

# **Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All Allan Gurganus**

Boys Like Us  
Rickey & Robinson  
The Autobiography of  
Miss Jane Pittman  
The Book of Ebenezer Le Page  
A Long and Happy Life  
Approval Junkie  
Look Away,  
Beulah Land  
The Practical Heart  
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Mr. Wilder  
The Trip to  
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These is My Words

## **Boys Like Us**

In a novel based on the life of the author's ancestor, Sarah Prine, a child of the westward expansion, records her dreams, marriage, adventures, joys, and sorrows in her diary.

## **Rickey & Robinson**

“This book underscores what we have long

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known—Gurganus stands among the best writers of our time.” —Ann Patchett Through memorable language and bawdy humor, Gurganus returns to his mythological Falls, North Carolina, home of Widow. This first work in a decade offers three novellas mirroring today’s face-lifted South, a zone revolutionized around freer sexuality, looser family ties, and superior telecommunications, yet it celebrates those locals who have chosen to stay local. In doing so, *Local Souls* uncovers certain old habits—adultery, incest, obsession—still very much alive in our New South, a “Winesburg, Ohio” with high-speed Internet. Wells Tower says of Gurganus, “No living writer knows more about how humans matter to each other.” Such ties of love produce hilarious, if wrenching, complications: “Fear Not” gives us a banker’s daughter seeking the child she was forced to surrender when barely fifteen, only to find an adult rescuer she might have invented. In “Saints Have Mothers,” a beloved high school valedictorian disappears during a trip to Africa, granting her ambitious mother a postponed fame that turns against her. And in a dramatic “Decoy,” the doctor-patient friendship between two married men breaks toward desire just as a biblical flood shatters their neighborhood and rearranges their fates. Gurganus finds fresh pathos in ancient tensions: between marriage and Eros, parenthood and personal fulfillment. He writes about erotic hunger and social embarrassment with Twain’s knife-edged glee. By loving Falls, Gurganus dramatizes the passing of Hawthorne’s small-town nation into those Twitter-nourished lives we now expect and relish. Four decades ago, John Cheever pronounced Allan

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Gurganus "the most technically gifted and morally responsive writer of his generation." *Local Souls* confirms Cheever's prescient faith. It deepens the luster of Gurganus's reputation for compassion and laughter. His black comedy leaves us with lasting affection for his characters and the aching aftermath of human consequences. Here is a universal work about a village.

### **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman**

Lucy Marsden, 99 years old, scares and charms us as the widow of the American Civil War's last surviving soldier. His child bride and the mother of his nine children, she now lives alone, the survivor of the survivor. A born storyteller, a woman of passion and compassion, she finally confesses her own marriage as the secret history of War itself. The role of Lucy—funny, irreverent, candid, and heartfelt—offers the actress of any age a sampler for her every emotion and available skill. By the time her telling is complete, we feel the full terror and pity of the domestic life and the Civil War combined. Based on the classic best-selling novel, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, this one-woman aria for stage constitutes a new work of art—fresh, humorous and terrifying. Oscar- and Tony-winner Ellen Burstyn created the role on Broadway.

### **The Book of Ebenezer Le Page**

Two dynastic lines of pioneers, the Kings and the Woodses, led by three generations of intrepid women,

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brave wars, criminals, nature and the Klan to survive on the Texas plains. Reprint. NYT.

### **A Long and Happy Life**

In stunning essays written especially for this collection, twenty-nine noted gay writers recount their true "coming out" stories, intensely personal histories of that primal process by which men come to terms with their desire for other men. Here are accounts of revealing one's sexual identity to parents, siblings, friends, co-workers and, in one notable instance, to a stockbroker. Men tell of their first sexual encounters from their preteens to their thirties, with childhood friends who rejected or tenderly embraced them, with professors, with neighbors, with a Broadway star. These are poignant, sometimes unexpectedly funny tales of romance and heartbreak, repression and liberation, rape and first love defining moments that shaped their authors' lives. Arranged chronologically from Manhattan in the Forties to San Francisco in the Nineties, these essays ultimately form a documentary of changing social and sexual mores in the United States--a literary, biographical, sociological and historical tour de force.

### **Approval Junkie**

A collection of short stories, including "Monkeys," in which a widow holds on to her husband's beloved spider monkey as well as his darkest secrets, takes readers back to the author's fictional hometown of Fulton, North Carolina.

## **Look Away, Beulah Land**

Forty-year-old Gretchen Dambar leaves Manhattan with her new husband to settle in Tula Springs, Louisiana, where the comic mishaps of trying to adjust to his eclectic household take a tragic turn. By the author of *Modern Baptists*. Reprint.

## **The Practical Heart**

Life as one of Hollywood's most handsome, charismatic and critically-acclaimed movie stars seems like a glitzy fairytale to the people who orbit around Renn Ivins. But for his grown children, Anna and Will, their father's fame threatens to permeate every aspect of their lives. For Anna - a diligent medical student with a promising future ahead of her but not so promising romantic prospects - the exploits of her celebrity father are a source of embarrassment and, at best, bemusement. Her brother Will, on the other hand, is floundering in a quarter-life crisis. The only thing to outlast his directionless career and failed relationships is his trust fund, but while he and Anna may be happy to use their father's money, they're less happy to use his influence. As the family, lovers and hangers-on of Renn Ivins struggle to forge their identities in the colossal shadow of his celebrity, Christine Sneed deftly unravels the secrets they tell each other and themselves. *Little Known Facts* is a multi-layered, deftly observed novel of the fallout of fame and fortune.

## **Blessed Assurance**

## **Man of the Century**

When white, middle-aged Mr. Wilder accepts a position teaching extracurricular creative writing at Booker T. Washington High, a predominantly black institution, he knows there will be challenges. The only reason he got the job is because no one else wanted to apply to a school at the center of a heated controversy: since a straight-A African American student was killed by a white teacher, racial tensions at the school-and throughout the town of Norfolk, Virginia-have been at boiling point. Mr. Wilder grew up in a town where there were more Confederate flags than jobs, so he understands the struggle-and he wants to make a difference. Even though no students voluntarily join his after-school activity, he eagerly accepts the three troubled teens forced to participate. Jaylen, Curtis, and DeSean are resistant, but Mr. Wilder's persistence pays off when they begin to reveal their unique writing talents. Despite the conflicts that arise from the boys' social struggles and creative differences, Mr. Wilder unites their energies by entering them in a writing competition. They each have a story to tell, and in spite of the racially charged environment and meddling principal, Mr. Wilder is determined to make their voices heard.

## **After Midnight**

In the years following World War II a group of gay writers established themselves as major cultural figures in American life. Truman Capote, the enfant

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terrible, whose finely wrought fiction and nonfiction captured the nation's imagination. Gore Vidal, the wry, withering chronicler of politics, sex, and history. Tennessee Williams, whose powerful plays rocketed him to the top of the American theater. James Baldwin, the harrowingly perceptive novelist and social critic. Christopher Isherwood, the English novelist who became a thoroughly American novelist. And the exuberant Allen Ginsberg, whose poetry defied censorship and exploded minds. Together, their writing introduced America to gay experience and sensibility, and changed our literary culture. But the change was only beginning. A new generation of gay writers followed, taking more risks and writing about their sexuality more openly. Edward Albee brought his prickly iconoclasm to the American theater. Edmund White laid bare his own life in stylized, autobiographical works. Armistead Maupin wove a rich tapestry of the counterculture, queer and straight. Mart Crowley brought gay men's lives out of the closet and onto the stage. And Tony Kushner took them beyond the stage, to the center of American ideas. With authority and humor, Christopher Bram weaves these men's ambitions, affairs, feuds, loves, and appetites into a single sweeping narrative. Chronicling over fifty years of momentous change—from civil rights to Stonewall to AIDS and beyond—*EMINENT OUTLAWS* is an inspiring, illuminating tale: one that reveals how the lives of these men are crucial to understanding the social and cultural history of the American twentieth century.

### **Mr. Wilder**

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Centenarian Woodrow Lowe looks back on his odyssey through the twentieth century, a search for the love of his youth that takes him through myriad history-making careers

### **The Trip to Bountiful**

A candidate for the office of Superintendent of Streets, Parks, and Garbage, middle-aged matron Olive Mackie of Tula Springs, Louisiana, finds her political aspirations thwarted when her ninety-one-year-old Great Uncle L.D. comes under suspicion for murder. Police don't believe that L.D.'s home-care attendant would commit suicide by jumping from a second-floor window -- but Olive, who has heard her uncle demonstrate his excellent memory by reciting important dates in history over and over, thinks he would. Before justice can be done, half the staff of City Hall, a home ec teacher, an uninspired dentist, the principal of a disreputable private school, and several adulterous housewives are implicated in James Wilcox's spectacular plot. His third Tula Springs novel, *Miss Undine's Living Room* is not only a masterful comedy, exuberant and irreverent, but also a deeply felt examination of the education of the mind and the spirit.

### **Broken Fever**

In his widely read, prizewinning *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, Allan Gurganus gave fresh meaning to an overexplored American moment: 1860-65. He now turns that comic intensity and

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historical vision to another war zone: entry-level artistic Manhattan 1980-95. In his first novel since *Widow*, Gurganus offers us an indelible, addictive praise-song to New York's wild recent days, their invigorating peaks and lethal crashes. It's 1980, and Hartley Mims jr., a somewhat overbred Southerner, arrives in town to found his artistic career and find a Circle of brilliant friends. He soon discovers both Robert Christian Gustafson, archangelic boy composer of *Symphony no. 1: The Titanic*, and Alabama Byrnes, a failed Savannah debutante whose gigantic paintings reveal an outsized talent that she, five feet tall, can't always live up to. This circle--sexually venturesome, frequently hungry, hooked on courage, caffeine, and the promise of immortality--makes history and most everybody else. Their dramatic moment in New York history might've been a collaboration begun, as a toast, by Cole Porter and finished, as pure elegy, by Poe himself. *Plays Well with Others* is a fairy tale. It has a Legend's indoctrinating charm and hidden terrors. It chronicles a ragtag group of gifted kids who come to seek their fortunes; they find the low-paying joys of making art and the heady education only multiple erotic partners can provide. Having mythologized each other through the boom years, having commenced becoming "names," they suddenly encounter a brand-new disease like something out of fifth-rate sci-fi. Friends are soon questioning how much they really owe each other; they're left with the ancient consolation of one another's company and help. We watch this egotistic circle forge its single greatest masterwork: a healthy community. The novel, a sort of disco requiem-mass, divides itself into three symphonic movements:

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"Before," "After," and "After After." The work concludes in a homemade paradise that resembles Hartley Mims's own starter vision of all that seemed waiting--latent and convivial--in New York itself. This is a work that could've only been written now, in our age of medical advances, written about these unsuspecting unsung heroes of a medieval scourge's first endgame moves among us. *Plays Well with Others* becomes a hymn to the joys and woes of caretaking (for waning parents and young friends). Allan Gurganus has created a deeply engaging narrative about flawed, well-meaning people who seem lifted from our own address books. His book offers an obsessive love story, a complex vision of our recent past, and an emotional firestorm--a pandemic's long-awaited great novel.

### **The Widow of the South**

Ha Jin's masterful new novel casts a searchlight into a forgotten corner of modern history, the experience of Chinese soldiers held in U.S. POW camps during the Korean War. In 1951 Yu Yuan, a scholarly and self-effacing clerical officer in Mao's "volunteer" army, is taken prisoner south of the 38th Parallel. Because he speaks English, he soon becomes an intermediary between his compatriots and their American captors. With Yuan as guide, we are ushered into the secret world behind the barbed wire, a world where kindness alternates with blinding cruelty and one has infinitely more to fear from one's fellow prisoners than from the guards. Vivid in its historical detail, profound in its imaginative empathy, *War Trash* is Ha Jin's most

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ambitious book to date. From the Trade Paperback edition.

### **Confederates in the Attic**

FROM ITS DAZZLING OPENING PAGE, WHICH ANNOUNCED THE appearance of a stylist of the first rank, to its moving close, this brief novel has charmed and captivated millions of readers since its original publication almost fifty years ago. The troubled love story of pretty, headstrong Rosacoke Mustian and the motorcycle-riding, stoic Wesley Beavers, *A Long and Happy Life* beautifully evokes a rural North Carolina now long gone. Ecstatically reviewed and winner of the William Faulkner Award for a notable first novel when it was published in 1962, *A Long and Happy Life* launched the career of Reynolds Price, a writer considered to be "one of our greatest novelists" (HARPER LEE).

### **Little Known Facts**

One of "the best writers of our time" (Ann Patchett) offers this hilarious yet haunting cycle of stories—all previously uncollected. Since the explosive publication of *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, Allan Gurganus has dazzled readers as "the most technically gifted and morally responsive writer of his generation" (John Cheever). He has been praised as "one of America's preeminent novelists, our prime conductor of electric sentences" (William Gibaldi). Above all, Allan Gurganus is a seriously funny writer, an expert at evoking humor, especially in our troubled

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times. Now he offers nine classic tales—never before between covers. They attest to his mastery of the short story and the growing depth of his genius.? Offering characters antic and tragic, Gurganus charts the human condition—masked and unmasked—as we live it now. “Once upon a time” collides with the everyday. We meet a mortician whose dedication to his departed clients exceeds all legal limits. We encounter a seaside couple fighting to save their family dog from Maine’s fierce undertow. A virginal seventy-eight-year-old grammar school librarian has her sole erotic experience with a polyamorous snake farmer. A vicious tornado sends twin boys aloft, leaving only one of them alive. And, in an eerily prescient story, cholera strikes a rural village in 1849 and citizens come to blame their doomed young doctor who saved hundreds. These meticulously crafted parables recall William Faulkner’s scope and Flannery O’Connor’s corrosive wit. Imbuing each story with charged drama, Gurganus, a sublime ventriloquist, again proves himself among our funniest writers and our wisest.

### **White People**

Lucy Marsden looks back on her long life and her experiences as the wife of a Civil War veteran, recounting the combat and the historical figures of the war years, as well as the hidden conflicts of domesticity. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

### **A Gathering of Old Men**

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During the Christmas season, mall pet store manager Vernon Ricketts splits his time between selling irresistible puppies and kittens festooned with holiday bows and shielding the mall's loiterers from its over-zealous manager, "Terminator" Vanderlip. Just days before Christmas, Vernon notices a small, bedraggled girl in a worn overcoat desperately trying to blend into the mall's background. Sensing she's a runaway in trouble, Vernon feels obliged to help. His kindness and their chance encounter will produce a Christmas miracle that becomes a legend as it changes lives. Allan Gurganus's "A Fool for Christmas" first charmed audiences when he read it on NPR's "All Things Considered" in 2004. It appears here in print for the first time. The publication of "A Fool for Christmas" is a partnership between Duke University Libraries (which acquired Gurganus's archives in 2018), Horse & Buggy Press, and Duke University Press.

### **Sort of Rich**

## **Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All**

A PEN/Faulkner Award Finalist A New York Times Notable Book In eleven glorious stories, Allan Gurganus, author of the highly acclaimed *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, gives heart-breaking and hilarious voice to the fears, desires, and triumphs of Americans—black and white, gay and straight, old and young, Northern and especially Southern. Here are war heroes bewildered by the

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complex negotiations of family life, former debutantes called upon to muster resources they never knew they had, vacationing senior citizens confronted by their own bravery, and married men brought up short by the marvelous possibilities of entirely different lives. Written with flair, wit, and deep humanity, this award-winning volume confirms Allan Gurganus as one of the finest writers of our time. The title novella of *White People* won the National Magazine Prize

### **Anne Bancroft**

THE STORY: This is the poignant story of Mrs. Watts, an aging widow living with her son and daughter-in-law in a three-room flat in Houston, Texas. Fearing that her presence may be an imposition on others, and chafing under the watchful eye of her

### **True Women**

Set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s, *A Gathering of Old Men* is a powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man.

### **Oldest Living Confederate Widow**

In *Rickey & Robinson*, legendary sportswriter Roger Kahn reveals the true, unsanitized account of the integration of baseball--a story that for decades has relied largely on inaccurate, secondhand reports. Focusing on Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson, Kahn's account is based on exclusive reporting and

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his personal reminiscences, including revelatory material he buried in his notebooks in the '40s and '50s. Rickey and Robinson were chiefly responsible for making integration happen. Through in-depth examinations of both men, Kahn separates fact from myth to present a truthful portrait of baseball and its participants at a critical juncture in American history.

### **Cape Cursed**

Allan Gurganus's *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* became an instant classic upon its publication. Critics and readers alike fell in love with the voice of ninety-nine-year-old Confederate widow Lucy Marsden, one of the most entertaining and loquacious heroines in American literature. Lucy married at the turn of the twentieth century, when she was fifteen and her husband was fifty. If Colonel William Marsden was a veteran of the "War for Southern Independence," Lucy became a "veteran of the veteran" with a unique perspective on Southern history and Southern manhood. Lucy's story encompasses everything from the tragic death of a Confederate boy soldier to the feisty narrator's daily battles in the Home--complete with visits from a mohawk-coiffed candy striper. *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* is a marvel of narrative showmanship and proof that brilliant, emotional storytelling remains at the heart of great fiction.

### **Portraits of a Few of the People I've Made Cry**

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Early pioneers braved countless dangers to start anew in what is now Lorain County. Some of their stories faded from memory along the way, waiting to be rediscovered. Uncover the origins of the Felons' Feast held by abolitionists in 1859. Celebrate the true story of Major League Baseball's first black player, Moses Fleetwood Walker, who played for the Toledo Blue Stockings in 1883. Learn about the great scientific discovery made in Oberlin by Charles Martin Hall in 1886, as well as how one of Elyria's forefathers rose to become chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Discover how the Easter Seals, officially named in 1967, began with a sixty-year-old streetcar accident. Author Kelly Boyer Sagert shines a light on fascinating lives and the county they shaped.

### **The Uncollected Stories of Allan Gurganus**

A luminous quartet, five years in the writing, reveals even more fully the breathtaking range of "a storyteller in the grand tradition" (New York Times). Allan Gurganus's voice--by turn bawdy and serene, folkloric and profane--deepens as it soars into this quiet masterwork. Four new fables--rich in event, comedy, experience--surge with the force of history's headlines versus sidestreet human fortitude. Improbable heroes and heroines spiral outward from Gurganus's familiar Carolina terrain. Each fires into a wild and differing direction, all in quest of some fantasy that's practically impossible: --An impoverished immigrant has her portrait painted (or not) by John Singer Sargent. --A young man's devotion

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to saving eighteenth-century homes—and their odd lingering ghosts—helps him find unlikely ways to renovate his own mortality. --A pillar of the community becomes, over the course of one cartoon matinee, its pariah. --A beloved, transfixingly homely father shows his village and his only son a decency stronger than race, humiliation, or even death itself. These characters' quixotic missions prove mysterious, often even to themselves. Their legacies are not easily deciphered. And yet, their most impractical wishes soon become the heartiest facts about each. They manage to wrest battle-courage from everyday indecision. Out of superstition and convention, they lift certainty. They each find a wealth of consoling truths banked--immortal--in the all-too-human heart. Allan Gurganus's great powers--announced more than a decade ago by *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*--here achieve a yearning exuberance worthy of a new Whitman. These leaps of sexual longing, empathy, and faith become a major new gift from this essential fablemaker.

### **Creatures of Habit**

Chronicles Davis' triumph over drug addiction, his discovery that he was HIV-positive, and the struggle to hide his condition from Hollywood

### **Miss Undine's Living Room**

"We were as brothers," William Tecumseh Sherman said, describing his relationship to Ulysses S. Grant. They were incontestably two of the most important

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figures in the Civil War, but until now there has been no book about their victorious partnership and the deep friendship that made it possible. They were prewar failures--Grant, forced to resign from the Regular Army because of his drinking, and Sherman, who held four different jobs, including a beloved position at a military academy in the South, during the four years before the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter. But heeding the call to save the Union each struggled past political hurdles to join the war effort. And taking each other's measure at the Battle of Shiloh, ten months into the war, they began their unique collaboration. Often together under fire on the war's great battlefields, they smoked cigars as they gave orders and learned from their mistakes as well as from their shrewd decisions. They shared the demands of family life and the heartache of loss, including the tragic death of Sherman's favorite son. They supported each other in the face of mudslinging criticism by the press and politicians. Their growing mutual admiration and trust, which President Lincoln increasingly relied upon, would set the stage for the crucial final year of the war. While Grant battled with Lee in the campaigns that ended at Appomattox Court House, Sherman first marched through Georgia to Atlanta, and then continued with his epic March to the Sea. Not only did Grant and Sherman come to think alike, but, even though their headquarters at that time were hundreds of miles apart, they were in virtually daily communication strategizing the final moves of the war and planning how to win the peace that would follow. Moving and elegantly written, Grant and Sherman is an historical page turner: a gripping portrait of two men, whose friendship, forged on the

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battlefield, would win the Civil War.

### **King Lear**

Faith Salie of NPR's *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me!* and CBS News Sunday Morning has done it all in the name of validation. Whether it's trying to impress her parents with a perfect GPA, embarking on a spiritual retreat in the hopes of saving her toxic marriage, or maintaining the BMI of "a flapper with a touch of dysentery," Salie is the ultimate approval seeker—an "approval junkie," if you will. With thoughtful irreverence, Salie reflects on why it is she tries so hard to please others, and especially herself, by highlighting a phenomenon that many people—especially women—experience at home and in the workplace. Equal parts laugh-out-loud funny and poignant, *Approval Junkie* is one woman's journey to the realization that seeking approval from others is more than just getting them to like you—it's challenging yourself to achieve, and survive, more than you ever thought you could.

### **A Wedding Gift**

Narrator reflects on his experiences collecting funeral insurance premiums from poor blacks in North Carolina.

### **Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All**

Bliss Sherman comes to the Cape Destiny determined to make a name for herself by accomplishing an

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incredible engineering feat-moving the Cape Destiny Lighthouse inland before it's swallowed by the Atlantic Ocean. When Bliss is viciously attacked, she begins to wonder if the curse that is rumored to be attached to the lighthouse may be true.

### **Plays Well with Others**

National Bestseller For all who remain intrigued by the legacy of the Civil War -- reenactors, battlefield visitors, Confederate descendants and other Southerners, history fans, students of current racial conflicts, and more -- this ten-state adventure is part travelogue, part social commentary and always good-humored. When prize-winning war correspondent Tony Horwitz leaves the battlefields of Bosnia and the Middle East for a peaceful corner of the Blue Ridge Mountains, he thinks he's put war zones behind him. But awakened one morning by the crackle of musket fire, Horwitz starts filing front-line dispatches again this time from a war close to home, and to his own heart. Propelled by his boyhood passion for the Civil War, Horwitz embarks on a search for places and people still held in thrall by America's greatest conflict. The result is an adventure into the soul of the unvanquished South, where the ghosts of the Lost Cause are resurrected through ritual and remembrance. In Virginia, Horwitz joins a band of 'hardcore' reenactors who crash-diet to achieve the hollow-eyed look of starved Confederates; in Kentucky, he witnesses Klan rallies and calls for race war sparked by the killing of a white man who brandishes a rebel flag; at Andersonville, he finds that

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the prison's commander, executed as a war criminal, is now exalted as a martyr and hero; and in the book's climax, Horwitz takes a marathon trek from Antietam to Gettysburg to Appomattox in the company of Robert Lee Hodge, an eccentric pilgrim who dubs their odyssey the 'Civil Wargasm.' Written with Horwitz's signature blend of humor, history, and hard-nosed journalism, *Confederates in the Attic* brings alive old battlefields and new ones 'classrooms, courts, country bars' where the past and the present collide, often in explosive ways. Poignant and picaresque, haunting and hilarious, it speaks to anyone who has ever felt drawn to the mythic South and to the dark romance of the Civil War. Tony Horwitz's new book, *Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide*, is available now.

### **Local Souls**

Ebenezer Le Page, cantankerous, opinionated, and charming, is one of the most compelling literary creations of the late twentieth century. Eighty years old, Ebenezer has lived his whole life on the Channel Island of Guernsey, a stony speck of a place caught between the coasts of England and France yet a world apart from either. Ebenezer himself is fiercely independent, but as he reaches the end of his life he is determined to tell his own story and the stories of those he has known. He writes of family secrets and feuds, unforgettable friendships and friendships betrayed, love glimpsed and lost. *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page* is a beautifully detailed chronicle of a life, but it is equally an oblique reckoning with the

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traumas of the twentieth century, as Ebenezer recalls both the men lost to the Great War and the German Occupation of Guernsey during World War II, and looks with despair at the encroachments of commerce and tourism on his beloved island. G. B. Edwards labored in obscurity all his life and completed *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page* shortly before his death. Published posthumously, the book is a triumph of the storyteller's art that conjures up the extraordinary voice of a living man. "Imagine a weekend spent in deep conversation with a superb old man, a crusty, intelligent, passionate and individualistic character at the peak of his powers as a raconteur, and you will have a very good ideas of the impact of *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page* it amuses, it entertains, it moves us" -*The Washington Post* "A true epic, as sexy as it is hilarious, it seems drenched with the harsh tidal beauties of its setting For every person nearing retirement, every latent writer who hopes to leave his island and find the literary mainland, its author-quiet, self-sufficient, tidy Homeric-remains a patron saint." -Allan Gurganus, *O Magazine*

## Hidden History of Lorain County

Based on a true story, this debut Civil War novel follows a Southern plantation woman's journey of transforming her home into a hospital for the war. This debut novel is based on the true story of Carrie McGavock. During the Civil War's Battle of Franklin, a five-hour bloodbath with 9,200 casualties, McGavock's home was turned into a field hospital where four generals died. For 40 years she tended the private

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cemetery on her property where more than 1,000 were laid to rest.

### **Eminent Outlaws**

Powerful tragedy of an aging king, betrayed by his daughters, robbed of his kingdom, descending into madness. Perhaps the bleakest of Shakespeare's tragic dramas, complete with explanatory footnotes.

### **A Fool for Christmas**

"This is a novel in the guise of the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, who has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960's. In this woman Ernest Gaines has created a legendary figure, a woman equipped to stand beside William Faulkner's Dilsey in *The Sound And The Fury*." Miss Jane Pittman, like Dilsey, has 'endured,' has seen almost everything and foretold the rest. Gaines' novel brings to mind other great works *The Odyssey* for the way his heroine's travels manage to summarize the American history of her race, and *Huckleberry Finn* for the clarity of her voice, for her rare capacity to sort through the mess of years and things to find the one true story in it all." -- Geoffrey Wolff, *Newsweek*. "Stunning. I know of no black novel about the South that excludes quite the same refreshing mix of wit and wrath, imagination and indignation, misery and poetry. And I can recall no more memorable female character in Southern fiction since Lena of Faulkner's *Light In August* than Miss Jane Pittman." -- Josh Greenfeld, *Life*

## **War Trash**

In a rich, well-crafted essay anthology, the author probes the secrets of his own identity as a gay man living and growing up in America, discussing topics ranging from his discovery of his gay self-identity, attraction, and questions about his religion. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

## **Grant and Sherman**

The ten stories in this debut collection examine the perils of love and what it means to live during an era when people will offer themselves, almost unthinkingly, to strangers. Risks and repercussions are never fully weighed. People leap and almost always land on rocky ground. May-December romances flourish in these stories, as do self-doubt and, in most cases, serious regret. Mysterious, dangerous benefactors, dead and living artists, movie stars and college professors, plagiarists, and distinguished foreign novelists are among the many different characters. No one is blameless, but villains are difficult to single out-everyone seemingly bears responsibility for his or her desires and for the outcome of difficult choices so often made hopefully and naively.

## **These is My Words**

"Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me. Aren't you?" These famous lines from *The Graduate* (1967) would forever link Anne Bancroft (1931--2005) to the

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groundbreaking film and confirm her status as a movie icon. Along with her portrayal of Annie Sullivan in the stage and film drama *The Miracle Worker*, this role was a highlight of a career that spanned a half-century and brought Bancroft an Oscar, two Tonys, and two Emmy awards. In the first biography to cover the entire scope of Bancroft's life and career, Douglass K. Daniel brings together interviews with dozens of her friends and colleagues, never-before-published family photos, and material from film and theater archives to present a portrait of an artist who raised the standards of acting for all those who followed. Daniel reveals how, from a young age, Bancroft was committed to challenging herself and strengthening her craft. Her talent (and good timing) led to a breakthrough role in *Two for the Seesaw*, which made her a Broadway star overnight. The role of Helen Keller's devoted teacher in the stage version of *The Miracle Worker* would follow, and Bancroft also starred in the movie adaptation of the play, which earned her an Academy Award. She went on to appear in dozens of film, theater, and television productions, including several movies directed or produced by her husband, Mel Brooks. *Anne Bancroft: A Life* offers new insights into the life and career of a determined actress who left an indelible mark on the film industry while remaining true to her art.

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