

Couples John Updike

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Assorted Prose - John Updike
2012-09-18

John Updike's first collection of nonfiction pieces, published in 1965 when the author was thirty-three, is a diverting and illuminating gambol through midcentury America and the writer's youth. It opens with a choice selection of parodies, casuals, and "Talk of the Town"

reports, the fruits of Updike's boyish ambition to follow in the footsteps of Thurber and White. These jeux d'esprit are followed by "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu," an immortal account of Ted Williams's last at-bat in Fenway Park; "The Dogwood Tree," a Wordsworthian evocation of one Pennsylvania childhood; and five

autobiographical essays and stories. Rounding out the volume are classic considerations of Nabokov, Salinger, Spark, Beckett, and others, the earliest efforts of the book reviewer who would go on to become, in The New York Times's estimation, "the pre-eminent critic of his generation." Updike called this collection "motley but not unshapely." Some would call it a classic of its kind.

John Updike's Early Years - Jack De Bellis 2013

John Updike's *Early Years* reveals for the first time the young Updike's developing personality and precocious creativity. Relying upon interviews with classmates and friends, and offering extensive connections to his mature work, De Bellis shows how his school years incubated his mature work.

The Music School - John Updike 2012-09-18

The Music School is a place of learning, in which a sheltered South Dakota boy meets his roommate at Harvard, a rebel with whom he will have a

violent—and ambiguous—physical encounter; a warring married couple, Richard and Joan Maple, try and try again to find solace in sex; and Henry Bech, an unprolific American writer publicizing himself far from home, enjoys a moment of improbable, poignant, untranslatable connection with a Bulgarian poetess. In these twenty short stories, each evidence of his early mastery, John Updike brings us a world—a world of fumbling, pausing, and beginning again; a world sensitively felt and lovingly expressed; a world whose pianissimo harmonies demand new subtleties of fictional form.

Marry Me - John Updike 2012-09-18

Marry Me is subtitled "A Romance" because, in the author's words, "people don't act like that anymore." The time is 1962, and the place is a fiefdom of Camelot called Greenwood, Connecticut. Jerry Conant and Sally Mathias are in love and want to get married, though they already

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are married to others. A diadem of five symmetrical chapters describes the course of their affair as it flickers off and on, and as their spouses react, in a tentative late-summer atmosphere of almost-last chances. For this is, as Jerry observes, “the twilight of the old morality, and there’s just enough to torment us, and not enough to hold us in.”

Couples - John Updike
2012-03-13

“Trapped in their cozy catacombs, the couples have made sex by turns their toy, their glue, their trauma, their therapy, their hope, their frustration, their revenge, their narcotic, their main line of communication and their sole and pitiable shield against the awareness of death.”—Time
One of the signature novels of the American 1960s, *Couples* is a book that, when it debuted, scandalized the public with prose pictures of the way people live, and that today provides an engrossing epitaph to the short, happy life of the “post-Pill paradise.” It chronicles the interactions of

ten young married couples in a seaside New England community who make a cult of sex and of themselves. The group of acquaintances form a magical circle, complete with ritualistic games, religious substitutions, a priest (Freddy Thorne), and a scapegoat (Piet Hanema). As with most American utopias, this one’s existence is brief and unsustainable, but the “imaginative quest” that inspires its creation is eternal. Praise for *Couples* “*Couples* [is] John Updike’s tour de force of extramarital wanderlust.”—The New York Times Book Review
“Ingenious . . . If this is a dirty book, I don’t see how sex can be written about at all.”—Wilfrid Sheed, The New York Times Book Review

My Father's Tears and Other Stories - John Updike 2010

A beautiful, moving collection of short stories, in many of which Updike revisits the haunts of his childhood from the vantage point of old age. In 'Fiftieth' old friends reconnect at a class reunion, and one of them is left wondering, 'What

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does it mean: the enormity of having been children and now being old, living next to death.' In the story 'The Full Glass' the protagonist describes somewhat ruefully the rituals of old age. Before going to bed, he raises his nightly water glass 'drinking a toast to the visible world, his impending disappearance from it be damned.' In 'Varieties of Religious Experiences' a grandfather, visiting his daughter in Brooklyn Heights, watches the tower of the World Trade Centre fall, and his view of a God is forever altered. Again and again in these memorable stories, Updike strikes to the heart, giving words to what is so often left unsaid. He is at once witty, devastatingly observant, touching ♦ and, of course, a consummate storyteller. This is a collection that will be admired and cherished.

Roger's Version - John Updike
2012-03-13

As Roger Lambert tells it, he, a middle-aged professor of divinity, is buttonholed in his office by Dale Kohler, an

earnest young computer scientist who believes that quantifiable evidence of God's existence is irresistibly accumulating. The theological-scientific debate that ensues, and the wicked strategies that Roger employs to embarrass Dale of his faith, form the substance of this novel—these and the current of erotic attraction that pulls Esther, Roger's much younger wife, away from him and into Dale's bed. The novel, a majestic allegory of faith and reason, ends also as a black comedy of revenge, for this is Roger's version—Roger Chillingworth's side of the triangle described by Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*—made new for a disbelieving age.

Rabbit, Run - John Updike
2006

John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* is a classic story of dissatisfaction and restlessness. Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom was a star basketball player in high school. Now twenty-six, his life seems full of traps, the biggest being his pregnant wife and two-year-old son. He sets out to

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escape, but it's not clear if Rabbit is really following his heart or only chasing his tail. Powerfully written, *Rabbit, Run* gave American literature one of its most enduring characters.

Villages - John Updike
2007-12-18

In this wry novel of sentimental education and sexual pursuit, we follow Owen Mackenzie, a representative man of the author's generation, from cradle to grave, and from bed to bed. His life and relationships are shaped by three villages, warm-lit communities that keep the darkness at bay from within and without. In Willow, Pennsylvania, the young Owen is transfixed by his first glimpses of female beauty. In Middle Falls, Connecticut, he marries, becomes a first-wave computer programmer, and discovers the very grownup pleasures of serial adultery. Finally, married for a second time, he retires with his memories, illusions, and fantasies to the somewhat geriatric community of Haskells Crossing,

Massachusetts. John Updike turns Owen's personal odyssey into a radiant, sensual fable of the seasons of a man's life—and of the getting of wisdom in America.

The Maples Stories John Updike 2009-08-04

Collected together for the first time in hardcover, these eighteen classic stories from across John Updike's career form a luminous chronicle of the life and times of one marriage in all its rich emotional complexity. In 1956, Updike published a story, "Snowing in Greenwich Village," about a young couple, Joan and Richard Maple, at the beginning of their marriage. Over the next two decades, he returned to these characters again and again, tracing their years together raising children, finding moments of intermittent happiness, and facing the heartbreak of infidelity and estrangement. Seventeen Maples stories were collected in 1979 in a paperback edition titled *Too Far to Go*, prompted by a television adaptation. Now

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those stories appear in hardcover for the first time, with the addition of a later story, "Grandparenting," which returns us to the Maples's lives long after their wrenching divorce.

The Witches of Eastwick by John Updike 2012-03-13

"John Updike is the great genial sorcerer of American letters [and] *The Witches of Eastwick* [is one of his] most ambitious works. . . . [A] comedy of the blackest sort."—The New York Times Book Review
Toward the end of the Vietnam era, in a snug little Rhode Island seacoast town, wonderful powers have descended upon Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie, bewitching divorcées with sudden access to all that is female, fecund, and mysterious. Alexandra, a sculptor, summons thunderstorms; Jane, a cellist, floats on the air; and Sukie, the local gossip columnist, turns milk into cream. Their happy little coven takes on new, malignant life when a dark and moneyed stranger, Darryl Van Horne, refurbishes the long-

derelict Lenox mansion and invites them in to play.

Thenceforth scandal flits through the darkening, crooked streets of Eastwick—and through the even darker fantasies of the town's collective psyche. "A great deal of fun to read . . . fresh, constantly entertaining . . .

John Updike [is] a wizard of language and observation."—The

Philadelphia Inquirer
"Vintage Updike, which is to say among the best fiction we have."—Newsday

Couples - John Updike
1996-08-27

"Trapped in their cozy catacombs, the couples have made sex by turns their toy, their glue, their trauma, their therapy, their hope, their frustration, their revenge, their narcotic, their main line of communication and their sole and pitiable shield against the awareness of death."—Time
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[Couples](#) - John Updike
2018-02-15

Tarbox, petite ville située entre les marais salants et les grands réseaux routiers des environs

de Boston, préserve soigneusement une façade de rusticité et de charme vieillot. La bonne société y mène sans drame ses jeux plus ou moins innocents. Freddy Thorne, dentiste, Matt et Piet, associés dans les affaires immobilières, travaillent à Tarbox ; leurs amis, Frank, Roger et Harold, évoluent dans les milieux financiers et universitaires de Boston ; leurs épouses s'emploient à organiser les divertissements. De réception en réception, des liens particuliers s'établissent dans ce cercle d'amis, où les couples semblent partager une curiosité malsaine pour la vie intime des autres. Peu à peu, l'auteur nous révèle la profonde insatisfaction sentimentale et sexuelle de ces couples pour qui de brèves et discrètes aventures sont les seules évasions possibles. L'adultère de fait ou d'intention est la règle générale à Tarbox. Foxy Whitman et son mari Ken, installés dans cette petite ville depuis peu, n'y échapperont pas. Foxy prend la place de Georgene auprès de Piet, mais

cette fois, les deux amants se trouvent pris à leur propre jeu.

John Updike Revisited -

James A. Schiff 1998

In this up-to-date overview, Schiff provides commentary on recent individual works that have yet to receive critical treatment: *Memories of the Ford Administration*, *Brazil*, and *In the Beauty of the Lilies*. He treats individual works and aspects of Updike's oeuvre that have been partially or entirely ignored: his critical, nonfictional prose, and works like *The Poorhouse Fair*, *Buchanan Dying*, and *The Witches of Eastwick*.

Born Lippy - Jo Brand

2019-06-11

Sometimes it's hard to be a woman and sometimes it's time to be a hard woman . . . This is a book for all those times. Once upon a (very very) long time ago Jo Brand was what you might describe as 'a nice little girl'. Of course, that was before the values of cynicism, misogyny and the societal expectation that Jo would be thin, feminine and demure sent her off down Arsey Avenue.

The plot thickened, when due to a complicated fusion of hormones, horrible family dynamics and a no-good boyfriend they hated, Jo ended up leaving home at 16. Now she's considerably further along life's inevitable bloody 'journey' - and she's fucked up enough times to feel confident she has no wisdom to offer anyone. But who cares? She's going to do it anyway... *Born Lippy* is a gathering of all the things Jo Brand wishes she'd known, all the things she's learnt, and all the things she hopes for the future. A century after women got the vote (albeit married women over the age of 28) it's time to take stock of exactly what it means to be female today. And if there's one thing women are entitled to, it's having a bloody good moan about things big and small - so here goes . . .

HOW TO MANAGE A BULLY *
YOUR FAMILY AND HOW TO SURVIVE IT *
WHAT NO-ONE TELLS YOU ABOUT THE FEMALE BODY *
BEING DIFFERENT *
SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT SOCIABLE *
HOW NOT

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TO FALL IN LOVE *
FEMINISM: A RE-BRANDING *
ADVENTURES IN YOUR HEAD
* HAVING FUN * NOT HAVING
FUN: WHAT TO DO WHEN IT
ALL GOES WRONG * STAYING
SANE * YOU ARE NOT WHAT
YOU WEAR * MODERN
MANNERS* HOW TO DO
WHAT YOU WANT: OR NOT
DO WHAT OTHERS WANT *
BEING HEALTHY * GETTING
ON A BIT * THE FEMALE OF
THE SPECIES: MORE DEADLY
THAN THE MALE?

S. - John Updike 2013-09-03

S. is the story of Sarah P. Worth, a thoroughly modern spiritual seeker who has become enamored of a Hindu mystic called the Arhat. A native New Englander, she goes west to join his ashram in Arizona, and there struggles alongside fellow sannyasins (pilgrims) in the difficult attempt to subdue ego and achieve moksha (salvation, release from illusion). "S." details her adventures in letters and tapes dispatched to her husband, her daughter, her brother, her dentist, her hairdresser, and her

psychiatrist—messages cleverly designed to keep her old world in order while she is creating for herself a new one. This is Hester Prynne's side of the triangle described by Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*; it is also a burlesque of the quest for enlightenment, and an affectionate meditation on American womanhood.

Rabbit at Rest John Updike
2010-08-26

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Howells Medal, and the National Book Critics Circle Award In John Updike's fourth and final novel about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, the hero has acquired a Florida condo, a second grandchild, and a troubled, overworked heart. His son, Nelson, is behaving erratically; his daughter-in-law, Pru, is sending him mixed signals; and his wife, Janice, decides in midlife to return to the world of work. As, through the year of 1989, Reagan's debt-ridden, AIDS-plagued America yields to that of the first George Bush, Rabbit explores the bleak terrain of late middle age, looking for

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reasons to live and opportunities to make peace with a remorselessly accumulating past.

Higher Gossip - John Updike
2011-11-01

Here is the collection of nonfiction pieces that John Updike was compiling when he died in January 2009. It opens with a self-portrait of the writer in winter, a Prospero who, though he fears his most dazzling performances are behind him, reveals himself in every sentence to be in deep conversation with the sources of his magic. It concludes with a moving meditation on a world without religion, without art, and on the difficulties of faith in a disbelieving age. In between are pieces on Peanuts, Mars, and the songs of Cole Porter, a pageant of scenes from early Massachusetts, and a good deal of Updikean table talk. At the heart of the volume are dozens of book reviews from *The New Yorker* and illustrated art writings from *The New York Review of Books*. Updike's criticism is gossip of the highest sort. We

will not hear the likes of it again.

Of the Farm - John Updike
2004-03-30

"A small masterpiece . . . With *Of the Farm*, John Updike has achieved a sureness of touch, a suppleness of style, and a subtlety of vision that is gained by few writers of fiction."—*The New York Times* In this short novel, Joey Robinson, a thirty-five-year-old New Yorker, describes a visit he makes, with his second wife and eleven-year-old stepson, to the Pennsylvania farm where he grew up and where his aging mother now lives alone. For three days, a quartet of voices explores the air, making confessions, seeking alignments, quarreling, pleading, and pardoning. They are not entirely alone: ghosts (fathers, lovers, children) press upon them, as do phantoms from the near future (nurses, lawyers, land developers). *Of the Farm* concerns the places people choose to live their lives, and the strategies they use to stand their ground.

A & P - John Updike

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1986-06-01

The Coup - John Updike

2006-10-26

Nothing in his previous life could have prepared Colonel Hakim Felix Ellellou for his new role as the President of Kush. Neither the French army nor his American university provided a grounding in the subtle skills of revolutionary dictatorship. Still less did they expect him to acquire four wives...

The Art of Fiction - David

Lodge 2012-04-30

In this entertaining and enlightening collection David Lodge considers the art of fiction under a wide range of headings, drawing on writers as diverse as Henry James, Martin Amis, Jane Austen and James Joyce. Looking at ideas such as the Intrusive Author, Suspense, the Epistolary Novel, Magic Realism and Symbolism, and illustrating each topic with a passage taken from a classic or modern novel, David Lodge makes the richness and variety of British and American fiction accessible to the general

reader. He provides essential reading for students, aspiring writers and anyone who wants to understand how fiction works.

Self-Consciousness - John

Updike 2012-03-13

John Updike's memoirs consist of six Emersonian essays that together trace the inner shape of the life, up to the age of fifty-five, of a relatively fortunate American male. The author has attempted, his Foreword states, "to treat this life, this massive datum which happens to be mine, as a specimen life, representative in its odd uniqueness of all the oddly unique lives in this world." In the service of this metaphysical effort, he has been hair-raisingly honest, matchlessly precise, and self-effacingly humorous. He takes the reader beyond self-consciousness, and beyond self-importance, into sheer wonder at the miracle of existence.

Terrorist John Updike

2007-07-26

In his extraordinary and highly charged new novel, John Updike tackles one of

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America's most burning issues - the threat of Islamist terror from within. Set in contemporary New Jersey, *Terrorist* traces the journey of one young man, from radicalism to fundamentalism to terrorism, against the backdrop of a fraying urban landscape and an increasingly fragmented community. In beautiful prose, Updike dramatizes the logic of the fundamentalist terrorist - but also suggests ways in which we can counter it, in our words and our actions . . .

Licks of Love - John Updike
2007-12-18

In this brilliant late-career collection, John Updike revisits many of the locales of his early fiction: the small-town Pennsylvania of *Olinger Stories*, the sandstone farmhouse of *Of the Farm*, the exurban New England of *Couples* and *Marry Me*, and Henry Bech's Manhattan of artistic ambition and taunting glamour. To a dozen short stories spanning the American Century, the author has added a novella-length coda to his

quartet of novels about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. Several strands of the Rabbit saga come together here as, during the fall and winter holidays of 1999, Harry's survivors fitfully entertain his memory while pursuing their own happiness up to the edge of a new millennium. Love makes Updike's fictional world go round—married love, filial love, feathery licks of erotic love, and love for the domestic particulars of Middle American life.

What Belongs to You Garth Greenwell 2016-01-19

Longlisted for the National Book Award in Fiction • A Finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction • A Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction • A Finalist for the James Taite Black Prize for Fiction • A Finalist the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize • A Finalist for the Green Carnation Prize • A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • A Los Angeles Times Bestseller Named One of the Best Books of the Year by More Than Fifty Publications,

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Including: The New Yorker, The Paris Review, The New York Times (selected by Dwight Garner), GQ, The Washington Post, Esquire, NPR, Slate, Vulture, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Guardian (London), The Telegraph (London), The Evening Standard (London), The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Miami Herald, The Millions, BuzzFeed, The New Republic (Best Debuts of the Year), Kirkus Reviews, and Publishers Weekly (One of the Ten Best Books of the Year) "Garth Greenwell's *What Belongs to You* appeared in early 2016, and is a short first novel by a young writer; still, it was not easily surpassed by anything that appeared later in the year....It is not just first novelists who will be envious of Greenwell's achievement."—James Wood, The New Yorker On an unseasonably warm autumn day, an American teacher enters a public bathroom beneath Sofia's National Palace of Culture. There he meets Mitko, a charismatic young

hustler, and pays him for sex. He returns to Mitko again and again over the next few months, drawn by hunger and loneliness and risk, and finds himself ensnared in a relationship in which lust leads to mutual predation, and tenderness can transform into violence. As he struggles to reconcile his longing with the anguish it creates, he's forced to grapple with his own fraught history, the world of his southern childhood where to be queer was to be a pariah. There are unnerving similarities between his past and the foreign country he finds himself in, a country whose geography and griefs he discovers as he learns more of Mitko's own narrative, his private history of illness, exploitation, and want. *What Belongs to You* is a stunning debut novel of desire and its consequences. With lyric intensity and startling eroticism, Garth Greenwell has created an indelible story about the ways in which our pasts and cultures, our scars and shames can shape who we

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are and determine how we love. A conversation between Garth Greenwell and Hanya Yanagihara is included inside the e-book edition.

A Month of Sundays - John Updike 2012-03-13

In this antic riff on Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, the Reverend Tom Marshfield, a latter-day Arthur Dimmesdale, is sent west from his Midwestern parish in sexual disgrace. At a desert retreat dedicated to rest, recreation, and spiritual renewal, this fortyish serial fornicator is required to keep a journal whose thirty-one weekly entries constitute the book you now hold in your hand. In his wonderfully overwrought style he lays bare his soul and his past—his marriage to the daughter of his ethics professor, his affair with his organist, his antipathetic conversations with his senile father and his bisexual curate, his golf scores, his poker hands, his Biblical exegeses, and his smoldering desire for the directress of the retreat, the impregnable Ms. Prynne. A

testament for our times.

Pulse - Julian Barnes
2011-01-06

The stories in Julian Barnes' long-awaited third collection are attuned to rhythms and currents: of the body, of love and sex, illness and death, connections and conversations. A divorcee falls in love with a mysterious European waitress; a widower relives a favourite holiday; two writers rehearse familiar arguments; a couple bond, fall out and bond again over flowers and vegetable patches. And at a series of evenings at 'Phil & Joanna's', the topics of conversation range from the environment to the Britishness of marmalade, from toilet graffiti to smoking, as we witness the guests' lives in flux. Ranging from the domestic to the extraordinary, from the vineyards of Italy to the English seaside in winter, the stories in *Pulse* resonate and spark.

Tossing and Turning John Updike 2012-04-25

John Updike's first collection of verse since *Midpoint* takes its title from a poem about

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insomnia. Throughout, this is poetry with its eyes wide open, restlessly alert for the oddities of reality and the double entendres of imagination. Fanciers of light verse will find a middle section of delicate fossil prints left by this vanished form; readers of Mr. Updike's fiction will recognize some of the landscapes and preoccupations. In three long poems he, in turn, remembers a boyhood Sunday in Pennsylvania, addresses aspects of a Harvard education, and contemplates, with a Dionysian verve, the aesthetic challenge posed by the new sexual candor ("We must assimilate cunts to our creed of beauty"). Shorter poems treat of spring and flying, of gold and the Caribbean, of sand dollars and bicycle chains, of the shades of bliss and variety of phenomena accessible to a man past the midpoint of his life, trying to pace himself as he heads toward Nandi.

The Widows of Eastwick -

John Updike 2009-06-02

More than three decades after

the events described in *The Witches of Eastwick*, Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie—widowed, aging, and with their occult powers fading—return for the summer to the Rhode Island town where they once made piquant scandal and sometimes deadly mischief. But what was then a center of license and liberation is now a "haven of wholesomeness" populated by hockey moms and househusbands primly rebelling against their absent, reckless, self-involved parents. With spirits still free but energy waning, the three women reconstitute their coven to confront not only this youthful counterspell of propriety but also the enmity of those longtime townsfolk who, through their youthful witchery, they irreparably harmed. In this wise and wicked satire on the way we make peace with our pasts, John Updike proves himself a wizard on every page.

Toward the End of Time John

Updike 2009-09-23

Set in the near future of 2020,

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this disconcerting philosophical fantasy depicts an America devastated by a war with China that has left its populace decimated, its government a shambles, and its natural resources tainted. The hero is Ben Turnbull, a sixty-six-year-old retired investment counselor, who, like Thoreau, sticks close to home and traces the course of one Massachusetts year in his journal. Something of a science buff, he finds that his disrupted personal history has been warped by the disjunctions and vagaries of the “many-worlds” hypothesis derived from the indeterminacy of quantum theory. His identity branches into variants extending back through the past and forward into the evolution of the universe, as both it and his own mortal, nature-haunted existence move toward the end of time.

Rabbit Redux- John Updike
2010-08-26

In this sequel to *Rabbit, Run*, John Updike resumes the spiritual quest of his anxious Everyman, Harry “Rabbit”

Angstrom. Ten years have passed; the impulsive former athlete has become a paunchy thirty-six-year-old conservative, and Eisenhower’s becalmed America has become 1969’s lurid turmoil of technology, fantasy, drugs, and violence. Rabbit is abandoned by his family, his home invaded by a runaway and a radical, his past reduced to a ruined inner landscape; still he clings to semblances of decency and responsibility, and yearns to belong and to believe.

The Poorhouse Fair - John Updike
2012-03-13

“Brilliant . . . Here is the conflict of real ideas; of real personalities; here is a work of intellectual imagination and great charity. The Poorhouse Fair is a work of art.”—The New York Times Book Review
The hero of John Updike’s first novel, published when the author was twenty-six, is ninety-four-year-old John Hook, a dying man who yet refuses to be dominated. His world is a poorhouse—a county home for the aged and infirm—overseen by Stephen Conner, a righteous

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young man who considers it his duty to know what is best for others. The action of the novel unfolds over a single summer's day, the day of the poorhouse's annual fair, a day of escalating tensions between Conner and the rebellious Hook. Its climax is a contest between progress and tradition, benevolence and pride, reason and faith. Praise for *The Poorhouse Fair* "A first novel of rare precision and real merit . . . a rich poorhouse indeed."—*Newsweek* "Turning on a narrow plot of ground, it achieves the rarity of bounded, native truth, and comes forth as microcosm."—*Commonweal*

John Updike: Novels 1968-1975 (LQA #326) - John Updike
2020-01-07

Library of America's definitive Updike edition continues with three masterful novels on the joys and the discontents of the sexual revolution Here for the first time in one volume are three of John Updike's most essential novels--the scandalous *Couples*, the brilliant *Rabbit Redux*, and the uproarious *A Month of Sundays*--which together form

an unforgettable triptych of the social turbulence that roiled America from the Kennedy to the Nixon years. Written with the grace, verve, and style of one of literature's most sophisticated entertainers, these books not only reveal Updike's genius in characterization and his formal versatility as a novelist but also delve into the complexities of sex and marriage, social class and personal morality, and the difficult quandaries of the flesh and the spirit. As a special feature the volume also presents two short pieces that shed light on the novels and the tale "*Couples: A Short Story*," the origin of the novel of the same name, written in 1963 but deemed unsuitable for publication by *The New Yorker*.

Due Considerations - John Updike 2008-12-30

"A drop of truth, of lived experienced, glistens in each." This is how John Updike modestly described his nonfiction pieces, of which *Due Considerations* is perhaps his most varied, stylish, and

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personal collection. Here Updike reflects on such writers as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry James, Don DeLillo, A. S. Byatt, Colson Whitehead, and Margaret Atwood. He visits China, goes to art exhibitions, provides a whimsical and insightful list of "Ten Epochal Moments in the American Libido," and shares his thoughts on the fall of the Twin Towers, which he witnessed from a tenth-floor apartment in Brooklyn. John Updike was always more than simply one of America's most acclaimed novelists; he was also, as the Los Angeles Times noted in appraising this volume, "one of the best essayists and critics this country has produced."

Rich in Russia - John Updike
2011-02-15

In these two short stories, Updike's brilliant observational acuity is matched by a light, comic touch. The writer Henry Bech travels to Europe on a hapless cultural exchange, first to Russia, where he struggles to spend his money when everything - from his meals to his bugged hotel room - is

already paid for, and then to Rumania.

Museums & Women and Other Stories - John Updike
2012-09-18

Museums and Women gathers twenty-nine short stories from the 1960s and early 1970s. It is John Updike's most various collection, a book as full of departures and surprises as the historical period that produced them. Some stories, such as the title piece, have the tone and personality of essays. Others objectify the chimeras of middle-class life, especially life in a fictional New England enclave called Tarbox. The illustrated jeux d'esprit in the section called "Other Modes" place Updike somewhere between Robert Benchley and Donald Barthelme as a toymaker in prose. Crowning the collection are five scenes from the marriage of Richard and Joan Maple, a story sequence with the narrative interest and cumulative power of a novel.

Picked-Up Pieces John Updike
2013-01-15

In John Updike's second

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collection of assorted prose he comes into his own as a book reviewer; most of the pieces picked up here were first published in *The New Yorker* in the 1960s and early '70s. If one word could sum up the young critic's approach to books and their authors it would be "generosity": "Better to praise and share," he says in his Foreword, "than to blame and ban." And so he follows his enthusiasms, which prove both deserving and infectious: Kierkegaard, Proust, Joyce, Dostoevsky, and Hamsun among the classics; Borges, Nabokov, Grass, Bellow, Cheever, and Jong among the contemporaries. Here too are meditations on Satan and cemeteries, travel essays on London and Anguilla, three very early "golf dreams," and one big interview. Picked-Up Pieces is a glittering treasury for every reader who likes life, books, wit—and John Updike.

Telephone Poles and Other Poems - John Updike

2012-04-25

WHEN, five years and five books of fiction ago, THE

CARPENTERED HEN, John Updike's first collection of verse, was published, Phyllis McGinley wrote: "I have been happily reading Mr. Updike in *The New Yorker* for some time and am happy, now, to own him collected. When he first appeared in that magazine, I was so elated to see a new name in light verse that I felt like crying with the Ancient Mariner 'A Sail, A Sail!' His is what poetry of this sort exactly out to be—playful but elegant, sharp-eyed, witty." In the *Saturday Review*, David McCord wrote: "Furthermore, he is a graceful border-crosser (light verse to poem) as Auden has been; as Betjeman and McGinley frequently are." This second collection is equally divided between poems that, in their verbal jugglery and humorous bias, seem to qualify as "light" and poems that, one way or other, cross the problematic border into the general realm of poetry. The distinction cannot be clear-cut. The poet is consistently concerned with Man's cosmic embarrassment, and the same

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vision illuminates the creatures of “The High Hearts” and “Seagulls.” Science and religion, so frequently and variously invoked, frame a single paradox, the paradox of the mundane; and each poem, whether inspired by an antic headline or a suburban landscape, rejoices in the elusive surface of created things.

Always Looking - John Updike
2012-11-27

In this posthumous collection of John Updike’s art writings, a companion volume to the acclaimed *Just Looking* (1989) and *Still Looking* (2005), readers are again treated to “remarkably elegant essays” (*Newsday*) in which “the psychological concerns of the novelist drive the eye from work to work until a deep understanding of the art emerges” (*The New York Times Book Review*). *Always Looking* opens with “The Clarity of Things,” the Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities for 2008. Here, in looking closely at individual works by Copley, Homer, Eakins, Norman

Rockwell, and others, the author teases out what is characteristically “American” in American art. This talk is followed by fourteen essays, most of them written for *The New York Review of Books*, on certain highlights in Western art of the last two hundred years: the iconic portraits of Gilbert Stuart and the sublime landscapes of Frederic Edwin Church, the series paintings of Monet and the monotypes of Degas, the richly patterned canvases of Vuillard and the golden extravagances of Klimt, the cryptic triptychs of Beckmann, the personal graffiti of Miró, the verbal-visual puzzles of Magritte, and the monumental Pop of Oldenburg and Lichtenstein. The book ends with a consideration of recent works by a living American master, the steely sculptural environments of Richard Serra. John Updike was a gallery-goer of genius. *Always Looking* is, like everything else he wrote, an invitation to look, to see, to apprehend the visual world through the eyes of a

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connoisseur.