themselves upon the world. They formed the theme of the great Roman biographer Suetonius, who had much to say about their sexual and other aberrations, which have been the subject of countless legends and bizarre fantasies. In this book Michael Grant attempts to penetrate the fog of superstition and rumour that has gathered around these astonishingly powerful men and investigates how they wielded such vast might, how they coped or failed with their task, and considers the effects

their intensely demanding public careers had on their private lives. He questions the truth of the many stories which have suggested that the Caesars were consumed by erotic eccentricities, and he asks to what extent we are justified, after a study of the scorching pages of Tacitus, in applying to the Roman Caesars Lord Acton's saying that absolute power corrupts absolutely.

This book is about the increasing significance of DNA profiling for crime investigation in modern society. It focuses on developments in the UK as the world-leader in the development and application of forensic DNA technology and in the construction of DNA databases as an essential element in the successful use of DNA for forensic purposes. The book uses data collected during the course of Wellcome Trust funded research into police uses of the UK National DNA Database (NDNAD) to describe the relationship between scientific knowledge and police investigations. It is illustrated throughout by reference to some of the major UK criminal cases in which DNA evidence has been presented and contested.

An enthralling story of revolution, idealism, and a savage struggle for utopia by one of China's greatest living novelists. In 1898 reformist intellectuals in China persuaded the young emperor that it was time to transform his sclerotic empire into a prosperous modern state. The Hundred Days' Reform that

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followed was a moment of unprecedented change and extraordinary hope—brought to an abrupt end by a bloody military coup. Dashed expectations would contribute to the revolutionary turn that Chinese history would soon take, leading in time to the deaths of millions. *Peach Blossom Paradise*, set at the time of the reform, is the story of Xiumi, the daughter of a wealthy landowner and former government official who falls prey to insanity and disappears. Days later, a man with a gold cicada in his pocket turns up at his estate and is inexplicably welcomed as a relative. This mysterious man has a great vision of reforging China as an egalitarian utopia, and he will stop at nothing to make it real. It is his own plans, however, which come to nothing, and his “little sister” Xiumi is left to take up arms against a Confucian world in which women are chattel. Her campaign for change and her struggle to seize control over her own body are continually threatened by the violent whims of men who claim to be building paradise.

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called *Stoner* “a perfect novel,” and a host of writers and critics, including Colum McCann, Julian Barnes, Bret Easton Ellis, Ian McEwan, Emma Straub, Ruth Rendell, C. P. Snow, and Irving Howe, praised its artistry. The *New Yorker* deemed it “a masterly portrait of a truly virtuous and dedicated man.” The *Man Who Wrote the Perfect Novel* traces the life of *Stoner*’s author, John Williams. Acclaimed biographer Charles J. Shields follows the whole arc of Williams’s life, which in many ways paralleled that of his titular character, from their shared working-class backgrounds to their undistinguished careers in the halls of academia. Shields vividly recounts Williams’s development as an author, whose other works include the novels *Butcher’s Crossing* and *Augustus* (for the latter, Williams shared the 1972 National Book Award). Shields also reveals the astonishing afterlife of *Stoner*, which garnered new fans with each American reissue, and then became a bestseller all over Europe after Dutch publisher Lebowski brought out a translation in 2013. Since then, *Stoner* has been published in twenty-one countries and has sold over a million copies.

Augustus [New York Review of Books](#)

Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, better known as Augustus, was the first Roman emperor and is one of the most iconic figures in world history. Two thousand years after his death, Augustus remains a strong presence in modern culture. The *Semiotics of*

Caesar Augustus examines the meanings and significances of Augustus in Western literary and popular culture, from the 1960s until the turn of the millennium. Drawing on the theoretical background of semiotics and classical reception studies, Elina Pyy investigates the representation of Augustus in the postmodern novels of Kurt Vonnegut and Christoph Ransmayr, as well as in the genre of historical fiction, and in screen representations from both sides of the Atlantic. Scrutinizing what Caesar Augustus stood for in the postmodern world, and the main factors that influenced (and still influence) the modern reader's interpretation of him, this book is grounded on the premise that the past, being a system of signs based on our culturally shared understanding of them, is continuously created and reconstructed by the modern audience. Arguing that the 'many faces of the emperor' can be considered to be reactions to contemporary cultural, socio-political or emotional needs, *The Semiotics of Caesar Augustus* shows how his character was recurrently utilized to explain and understand the ways in which the discourses of power, liberty, oppression and humanity operated in the postmodern world.

For the past several years the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown University has been teaching an extremely popular sophomore level differential equations course. The immense success of this

course is due primarily to two factors. First, and foremost, the material is presented in a manner which is rigorous enough for our mathematics and applied mathematics majors, but yet intuitive and practical enough for our engineering, biology, economics, physics and geology majors. Secondly, numerous case histories are given of how researchers have used differential equations to solve real life problems. This book is the outgrowth of this course. It is a rigorous treatment of differential equations and their applications, and can be understood by anyone who has had a two semester course in Calculus. It contains all the material usually covered in a one or two semester course in differential equations. In addition, it possesses the following unique features which distinguish it from other textbooks on differential equations.

Een tijdloos verhaal over vriendschap, loyaliteit en de mechanismen van de macht. Door de auteur van Stoner en Butcher's Crossing. In zijn derde grote roman, winnaar van de National Book Award, vertelt John Williams het verhaal van de stichter van het Romeinse rijk, wiens grootsheid even legendarisch was als zijn grenzeloze ambitie: Augustus. Vanaf de moord op zijn oom Julius Caesar tot aan de laatste dagen van het keizerrijk volgen we Augustus op zijn tocht over het glibberige pad van de macht: niemand is te vertrouwen, de senaat wordt beheerst door eigenbelang en allianties zijn even snel gevormd als

gebroken. Augustus is een meerstemmige roman: via de gefingeerde brieven, dagboekantekeningen, memoires en reisverslagen van historische figuren als Marcus Antonius, de dichter Cicero en Augustus' dochter Julia, maar ook van een eenvoudige soldaat in de legers van de keizer, verrijst het levensechte beeld van een man die ervan droomt het corrupte Rome te bevrijden van het wispelturige juk van megalomane warhoofden en roofzuchtige rijken. Net als in Stoner en Butcher's Crossing onderzoekt Williams in Augustus waarden als de verantwoordelijkheid van het individu, vriendschap en de zucht naar macht, en weet hij de dilemma's in een mensenleven als geen ander invoelbaar te maken. 'Augustus is een meesterwerk' Los Angeles Times 'De lezer wordt diep in een wereld gezogen die in al haar complexiteit, luxe, politiek cynisme, publieke goedgegelovigheid en geweld, verdacht veel op die van ons lijkt' The New Yorker John Williams (1922-1994) is wereldwijd herontdekt als schrijver van een uniek en hartverscheurend oeuvre. Alleen al in Nederland werden van Stoner en Butcher's Crossing samen meer dan 300.000 exemplaren verkocht. Over Butcher's Crossing schreef de pers: 'Niet elk jaar lees je een boek dat zo meeslepend is dat je er bijna in verdwijnt en alles om je heen vergeet. Butcher's Crossing is zo'n boek. Nog beter dan Stoner' nrc Handelsblad ***** 'Butcher's Crossing zingt, in een andere toonsoort, maar

mooier, hetzelfde sombere lied als Stoner. Ziedaar de verrassing van 2013' de Volkskrant ***** 'Net zo sterk en verpletterend als de vergeten parel Stoner. Lees dit boek, het zal je niet berouwen' De Standaard der Letteren ****

Shortlisted for the 2021 International Booker Prize A fictional examination of the lives of real-life scientists and thinkers whose discoveries resulted in moral consequences beyond their imagining. When We Cease to Understand the World is a book about the complicated links between scientific and mathematical discovery, madness, and destruction. Fritz Haber, Alexander Grothendieck, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger—these are some of luminaries into whose troubled lives Benjamín Labatut thrusts the reader, showing us how they grappled with the most profound questions of existence. They have strokes of unparalleled genius, alienate friends and lovers, descend into isolation and insanity. Some of their discoveries reshape human life for the better; others pave the way to chaos and unimaginable suffering. The lines are never clear. At a breakneck pace and with a wealth of disturbing detail, Labatut uses the imaginative resources of fiction to tell the stories of the scientists and mathematicians who expanded our notions of the possible.

In his National Book Award–winning novel Augustus, John Williams uncovered the secrets of ancient

Rome. With *Butcher's Crossing*, his fiercely intelligent, beautifully written western, Williams dismantles the myths of modern America. It is the 1870s, and Will Andrews, "red up by Emerson to seek "an original relation to nature," drops out of Harvard and heads west. He washes up in *Butcher's Crossing*, a small Kansas town on the outskirts of nowhere. *Butcher's Crossing* is full of restless men looking for ways to make money and ways to waste it. Before long Andrews strikes up a friendship with one of them, a man who regales Andrews with tales of immense herds of buffalo, ready for the taking, hidden away in a beautiful valley deep in the Colorado Rockies. He convinces Andrews to join in an expedition to track the animals down. The journey out is grueling, but at the end is a place of paradisaical richness. Once there, however, the three men abandon themselves to an orgy of slaughter, so caught up in killing buffalo that they lose all sense of time. Winter soon overtakes them: they are snowed in. Next spring, half-insane with cabin fever, cold, and hunger, they stagger back to *Butcher's Crossing* to find a world as irremediably changed as they have been.

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becomes a parable of solitude and anguish eventually found an admiring audience in America and especially in Europe. The New York Times called Stoner “a perfect novel,” and a host of writers and critics, including Colum McCann, Julian Barnes, Bret Easton Ellis, Ian McEwan, Emma Straub, Ruth Rendell, C. P. Snow, and Irving Howe, praised its artistry. The New Yorker deemed it “a masterly portrait of a truly virtuous and dedicated man.” The Man Who Wrote the Perfect Novel traces the life of Stoner’s author, John Williams. Acclaimed biographer Charles J. Shields follows the whole arc of Williams’s life, which in many ways paralleled that of his titular character, from their shared working-class backgrounds to their undistinguished careers in the halls of academia. Shields masterfully recounts Williams’s development as an author, whose other works include the novels Butcher’s Crossing and Augustus (for the latter, Williams shared the 1972 National Book Award). Shields also reveals the astonishing afterlife of Stoner, which garnered new fans with each American reissue, and then became a bestseller all over Europe after Dutch publisher Lebowski brought out a translation in 2013. Since then, Stoner has been published in twenty-one countries and has sold over a million copies.

A sweeping biography of Rome's first emperor follows Augustus Caesar as he transformed the Roman Republic into the world's greatest empire,

consolidating and expanding Roman power into every aspect of the known world of his time, and examines his life in the context of the world in which he lived. By the author of Cicero. Reprint. 35,000 first printing.

The first edition of this book gained recognition as the definitive textbook of diabetes epidemiology. The second edition builds on this success, gathering recent information on international trends and data for diabetes mellitus. In particular, the book highlights the dramatic rise of Type 2 diabetes in children, adolescents and the elderly throughout the world. One new section features prevention and screening of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Other new chapters cover the epidemiology of obesity and the impact of nutrition, and review available guidelines for better worldwide glycemic control. Future challenges, including the effects of antipsychotic treatment and HIV infection and therapy on diabetes, are also addressed. All chapters have been completely revised and updated, covering: definitions, classification and risk factors for diabetes new evidence for screening and prevention of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes epidemiology of complications and associated risk factors economic aspects: the direct and indirect costs of diabetes. The Epidemiology of Diabetes Mellitus fills the need for a current compendium of diabetes epidemiology in the tradition of the first

monumental text of the late Kelly West. It is essential reading for general practitioners, diabetologists, clinical endocrinologists, cardiologists, epidemiologists, nurses, dieticians, and other diabetes care providers, as well as health care decision makers.

Soon after Gwenda moved into her new home, odd things started to happen. Despite her best efforts to modernize the house, she only succeeded in dredging up its past. Worse, she felt an irrational sense of terror every time she climbed the stairs. In fear, Gwenda turned to Miss Marple to exorcise her ghosts. Between them, they were to solve a “perfect” crime committed many years before.

In CHIMERA John Barth injects his signature wit into the tales of Scheherazade of the Thousand and One Nights, Perseus, the slayer of Medusa, and Bellerophon, who tamed the winged horse Pegasus. In a book that the Washington Post called “stylishly maned, tragically songful, and serpentineally elegant,” Barth retells these tales from varying perspectives, examining the myths’ relationship to reality and their resonance with the contemporary world. A winner of the National Book Award, this feisty, witty, sometimes bawdy book provoked Playboy to comment, “There’s every chance in the world that John Barth is a genius.”

“Born the child of a poor farmer in Missouri, William Stoner is urged by his parents to study new agriculture techniques at the state university. Digging instead into the texts of Milton and Shakespeare, Stoner falls under

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the spell of the unexpected pleasures of English literature, and decides to make it his life. Stoner is the story of that life"--Publisher description (January 2007). Pretty, unworldly Sophia is twenty-one years old and hastily married to a young painter called Charles. An artist's model with an eccentric collection of pets, she is ill-equipped to cope with the bohemian London of the 1930s, where poverty, babies (however much loved) and husband conspire to torment her. Hoping to add some spice to her life, Sophia takes up with Peregrine, a dismal, ageing critic, and comes to regret her marriage - and her affair. But in this case virtue is more than its own reward, for repentance brings an abrupt end to the cycle of unsold pictures, unpaid bills and unwashed dishes . . .

WINNER OF THE 1973 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD By the Author of Stoner In Augustus, his third great novel, John Williams took on an entirely new challenge, a historical narrative set in classical Rome, exploring the life of the founder of the Roman Empire. To tell the story, Williams turned to the epistolary novel, a genre that was new to him, transforming and transcending it just as he did the western in *Butcher's Crossing* and the campus novel in *Stoner*. Augustus is the final triumph of a writer who has come to be recognized around the world as an American master.

Hailed for its searing emotional insights, and for the astonishing originality with which it weaves together personal history, cultural essay, and readings of classical texts by Sophocles, Ovid, Euripides, and Sappho, *The Elusive Embrace* is a profound exploration of the mysteries of identity. It is also a meditation in which the

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author uses his own divided life to investigate the "rich conflictedness of things," the double lives all of us lead. Daniel Mendelsohn recalls the deceptively quiet suburb where he grew up, torn between his mathematician father's pursuit of scientific truth and the exquisite lies spun by his Orthodox Jewish grandfather; the streets of Manhattan's newest "gay ghetto," where "desire for love" competes with "love of desire;" and the quiet moonlit house where a close friend's small son teaches him the meaning of fatherhood. And, finally, in a neglected Jewish cemetery, the author uncovers a family secret that reveals the universal need for storytelling, for inventing myths of the self. The book that Hilton Als calls "equal to Whitman's 'Song of Myself,'" *The Elusive Embrace* marks a dazzling literary debut.

One of *The New York Times Book Review's* "10 Best Books of 2015" *An NYRB Classics Original* *The Door* is an unsettling exploration of the relationship between two very different women. Magda is a writer, educated, married to an academic, public-spirited, with an on-again-off-again relationship to Hungary's Communist authorities. Emerence is a peasant, illiterate, impassive, abrupt, seemingly ageless. She lives alone in a house that no one else may enter, not even her closest relatives. She is Magda's housekeeper and she has taken control over Magda's household, becoming indispensable to her. And Emerence, in her way, has come to depend on Magda. They share a kind of love—at least until Magda's long-sought success as a writer leads to a devastating revelation. Len Rix's prizewinning translation of *The Door* at last makes it possible for

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American readers to appreciate the masterwork of a major modern European writer.

Blending history and fiction, the author presents the memoirs of Emperor Augustus and reveals a complex leader capable of great cruelty and deceit, but also possessing forbearance and humanity

This volume is based on a conference held to examine what is known about cognitive behaviors and brain structure and function in three syndromes and to evaluate the usefulness of such models. The goal of this endeavor is to add to the knowledge base of cognitive neuroscience within a developmental framework. Most of what is known about the neurological basis of cognitive function in humans has been learned from studies of central nervous system trauma or disease in adults.

Certain neurodevelopmental disorders affect the central nervous system in unique ways by producing specific as opposed to generalized cognitive deficit. Studies of these disorders using neurobiological and behavioral techniques can yield new insights into the localization of cognitive function and the developmental course of atypical cognitive profiles. The focus of this book is a discussion of the multidisciplinary research findings from studies of autism, and Williams and Turner syndromes.

The approaches, methods, techniques, and findings reported are at the cutting edge of neuroscience research on complex behavior patterns and their neural substrates. Each disorder is accompanied by some degree of general cognitive impairment or mental retardation. Of greater interest are the atypical deficits in which a cognitive function is spared, such as language in

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Williams syndrome, or is disproportionately depressed as are spatial discrimination skills and visual-motor coordination in Turner syndrome. Drastically reduced or seemingly absent language capabilities and little interaction with other people characterize the core autism syndrome. A comprehensive and critical discussion of appropriate statistical techniques is made vivid by examples given from studies of small groups or single subjects in neurolinguistics and related fields. For the first time, a collected edition of the major works of John Williams, author of the perfect novel. John Williams has never lacked admiring readers, and one of his novels, *Augustus*, shared the 1973 National Book Award. But the republication of his novels in trade paperback in the last decades has brought new attention and a much larger readership to a master of historical fiction deeply invested in character. Now, for the first time, in a deluxe hardcover edition, Library of America brings together his three major works. In *Butcher's Crossing* (1960), set in the 1870s, William Andrews abandons his studies at Harvard and heads out for the West, arriving in the small Kansas prairie town of Butcher's Crossing, where he soon finances a buffalo hunting expedition to the Colorado Rockies. At the center of the book is an episode of slaughter no reader will ever forget; the loss of the buffalo hides, in yet another in a series of misfortunes that befalls the expedition, proves to be of little consequence, since the demand for buffalo hides has collapsed while the men have been snowbound in the mountains. *Stoner* (1965), set in the Midwest of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, follows the life and undistinguished academic career of William Stoner, who, despite numerous disappointments, fashions an inner life that is a source of continuing solace and strength. The *New York Times* has called it something rarer

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than a great novel--it is a perfect novel. In *Augustus* (1972), a meditation on power and love, Williams transports readers back to Ancient Rome and the rule of Augustus through letters and journals.

A global view of the insect groups that are of major significance to worldwide agriculture in its widest sense. It is intended for use as a college text and presupposes a basic knowledge of entomology. All the main insect groups and many of the important genera are illustrated with hundreds of black-and-white photographs and line drawings.

By the author of *Stoner*, the surprise international bestseller After the brutal murder of his great-uncle, Julius Caesar, Octavian, a shy and scholarly youth of nineteen, suddenly finds himself heir to the vast power of Rome. He is destined, despite vicious power struggles, bloody wars and family strife, to transform his realm and become the greatest ruler the western world had ever seen: Augustus Caesar, the first Roman Emperor. Building on impeccable research, John Williams brings the legendary figure of Augustus vividly to life, and invests his characters with such profound humanity that we enter completely into the heat and danger of their lives and times.

“A significant novel, beautifully crafted and deeply felt. Beha creates a high bonfire of our era's vanities. . . . This is a novel to savor.”- 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 wondered—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

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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. Kit, the matriarch, 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 fantastically successful 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.

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