

## Falling Angel William Hjortsberg

National Book Award winner Ann Arensberg brings readers a modern horror story about evil descending on an insular Maine town. It begins with the theft of six candles from the church altar, a few herbs found strewn in the local graveyard. In the summer of 1974, the prosperous farming community of Dry Falls, Maine, is hit by a brutal heat wave. Crops fail. Drought blights once-verdant lawns. Men inexplicably lose all interest in sex, while women complain of erotic nocturnal visitations. Farm animals give birth to monstrosities. An unholy, unimaginable force is disrupting the natural order—and it seems to be specifically targeting Dry Falls. Narrated by the careful and practical Cora Whitman, wife of the town pastor, this tale of creeping strangeness quickly turns sinister. Incubus subtly builds to its shattering climax with Cora at its epicenter. Expertly interweaving themes of faith, religion, and marriage with that of the supernatural, this modern horror classic will enthrall fans of Ann Arensberg and attract a legion of new readers. “A heartbreaking, finger-gnawing, and yet ultimately hopeful novel by the amazing Rene Denfeld.” —Margaret Atwood, via Twitter After captivating readers in *The Child Finder*, Naomi—the investigator with an uncanny ability for finding missing children—returns, trading snow-covered woods for dark, gritty streets on the search for her missing sister in a city where young, homeless girls have been going missing and turning up dead. From the highly praised author of *The Child Finder* and *The Enchanted* comes *The Butterfly Girl*, a riveting novel that ripples with truth, exploring the depths of love and sacrifice in the face of a past that cannot be left dead and buried. A year ago, Naomi, the investigator with an uncanny ability for finding missing children, made a promise that she would not take another case until she finds the

younger sister who has been missing for years. Naomi has no picture, not even a name. All she has is a vague memory of a strawberry field at night, black dirt under her bare feet as she ran for her life. The search takes her to Portland, Oregon, where scores of homeless children wander the streets like ghosts, searching for money, food, and companionship. The sharp-eyed investigator soon discovers that young girls have been going missing for months, many later found in the dirty waters of the river. Though she does not want to get involved, Naomi is unable to resist the pull of children in need—and the fear she sees in the eyes of a twelve-year-old girl named Celia. Running from an abusive stepfather and an addict mother, Celia has nothing but hope in the butterflies—her guides and guardians on the dangerous streets. She sees them all around her, tiny iridescent wisps of hope that soften the edges of this hard world and illuminate a cherished memory from her childhood—the Butterfly Museum, a place where everything is safe and nothing can hurt her. As danger creeps closer, Naomi and Celia find echoes of themselves in one another, forcing them each to consider the question: Can you still be lost even when you've been found? But will they find the answer too late?

“A sleek, sophisticated, madly clever chamber mystery” from the international bestselling author—the basis for the film *Uncovered* starring Kate Beckinsale (*The New York Times Book Review*). A fifteenth-century painting by a Flemish master is about to be auctioned when Julia, a young art restorer, discovers a peculiar inscription hidden in a corner: Who killed the knight? In the painting, the Duke of Flanders and his knight are locked in a game of chess, and a dark lady lurks mysteriously in the background. Julia is determined to solve the five-hundred-year-old murder, but as she begins to look for clues, several of her friends in the art world are brutally murdered in quick succession. Messages left with the bodies suggest a crucial

connection between the chess game in the painting, the knight's murder, the sordid underside of the contemporary art world, and the latest deaths. Just when all of the players in the mystery seem to be pawns themselves, events race toward a shocking conclusion. A thriller like no other, *The Flanders Panel* presents a tantalizing puzzle for any connoisseur of mystery, chess, art, and history. "A beguiling puzzle—a game within a game within a game—solved in perplexing but entertaining fashion."—*The Philadelphia Inquirer* "For mystery fans who yearn for literate, intelligent, sophisticated whodunits, Spanish author Pérez-Reverte's highly acclaimed story fills the bill perfectly . . . An inventive plot, gripping suspense, fascinatingly complex characters, and innovative incorporation of art, literature, and music will enthrall readers looking for something a little different."—*Booklist* "This intelligent mystery . . . comes up with a satisfying twist at the end."—*Library Journal*

Raymond Chandler meets *The Exorcist*. Classic novel in a signed, limited edition.

"A smart, deep, black magic carnie noir existential bloodbath" from the acclaimed author of *Boon* (Gemma Files, Shirley Jackson Award–winning author). In the shadow of World War II, the barren, dusty streets of Litchfield, Arkansas, are even quieter than usual, leaving hotel detective George "Jojo" Walker with too much time to struggle with his own personal demons. But everything changes when a traveling picture show comes to town. The film's purveyors check into the hotel where Jojo works and set up a special midnight screening at the local theater. The curtain rises on a surreal carnival of dark magic and waking nightmares, starring Jojo and the residents of Litchfield, as madness, murder, and mayhem threaten to engulf them all . . . "A stunner of a story . . . Flat-out brilliant . . . Unfolds like petals of an exotic and scandalous black flower—each one gently opening to give the reader a distressing revelation . . .

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. Powerful ideas, wrapped in a dark mantle of horror.” —My Haunted Library “If you like pulpy noir with a dose of existentialism mixed with some utterly bizarre horror, this book is for you.” —Fangoria “Genre mash-ups like this one are difficult to execute, but Kurtz navigates it deftly, with writing so visceral and evocative it feels less like reading a book and more like watching a film in real time.” —Literary Hub “While it echoes with the shadowy threatening of Bradbury’s *Something Wicked This Way Comes* and the religious dread of Hjortsberg’s *Falling Angel*, the clearest voice here is Kurtz’s own cry into the existential abyss.” —Bracken MacLeod, author of *Mountain Home*

Falling Angel Open Road Media

A 1950s amnesiac and hard-boiled detective sets out for revenge in this blend of mystery, supernatural horror, and metaphysical fiction. Private investigator Harry Angel is in a jam. Handcuffed in his apartment along with the cops and a corpse, he stands accused of violently murdering three people. The good news is he knows who did it. But in order to exonerate himself, Harry must first make his escape—and figure out his own identity. With the authorities hot on his heels, Harry travels from New York and Boston to Paris and the Vatican in search of an elusive stage magician. Eventually piecing together his mysterious past, he descends into the dark world of the occult. And very soon he will have vengeance upon the devil himself . . . A terrifying thriller, *Angel’s Inferno* is the long-awaited follow-up to the Edgar Award-nominated noir suspense novel *Falling Angel*, the basis of the film *Angel Heart*. Praise for *Falling Angel* “Terrific . . . One of a kind . . . I’ve never read anything remotely like it.” —Stephen King “A chilling homage to the hard-boiled detective novel of the Raymond Chandler school.” —The New York Times “A near perfect book . . . Not since *Psycho* changed the

bathing habits of thousands has a novelist so completely turned conceptions inside out.” —Los Angeles Times

Instant New York Times Bestseller One of Fall 2019's Best Books (People, EW, Lithub, Vox, Washington Post, and more) A young boy is haunted by a voice in his head in this acclaimed epic of literary horror from the author of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Christopher is seven years old. Christopher is the new kid in town. Christopher has an imaginary friend. We can swallow our fear or let our fear swallow us. Single mother Kate Reese is on the run.

Determined to improve life for her and her son, Christopher, she flees an abusive relationship in the middle of the night with her child. Together, they find themselves drawn to the tight-knit community of Mill Grove, Pennsylvania. It's as far off the beaten track as they can get. Just one highway in, one highway out. At first, it seems like the perfect place to finally settle down. Then Christopher vanishes. For six long days, no one can find him. Until Christopher emerges from the woods at the edge of town, unharmed but not unchanged. He returns with a voice in his head only he can hear, with a mission only he can complete: Build a treehouse in the woods by Christmas, or his mother and everyone in the town will never be the same again. Twenty years ago, Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* made readers everywhere feel infinite. Now, Chbosky has returned with an epic work of literary horror, years in the making, whose grand scale and rich emotion redefine the genre. Read it with the lights on.

The life of an American hippie in Mexico is upended by a gang of ex-cons in this thriller full of “wild surprises” (Carl Hiaasen). All Tod remembers when he wakes up next to a dead prostitute is that he had his first shot of heroin the night before.

He and his wife, Linda, were partying with their new neighbors, a trio of parole violators who fled to Mexico after robbing a Beverly Hills jewelry store. Now the place is empty, stripped clean except for Tod's hunting knife, which is covered in blood. Did he kill the woman, or was he left behind as the fall guy? Convinced that his junkie friends abducted Linda to keep her from talking to the police, Tod buys a gun and prepares to do whatever it takes to get his wife back before he makes a run for the border.

Step inside *The Magic Cottage*, another chilling classic from the Master of Horror James Herbert. A cottage was found in the heart of the forest. It was charming, maybe a little run-down, but so peaceful – a magical haven for creativity and love. But the cottage had an alternative side – the bad magic. What happened there was horrendous beyond belief . . .

ONE OF THE "SUMMER READS GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR HEART THUMP AND SKIN CRAWL"—The New York Times ONE OF THE "MUST-READ BOOKS FOR SUMMER 2021"—The Chicago Tribune NOTABLE MENTION "THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR; CRIME FICTION 2021"—CrimeReads ONE OF "THE BEST NEW CRIME NOVELS"—Book Riot ONE OF THE "MOST ANTICIPATED CRIME BOOKS OF 2021"—CrimeReads ONE OF THE "MOST ANTICIPATED RELEASES OF 2021"—Book Riot ONE OF THE "11 CRIME

NOVELS YOU SHOULD READ THIS FEBRUARY"—CrimeReads ONE OF "2021'S MOST ANTICIPATED NEW RELEASES"—Books in The Freezer This horrifying retelling of the Pied Piper fairytale set in present-day Chicago is an edge of your seat, chills up the spine, thrill ride. ? When Detective Lauren Medina sees the calling card at a murder scene in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood, she knows the Pied Piper has returned. When another teenager is brutally murdered at the same lagoon where her sister's body was found floating years before, she is certain that the Pied Piper is not just back, he's looking for payment he's owed from her. Lauren's torn between protecting the city she has sworn to keep safe, and keeping a promise she made long ago with her sister's murderer. She may have to ruin her life by exposing her secrets and lies to stop the Pied Piper before he collects.

Vietnam, 1963. Sixteen thousand American servicemen are "advising" the military and government. Among them are Ellsworth Miser and Clovis Robeson, two army investigators trying to track down the female Communist assassin who has been hunting American officers. Trawling the boulevards of Saigon with her comrade accomplices, she catches the Americans off-guard with a single pistol shot, then rides off on the back of a scooter. Play the Red Queen is a thriller set in the besieged capital of a new nation on the eve of the coup that would bring

down the Diem regime. It is about the laws of war and the lawlessness of war, about allies who are less than supportive and enemies who command grudging respect even as they strive to effect lethal revenge—and about two GI cops in the cauldron of a civil war stoked red hot by revolution.

A novel depicting the dissatisfactions of a modern American army and the bewilderment of men who have lost faith in their country's institutions

A collection of horror stories set in urban and suburban locations includes contributions by Ray Bradbury, Fritz Leiber, Joyce Carol Oates, John Cheever, and others

Fourteen chilling tales from the pioneering women who created the domestic suspense genre Murderous wives, deranged husbands, deceitful children, and vengeful friends. Few know these characters—and their creators—better than Sarah Weinman. One of today's preeminent authorities on crime fiction, Weinman asks: Where would bestselling authors like Gillian Flynn, Sue Grafton, or Tana French be without the women writers who came before them? In *Troubled Daughters*, *Twisted Wives*, Weinman brings together fourteen hair-raising tales by women who—from the 1940s through the mid-1970s—took a scalpel to contemporary society and sliced away to reveal its dark essence. Lovers of crime fiction from any era will welcome this deliciously dark tribute to a



largely forgotten generation of women writers.

A finalist for the 2017 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel. Deftly written and utterly addictive, this Western literary horror debut will find a home with fans of authors like Joe Hill, Cormac McCarthy, and Anne Rice. One night in 1980, a man becomes a monster. Haunted by his past, Travis Stillwell spends his nights searching out women in West Texas honky-tonks. What he does with them doesn't make him proud, just quiets the demons for a little while. But after Travis crosses paths one night with a mysterious pale-skinned girl, he wakes weak and bloodied in his cabover camper the next morning—with no sign of a girl, no memory of the night before. Annabelle Gaskin spies the camper parked behind her motel and offers the cowboy a few odd jobs to pay his board. Travis takes her up on the offer, if only to buy time, to lay low and heal. By day, he mends the old motel, insinuating himself into the lives of Annabelle and her ten-year-old son. By night, in the cave of his camper, he fights an unspeakable hunger. Before long, Annabelle and her boy come to realize that this strange cowboy is not what he seems. Half a state away, a grizzled Texas Ranger is hunting Travis for his past misdeeds, but what he finds will lead him to a revelation far more monstrous. A man of the law, he'll have to decide how far into the darkness he'll go for the sake of justice. When these lives converge on a

dusty autumn night, an old evil will find new life—and new blood.

From Lovecraft to Borges to Gaiman, a century of intrepid literary experimentation has created a corpus of dark and strange stories that transcend all known genre boundaries. Together these stories form *The Weird*, and its practitioners include some of the greatest names in twentieth and twenty-first century literature. Exotic and esoteric, *The Weird* plunges you into dark domains and brings you face to face with surreal monstrosities. You won't find any elves or wizards here...but you will find the biggest, boldest, and downright most peculiar stories from the last hundred years bound together in the biggest *Weird* collection ever assembled. *The Weird* features 110 stories by an all-star cast, from literary legends to international bestsellers to Booker Prize winners: including William Gibson, George R. R. Martin, Stephen King, Angela Carter, Kelly Link, Franz Kafka, China Miéville, Clive Barker, Haruki Murakami, M. R. James, Neil Gaiman, Mervyn Peake, and Michael Chabon. *The Weird* is the winner of the 2012 World Fantasy Award for Best Anthology. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Charlie and Paulie consider themselves "family" even though they are only fifth cousins. Neither of them is 100 percent legitimate but they are not heavy thieves either. They beat the system as best they can with the various inside hustles of New York City's bar and restaurant scene. Charlie, managing a Village restaurant at age thirty-five, needs one shot to realize his dream of owning his own place in rural New England.

Meanwhile, he's just a jump ahead of two shylocks and into the worst streak of losing horses he has ever gone through. Paulie is only a five-foot-three-inch waiter but he thinks big. Very image conscious, he even tips toll booth attendants. And he went into hock to become part owner of a "turrow bed" racehorse. Now he has an idea for one foolproof burglary that will solve all his problems for good, and he enlists Charlie in his scheme. The third member of the team is Barney. A semi-retired locksmith and safecracker from the Bronx, Barney has a retarded son and is willing to take one last gamble to provide for his future. A clean break-in, a three-way split, and each of their dreams will come true. Maybe. Before it's over, they find themselves relentlessly hunted by both the Mafia "wise guys" and the police. And each of them grasps for survival in a different way. Acutely realistic yet wondrously funny, *The Pope of Greenwich Village* captures the speech, the scams, the flavor, the dread, and the humor of ordinary people scrambling to make it big in a neighborhood that prides itself on creating and enforcing its own laws.

When tension mounts following a series of brutal murders of young boys on tenement rooftops, Officer Daniel Rodriguez finds himself caught between the woman he loves and the law

What to read next is every book lover's greatest dilemma. Nancy Pearl comes to the rescue with this wide-ranging and fun guide to the best reading new and old. Pearl, who inspired legions of litterateurs with "What If All (name the city) Read the Same Book,"

has devised reading lists that cater to every mood, occasion, and personality. These annotated lists cover such topics as mother-daughter relationships, science for nonscientists, mysteries of all stripes, African-American fiction from a female point of view, must-reads for kids, books on bicycling, "chick-lit," and many more. Pearl's enthusiasm and taste shine throughout.

Strange mysteries abound in a small Maine town. Why did the brilliant, but cruel, Dr. Gideon Wyck perform an unnecessary amputation on one of his patients? Why does that patient now insist that black devils are trying to steal his soul? What is behind the series of monster babies being born to apparently normal, healthy women? And when Wyck is found dead under peculiar and inexplicable circumstances, who is responsible--and why? ? The Cadaver of Gideon Wyck, Alexander Laing's odd hybrid of horror, crime and science fiction, was an unlikely bestseller and critical success when first published in 1934, and it was later selected by Karl Edward Wagner as one of the top horror novels of all time. This new edition reprints the unabridged text of the first edition along with a reproduction of its dust jacket art and frontispiece by Lynd Ward. Follow the Colombian and Venezuelan Wayuu people's stunning geometric patterns and shapes to make ten stunning bags! Colourful, functional and fun - these striking crocheted Wayuu mochila bags have the best combination of features! Using the technique of tapestry crochet, there are ten stunning bags to make, all in excitingly bold colourways and designs, with the characteristic woven shoulder straps and drawstring

cords. Some of the bags are also embellished with pompoms and tassels. Using the traditional geometric patterns and shapes of the Colombian and Venezuelan Wayuu people, each bag is unique and you can make them in your own choice of colours. There is a comprehensive techniques section at the beginning of the book to help you get to grips with tapestry crochet, and a section at the end showing you how to make the beautifully woven straps and also the drawstrings, using the Kumihimo technique. The woven straps could also easily be made on their own as trendy belts for trousers and skirts. Using very simple stitches, with easy-to-follow patterns and widely available 100% cotton yarns, these bags are too beautiful to resist - so pick up your yarn and hook and get started!

Lists in chronological order the best horror novels and discusses the plot and background of each work

A New York Times bestseller From the author of the international bestseller *Girl With A Pearl Earring* and *At the Edge of the Orchard*, Tracy Chevalier once again paints a distant age with a rich and provocative palette of characters. *Falling Angels* follows the fortunes of two families in the emerging years of the twentieth century in England, while the Queen's death reverberates through a changing nation. Told through a variety of shifting perspectives—wives and husbands, friends and lovers, masters and their servants, and a gravedigger's son—*Falling Angels* is graced with the luminous imagery that distinguished *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, *Falling Angels* is another dazzling tour de

force from this "master of voices" (The New York Times Book Review). A true crime podcast sets a trophy wife's present life on a collision course with her secret past in this "blazingly intense" Reese Witherspoon book club pick and New York Times Best Crime Novel of the Year (A. J. Finn). The day Anna McDonald's quiet, respectable life exploded started off like all the days before: Packing up the kids for school, making breakfast, listening to yet another true crime podcast. Then her husband comes downstairs with an announcement, and Anna is suddenly, shockingly alone. Reeling, desperate for distraction, Anna returns to the podcast. Other people's problems are much better than one's own -- a sunken yacht, a murdered family, a hint of international conspiracy. But this case actually is Anna's problem. She knows one of the victims from an earlier life, a life she's taken great pains to leave behind. And she is convinced that she knows what really happened. Then an unexpected visitor arrives on her front stoop, a meddling neighbor intervenes, and life as Anna knows it is well and truly over. The devils of her past are awakened -- and they're in hot pursuit. Convinced she has no other options, Anna goes on the run, and in pursuit of the truth, with a washed-up musician at her side and the podcast as her guide. Conviction is "daredevil storytelling at its finest" (NPR's Fresh Air), a breathtaking thriller from one of the most "superbly talented" writers of our time (Hank Phillippi

Ryan, bestselling author of Trust Me).

Mason had decided that the rats had to go... they had other plans... (note: very short story!)

Why did Robins loving father want to kill him? Why did Gillians doting mother desperately fear her? And why were both these parents so horrifyingly and helplessly right about their children? Twenty-five years after the first edition, *The Fury* is back.

In postapocalyptic America, a solitary man crafts the world's latest form of escapism: dreams For eighty-five years, Par Sondak has crafted dreams. Each night he retires, probes attached to his sleeping body, and builds magnificent worlds for the people of the City to enjoy. His dreams have been bestsellers for decades, and he has more than three hundred still in circulation. Sondak's niche is escapist fun; his current project is a ten-hour swords-and-sandals epic. More than a month's sleep has gone into the dream, and when he completes it, his public will clamor for more. But when he isn't asleep, this rotund, 105-year-old man sits on his terrace and enjoys a view of the American wasteland. Beyond Sondak's laser-guarded walls, herds of Nomads lurk, scavenging for food and making sacrifices to pagan gods. Lately these savage men have stirred Sondak's curiosity. But attempting to understand them might just destroy the

kingdom his dreams have built. This ebook features an illustrated biography of William Hjortsberg including rare photos from the author's personal collection. CENTER PREPARE TO MEET THE BEAST WITHIN/center A lonely wife cheats. A brutal husband gets revenge. A not-so-innocent stranger hears a cellar door scrape shut—and begins twenty years of indescribable horror, chained in total darkness, feeding on live rats and human flesh, becoming himself the nightmare creature that lurks within us all...

“Devastating . . . a masterly fable, told with insight, wit, and welcome venom . . . this is Hollywood Hell.”—Clive Barker Alan White is a hot young writer-producer looking for the one megahit every Hollywood writer dreams about. He thinks he's found it with a new TV show called The Mercenary. The network has never seen anything like it. Sex. Violence. Nudity. This time they're taking it to the max and the Nielsen ratings are shooting through the roof. Alan couldn't be happier. Until the morning's headlines start to read like a rerun of last night's episode. Until The Mercenary begins to take on a terrifying life of its own. Until it becomes chillingly clear that Alan must cancel his creation—before it cancels him. “[Created By] gets the reader into a wrestler's grip and will not let him go.”—Peter Straub A wide-ranging novel takes readers on a breathtaking, funny tour of philosophy and the mind that touches on Buddhism, Scientology, dolphin communication,



existentialism, post-holocaust fiction, football, and much, much more. Original. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini team up to search for a literary-minded killer. It is 1923 and a beautiful young woman has just been found outside a tenement, bones crushed, head ripped from her shoulders. A few stories above, her squalid apartment has been ransacked, and twenty-dollar gold pieces litter the floor. The window frame is smashed. She seems to have been hurled from the building by a beast of impossible strength, and the only witness claims to have seen a long-armed ape fleeing the scene. The police are baffled, but one reporter recognizes the author of the bloody crime: the long-dead Edgar Allan Poe. A psychopath is haunting New York City, imitating the murders that made Poe's stories so famous. To Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the killing spree is of purely academic interest. But when Poe's ghost appears in Doyle's hotel room, the writer and the magician begin to suspect that the murders may hold a clue to understanding death itself. This ebook features an illustrated biography of William Hjortsberg including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

"In every respect, Campbell's best." - Kirkus Reviews Isolated on the moors of northern England, the town of Moonwell has remained faithful to their Druid traditions and kept their old rituals alive. Right-wing evangelist Godwin Mann isn't

about to let that continue, and his intolerant brand of fundamentalism has struck a chord with the residents. But Mann goes too far when he descends into the pit where the ancient being who's been worshipped by the Druids for centuries is said to dwell. What emerges is a demon in Mann's shape, and only the town's outcasts can see that something is horribly wrong. As the evil spreads, Moonwell becomes cut off from the rest of the world... FLAME TREE PRESS is the new fiction imprint of Flame Tree Publishing. Launched in 2018 the list brings together brilliant new authors and the more established; the award winners, and exciting, original voices.

Edgar Award Finalist: The hunt for a vanished singer leads a detective into the depths of the occult in this “terrific” novel (Stephen King). Big-band frontman Johnny Favorite was singing for the troops when a Luftwaffe fighter squadron strafed the bandstand, killing the crowd and leaving the singer near death. The army returned him to a private hospital in upstate New York, leaving him to live out his days as a vegetable while the world forgot him. But Louis Cyphre never forgets. Cyphre had a contract with the singer, stipulating payment upon Johnny’s death—payment that will be denied as long as Johnny clings to life. When Cyphre hires private investigator Harry Angel to find Johnny at the hospital, Angel learns that the singer has disappeared. It is no ordinary missing-

person's case. Everyone he questions dies soon after, as Angel's investigation ensnares him in a bizarre tangle of black magic, carnival freaks, and grisly voodoo. When the sinister Louis Cyphre begins appearing in Angel's dreams, the detective fears for his life, his sanity, and his soul. Falling Angel was the basis for the Alan Parker film Angel Heart, starring Mickey Rourke, Robert De Niro, and Lisa Bonet. This ebook features an illustrated biography of William Hjortsberg including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

In this disturbing short story collection, Joyce Carol Oates explores the inner lives of vulnerable girls and women. Joyce Carol Oates is renowned for her rare ability to "illuminate the mind's most disturbing corners" (The Seattle Times). That genius is on full display in this collection of seven feverishly unsettling works, DIS MEM BER and Other Stories of Mystery and Suspense. In the title story, a precocious eleven-year-old named Jill is in thrall to an older male relative, the mysterious, attractive black sheep of the family. Without telling her parents Jill climbs into his sky-blue Chevy to be driven to an uncertain, and unforgettable, fate. In "The Drowned Girl," a university transfer student becomes increasingly obsessed with the drowning/murder of another female student, as her own sense of self begins to deteriorate. In "Great Blue Heron," a recent widow grieves inside the confines of her lakefront home and fantasizes about transforming into

that great flying predator unerring and pitiless in the hunt. And in the final story, "Welcome to Friendly Skies," a trusting group of bird-watchers is borne to a remote part of the globe, to a harrowing fate. At the heart of this meticulously crafted, deeply disquieting collection are girls and women confronting the danger around them, and the danger hidden inside their turbulent selves.

Confident and robust, *Jubilee Hitchhiker* is an comprehensive biography of late novelist and poet Richard Brautigan, author of *Troutfishing in America* and *A Confederate General from Big Sur*, among many others. When Brautigan took his own life in September of 1984 his close friends and network of artists and writers were devastated though not entirely surprised. To many, Brautigan was shrouded in enigma, erratic and unpredictable in his habits and presentation. But his career was formidable, an inspiration to young writers like Hjortsberg trying to get their start. Brautigan's career wove its way through both the Beat-influenced San Francisco Renaissance in the 1950s and the "Flower Power" hippie movement of the 1960s; while he never claimed direct artistic involvement with either period, *Jubilee Hitchhiker* also delves deeply into the spirited times in which he lived. As Hjortsberg guides us through his search to uncover Brautigan as a man the reader is pulled deeply into the writer's world. Ultimately this is a work that seeks to connect the Brautigan known to his fans with the man who ended his life so

abruptly in 1984 while revealing the close ties between his writing and the actual events of his life. Part history, part biography, and part memoir this etches the portrait of a man destroyed by his genius.

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