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Fifth Business Fifth Business The Deptford Trilogy The Manticore World of Wonders The Cunning Man Robertson Davies What's Bred in the Bone A Voice from the Attic The Rebel Angels High Spirits Skyward Inn The Papers of Samuel Marchbanks Robertson Davies What's Bred in the Bone Illustrated Mud and Magic Shows For Your Eye Alone The Enthusiasms of Robertson Davies The Salterton Trilogy The Canadian Novel The Merry Heart Murder and Walking Spirits I Want a Monster! Dolphin Sos The In-Between World of Vikram Lall Robertson Davies The Gunny Sack The Cornish Trilogy A Gathering of Ghost Stories Conversations with Robertson Davies Happy Alchemy Little Wilson and Big God Amriika The Art of Fiction Colorism Poems The Manticore No New Land Fallen Princeborn Fifth Business Aspects of Robertson Davies' Novels

The complete volume of Robertson Davies's acclaimed trilogy, featuring Fifth Business, The Manticore, and World of Wonders, with a new foreword by Kelly Link Fifth Business Ramsay is a man twice born, a man who has returned from the hell of the battle-grave at Passchendaele in World War I decorated with the Victoria Cross and destined to be caught in a no man's land where memory, history, and myth collide. As Ramsay tells his story, it begins to seem that from boyhood, he

has exerted a perhaps mystical, perhaps pernicious, influence on those around him. His apparently innocent involvement in such innocuous events as the throwing of a snowball or the teaching of card tricks to a small boy in the end prove neither innocent nor innocuous. *Fifth Business* stands alone as a remarkable story told by a rational man who discovers that the marvelous is only another aspect of the real. *The Manticore* Around a mysterious death is woven a glittering, fantastical, cunningly contrived trilogy of novels. Luring the reader down labyrinthine tunnels of myth, history and magic, *THE DEPTFORD TRILOGY* provides an exhilarating antidote to a world from where 'the fear and dread and splendour of wonder have been banished'. *World of Wonders* This is the third novel in Davies's major work, *The Deptford Trilogy*. This novel tells the life story of the unfortunate boy introduced in *The Fifth Business*, who was spirited away from his Canadian home by one of the members of a traveling side show, the *Wanless World of Wonders*. "A goodhearted priest and scholar, a professor with a passion for the darker side of medieval psychology, a defrocked monk, and a rich young businessman who inherits some troublesome paintings are all helplessly beguiled by the same coed. The story is set in motion by the death of eccentric art patron and collector Francis Cornish. Hollier, McVarish, and Darcourt are the executors of Cornish's complicated will, which includes material that Hollier wants for his studies. The deceased's nephew Arthur Cornish, stands to inherit the fortune. Davies weaves together the destinies of this remarkable cast of characters, creating a wise and witty portrait of love, murder, and scholarship at a modern university"--Amazon.com. This collective assessment of the achievement of Robertson Davies addresses the basic problems in reading his artfulness, as a moralist committed to the practice of doubling, disguise, irony and paradox, of dwelling in "gaps" or spaces "in between" The essays present new insights on a broad range of topics in Davies' oeuvre and was the first conference

devoted to Davies' work since his death in 1995. Provides a fictionalized account of how local children took it upon themselves to save three dolphins trapped in the ice in Newfoundland. Born in Thamesville, Ontario, a student at Queen's University in Kingston in the 1930's, and editor and later publisher of the Peterborough Examiner from the 1940s to the mid-1960s, playwright, essayist, critic, professor, and novelist Robertson Davies (1913-1995) was one of Canada's pre-eminent literary voices for more than a half-century. Davies, with his generous beard and donnish manner, was the very epitome of the "man of letters," a term he abhorred. Best known for his Deptford Trilogy of novels (Fifth Business, The Manticore, World of Wonders), he also wrote two other trilogies (Salterton and Cornish) and was at work on the third volume of another trilogy (Toronto) when he died. With a life as rich in character and colour as that found in his fiction and essays, Davies had a great fondness for magic and myth, both of which are found in abundance in his work, along with a prodigious streak of wry humour. ARTHUR C. CLARKE AWARD FINALIST 2022 Drink down the brew and dream of a better Earth. Skyward Inn, within the high walls of the Western Protectorate, is a place of safety, where people come together to tell stories of the time before the war with Qita. But safety from what? Qita surrendered without complaint when Earth invaded; Innkeepers Jem and Isley, veterans from either side, have regrets but few scars. Their peace is disturbed when a visitor known to Isley comes to the Inn asking for help, bringing reminders of an unnerving past and triggering an uncertain future. Did humanity really win the war? 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. In rural Wisconsin, an old stone wall is all that separates the world of magic from the world of man—a wall that keeps the shifters inside. When something gets out, people disappear. Completely. Escaping from an abusive uncle, eighteen-year-old Charlotte is running away with her younger sister Anna. Together they board a bus. Little do they know that they're bound for River Vine—a shrouded hinterland where dark magic devours and ancient shapeshifters feed, and where the seed of love sets root among the ashes of the dying.

Fallen Princeborn: Stolen is the first in a series of young-adult dark-fantasy novels by Jean Lee. The third book in Robertson Davies's acclaimed *The Deptford Trilogy*, with a new foreword by Kelly Link. Hailed by the *Washington Post Book World* as "a modern classic," Robertson Davies's acclaimed *Deptford Trilogy* is a glittering, fantastical, cunningly contrived series of novels, around which a mysterious death is woven. *World of Wonders*—the third book in the series after *The Manticore*—follows the story of Magnus Eisengrim—the most illustrious magician of his age—who is spirited away from his home by a member of a traveling sideshow, the *Wanless World of Wonders*. After honing his skills and becoming better known, Magnus unfurls his life's courageous and adventurous tale in this third and final volume of a spectacular, soaring work.

For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. Nurdin Lalani and his family, Asian immigrants from

Africa, have come to the Toronto suburb of Don Mills only to find that the old world and its values pursue them. A genial orderly at a downtown hospital, he has been accused of sexually assaulting a girl. Although he is innocent, traditional propriety prompts him to question the purity of his own thoughts. Ultimately, his friendship with the enlightened Sushila offers him an alluring freedom from a past that haunts him, a marriage that has become routine, and from the trials of coping with teenage children. Introducing us to a cast of vividly drawn characters within this immigrant community, Vassanji is a keen observer of lives caught between one world and another. Its convoluted and colorful plot turns on questions of heredity and atavism: the ancestry of the Waring twin brothers and of Elma Clifford. Elma comes on her mother's side from a line of gypsy snake dancers, and she displays a periodic urge to dance wildly with a feather boa in her bedroom. A murderous judge, multiple mistaken identities and scenes of tribal life in South Africa decorate this extraordinary novel, which is certainly a testament to Grant Allen's versatility and grasp of the popular market. Excerpt from *What's Bred in the Bone* There was something so comically alarmed in the ring of his tone - as of a naughty Schoolboy detected in a piece of mischief - that, propriety to the contrary notwithstanding, Elma couldn't for the life of her repress a smile. She looked down at the seat where the stranger pointed, and there, sure enough, coiled up in huge folds, with his glossy head in attitude to spring at her, a great banded snake lay alert and open-eyed.' Second in the Cornish Trilogy following *The Rebel Angels*. "An altogether remarkable creation, [Davies'] most accomplished novel to date." -The New York Times Shortlisted for the Booker Prize Francis Cornish was always good at keeping secrets. From the well-hidden family secret of his childhood to his mysterious encounters with a small-town embalmer, an expert art restorer, a Bavarian countess, and various masters of espionage, the events in Francis' life were not always what they seemed.

Rounding out the story started by the death of eccentric art patron and collector Francis Cornish in *The Rebel Angels*, this worthy follow-up, *What's Bred in the Bone*, takes you back to Cornish's humble beginnings in a spellbinding tale of artistic triumph and heroic deceit. It is a tale told in stylish, elegant prose, endowed with lavish portions of Davies' wit and wisdom. "Davies' novel is absorbing, and the understated humor radiates with good sense about the way of the world."-Los Angeles Times "Davies' fiction is animated by his scorn for the ironclad systems that claim to explain the whole of life. Messy, magical, high-spirited life bubbles up between the cracks."-South Florida Sun-Sentinel Interviews with the Canadian novelist, playwright, and critic share his views on his career, literature, religions, current issues, and his approach to writing National bestseller and a Globe and Mail Best Book A fascinating, larger-than-life character, Davies left a treasure trove of stories about him when he died in 1995 — expertly arranged here into a revealing portrait. From his student days onward, Robertson Davies made a huge impression on those around him. He was so clearly bound for a glorious future that some young friends even carefully preserved his letters. And everyone remembered their encounters with him. Later in life, as a world-famous writer, perhaps Canada's pre-eminent man of letters (who "looked like Jehovah"), he attracted people eager to meet him, who also vividly remembered their meetings. So when Val Ross set out in search of people's memories, she was faced with a wonderful embarrassment of riches. The one hundred or so contributors here range very widely. There are family memories, of course, and memories from colleagues in the academic world who knew him as a professor and the founding master of Massey College at the University of Toronto. Predictably, there are other major writers like Margaret Atwood and John Irving. Less predictably, there are people from the world of Hollywood, such as Norman Jewison and David Cronenberg (who remembers Davies on-set, peering through a camera

lens as he researched his newest novel). And we even hear from his barber, and from his gardener, Theo Henkenhaf. Some speakers contribute just a lively paragraph; others several pages. Yet all of them, through the magic of Val Ross's art, help to create an intriguing, full-colour portrait of a complex man beloved by millions of readers around the world. "An amazing coup . . . a brilliant, never less than engaging work of fiction which is also a philosophical meditation on the business of living."-Financial Times When Father Hobbes mysteriously dies at the high altar on Good Friday, Dr. Jonathan Hullah-whose holistic work has earned him the label "Cunning Man" (for the wizard of folk tradition)-wants to know why. The physician-cum-diagnostician's search for answers compels him to look back over his own long life. He conjures vivid memories of the dazzling, intellectual high-jinks and compassionate philosophies of himself and his circle, including flamboyant, mystical curate Charlie Iredale; cynical, quixotic professor Brocky Gilmartin; outrageous banker Darcy Dwyer; and jocular, muscular artist Pansy Todhunter. In compelling and hilarious scenes from the divine comedy of life, *The Cunning Man* reveals profound truths about being human. "Wise, humane and consistently entertaining . . . Robertson Davies's skill and curiosity are as agile as ever, and his store of incidental knowledge is a constant pleasure."-The New York Times Book Review "The sparkling history of [the] erudite and amusing Dr. Hullah, who knows the souls of his patients as well as he knows their bodies . . . never fails to enlighten and delight."-The London Free Press "Davies is a good companion. Settling into *The Cunning Man* is like taking a comfortable chair opposite a favorite uncle who has seen and done everything."-Maclean's "Irresistible, unflaggingly vital. A wholehearted and sharp-minded celebration of the Great Theatre of Life."-The Sunday Times "A novel brimming with themes of music, poetry, beauty, philosophy, death and the deep recesses of the mind."-The Observer The first book in Robertson Davies's acclaimed *The Deptford Trilogy*, with a

new foreword by Kelly Link Ramsay is a man twice born, a man who has returned from the hell of the battle-grave at Passchendaele in World War I decorated with the Victoria Cross and destined to be caught in a no man's land where memory, history, and myth collide. As Ramsay tells his story, it begins to seem that from boyhood, he has exerted a perhaps mystical, perhaps pernicious, influence on those around him. His apparently innocent involvement in such innocuous events as the throwing of a snowball or the teaching of card tricks to a small boy in the end prove neither innocent nor innocuous. *Fifth Business* stands alone as a remarkable story told by a rational man who discovers that the marvelous is only another aspect of the real. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. The fruits of an eighteen-year tradition of Massey College's annual Gaudy Nights, Robertson Davies' *High Spirits* still delights and amuses to this day. Published as an eBook for the first time. In the Introduction to this collection of charming stories, Robertson Davies notes we all need "ghosts as a dietary supplement . . . to stave off that most dreadful of modern ailments, the Rational Rickets." In one tale, Mr. Davies introduces the ghost of Henrik Ibsen; in another, he brings us face to face with a bust of Charles Dickens, whose "scarlet lips . . . parted in a terrible smile" and whose "beard stirred in a hiccup of repletion." Sixteen other apparitions manifest themselves, each rendered with Robertson Davies' special touch—a bit of parody, a touch of true scariness—and all emanating from high spirits. Giller Prize-winner M.G. Vassanji's *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* is a haunting novel of corruption and regret that

brings to life the complexity and turbulence of Kenyan society in the last five decades. Rich in sensuous detail and historical insight, this is a powerful story of passionate betrayals and political violence, racial tension and the strictures of tradition, told in elegant, assured prose. The novel begins in 1953, with eight-year-old Vikram Lall a witness to the celebrations around the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, just as the Mau Mau guerilla war for independence from Britain begins to gain strength. In a land torn apart by idealism, doubt, political upheaval and terrible acts of violence, Vic and his sister Deepa must find their place among a new generation. Neither colonists nor African, neither white nor black, the Indian brother and sister find themselves somewhere in between in their band of playmates: Bill and Annie, British children, and Njoroge, an African boy. These are the relationships that will shape the rest of their lives. We follow Vikram through the changes in East African society, the immense promise of the fifties and sixties. But when that hope is betrayed by the corruption and violence of the following decades, Vic is drawn into the Kenyatta government's orbit of graft and power-broking. Njoroge, his childhood friend, can abandon neither the idealism of his youth nor his love for Vic's sister Deepa. But neither the idealism of the one nor the passive cynicism of the other can avert the tragedies that await them. The In-Between World of Vikram Lall is a profound and careful examination of one man's search for his place in the world, with themes that have run through Vassanji's work: the nature of community in a volatile society, the relations between colony and colonizer, and the inescapable presence of the past. It is also, finally, a deeply personal book speaking to the people who are in the in-between. Bringing together *The Rebel Angels*, *What's Bred in the Bone*, and *The Lyre of Orpheus*, *The Cornish Trilogy* is available as an eBook for the first time. Woven around the pursuits of the energetic spirits and erudite scholars of the University of St. John and the Holy Ghost, this dazzling trilogy of novels lures you into a world of

mysticism, historical allusion, and gothic fantasy that could only be the invention of the inimitable Robertson Davies. "A biting satire on the artistic muse This wonderful, witty novel should speak to a worldwide audience."—Chicago Tribune A collection of essays about contemporary Canadian novels by Margaret Atwood, Robertson Davies, Margaret Laurence, Alice Munro, Mordechai Richler, Rudy Weibe, as edited by professor of English at the University of Ottawa John Moss. "Davies introduces us to his alter ego . . . A humorous and insightful picture of postwar Canadian life as seen through the eyes of a delightful eccentric."--Library Journal As editor and later publisher of the Peterborough Examiner, Robertson Davies published witty, curmudgeonly, mischievous, and fiercely individualistic columns under the name of his alter ego, Samuel Marchbanks. In 1985, Davies edited and selected from his alter ego's observations to bring together previous titles in the Marchbanks bibliography: *The Diary* (1947), *The Table Talk* (1949), and *Samuel Marchbanks' Almanack* (1967). Marchbanks opines on politics, on his furnace, on theatre, on the taxman, on trains, on Christmas, on book-banners, on manners, indeed on everything under the sun. Not only this, but Davies's copious and quite delectable Notes are "calculated to remove all Difficulties caused by the passage of Time and to offer the Wisdom, not to speak of Whimsicality, of this astonishing man to the Modern Public, in the most convenient form." "This writing of four decades ago is consistently incisive, insulting, funny, relevant and altogether interesting."--The New York Times "Now this crank of the first order is on full display for the first time in America . . . To explain to his younger American readers such arcana as 'telegrams' and 'coal-burning furnaces,' Davies has added graceful and comic notes that rival the entertaining opinions of Marchbanks himself."--South Florida Sun-Sentinel *Amriika* is a novel of betrayal, disillusionment, and discovery set in America during three highly charged decades in the nation's history. In the late sixties, Ramji, a student from Dar es Salaam,

East Africa, arrives in an America far different from the one he dreamed about, one caught up in anti-war demonstrations, revolutionary lifestyles, and spiritual quests. As Ramji finds himself pulled by the tumultuous currents of those troubled times, he is swept up in events whose consequences will haunt him for years to come. Decades later in a changed America, having recently left a marriage and a suburban existence, an older Ramji, passionately in love, finds himself drawn into a set of circumstances which hold terrifying reminders of the past and its unanswered questions. The first book of poetry dedicated to the issue of colorism, *Colorism Poems* features the best poems submitted to the 2014 and 2016 Colorism Healing Poetry Contests. The poems published here represent a diverse range of voices, ages, languages, ethnicities, and styles. This collection explores the complex politics of complexion, hair, gender, beauty, race, nationality, mixed-race identity, stereotypes, family, heritage, healing, love, and more. The *Salterton Trilogy* is comprised of the novels *Tempest-Tost*, *Leaven of Malice*, and *A Mixture of Frailties*, Robertson Davies' first forays into fiction in the 1950s. The Trilogy is available in eBook format for the first time. In the small university town of Salterton, Ontario, dreams are quietly taking shape . . . or falling apart. In *Tempest-Tost*, Valentine Rich, professional director of the Salterton Little Theatre Company, is tormented by the amateurish efforts of his actors. The families Vambrace and Bridgetower almost go to war over a fake notice of engagement in the local paper in *Leaven of Malice*. And in *A Mixture of Frailties*, the fortune of the late Louisa Bridgetower is lavished on an aspiring singer because there is no male heir to claim it. Tracing the lives and incidents of a small community, *The Salterton Trilogy* peels off the public veneer of geniality and respectability to reveal the private passions simmering beneath. "Ingenious, erudite, entertaining . . . Davies displays all the qualities of a latter-day Trollope and shows us what modern Canada is like." —Anthony Burgess in the *Observer Books of the Year* This is

the first volume of Anthony Burgess's two volume autobiography. Complete in itself, it tells the story of a disaffected Manchester Catholic from his birth in 1917 up to the commencement, in 1959, of his career as a professional writer. A collection of essays "filled with pleasantly rambling opinions about everything from self-help books to erotica" from the celebrated Canadian author (The Chronicle Journal). An urbane, robust, and wonderfully opinionated voice from Canada, sometimes called "America's attic," speaks here of the delights of reading, and of what mass education has done to readers today, to taste, to books, to culture. With his usual wit and breadth of vision, Robertson Davies ranges through the world of letters—books renowned and obscure, old and recent; English, Irish, Canadian, and American writers both forgotten and fondly remembered. "Sweet reason in the raiment of well-woven prose? Most assuredly. Good humor agraze over broad literary demesnes? No doubt of it. Forgotten popular favorites rescued and rehabilitated? Certainly. A parade of agreeable prejudices? He would not be a true Canadian if he did not have them. Lightheartedness where needed? Yes. Seriousness where it counts? Yes. Wit, satirical touches, firm indignations, sound sense, good taste, judiciousness, cosmopolitan breadth of view, urbanity, sanity, unexpected eccentricities, educated humanism? By all means. It is indeed by all these means and more that this book of essays and observations bestows its multiple benefactions, and anyone picking it up is bound north to pleasure and profit."—The New York Times First published in the U.S. last year, this updated collection contains the best of Robertson Davies' newspaper and magazine articles written over the past 50 years. "Each piece is entertaining and enlightening. . . ."--Publishers Weekly. Robertson Davies, one of the twentieth century's most distinguished authors, brought his characteristic great sense of style to everything he wrote. Whether it was a letter to his daughter or a formal letter to the editor disemboweling a hostile review, he wrote with care, zest, and in a

distinctive voice. Penned during the height of his fame-between the years 1976 and 1995-these letters were sent to a wide range of recipients, from Sir John Gielgud to Margaret Atwood, from publishers to fans and critics of his writings. The letters are frequently testy, tart, and not always "politically correct"; but whether they are funny, moving, or thought provoking, they provide a rare glimpse of the private Davies, as revealed in his own words. The second book in Robertson Davies's acclaimed The Deptford Trilogy, with a new foreword by Kelly Link Hailed by the Washington Post Book World as "a modern classic," Robertson Davies's acclaimed Deptford Trilogy is a glittering, fantastical, cunningly contrived series of novels, around which a mysterious death is woven. The Manticore—the second book in the series after Fifth Business—follows David Staunton, a man pleased with his success but haunted by his relationship with his larger-than-life father. As he seeks help through therapy, he encounters a wonderful cast of characters who help connect him to his past and the death of his father. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. The acclaimed playwright, novelist, and author of Fifth Business explores the performing arts in this witty and insightful essay collection. Though best known for his award-winning fiction, Robertson Davies enjoyed a long and varied career as an actor, playwright, journalist and critic. Happy Alchemy collects an equally diverse range of Davies' writings—including speeches, articles, prologues to plays, a ghost story set to music, and even a scenario for a film. In this eclectic volume, Davies shares his many musings on music, theatre, opera, and more. These

pieces, many of them published here for the first time, touch on topics from Greek tragedy to Scottish Folklore and from Lewis Carroll to Carl Jung. “A splendid gallimaufry of the eminent Canadian’s talks and essays, mostly about literature and the creative life . . . a thought-filled and amusing book.”—The Washington Post For devotees of Davies and all lovers of literature and language, here is the “urbanity, wit, and high seriousness mixed by a master chef,” vintage delights from an exquisite literary menu (Cleveland Plain Dealer). Robertson Davies’s rich and varied collection of writings on the world of books and the miracle of language captures his inimitable voice and sustains his presence among us. Coming almost entirely from Davies’s own files of unpublished material, these twenty-four essays and lectures range over themes from “The Novelist and Magic” to “Literature and Technology,” from “Painting, Fiction, and Faking,” to “Can a Doctor Be a Humanist?” and “Creativity in Old Age.” Davies himself says merely: “Lucky writers . . . like wine, die rich in fruitiness and delicious aftertaste, so that their works survive them.” “Splendid—wise, witty, wide-ranging.”—The New York Times Book Review “Some of Davies’s ideas are iconoclastic, and will delight those who share them while stimulating those who do not. All his judgments are interesting, steeped in humanism, and most elegantly put.”—The Atlantic Monthly “The inimitable novelist gives an exuberant posthumous performance in this eclectic collection of (mostly) previously unpublished addresses, talks, and incidental pieces . . . Davies diffuses his opinions entertainingly, if occasionally superficially, but never loses his audience.”—Kirkus Reviews Aspects of Robertson Davies' Novels discusses the author's Salterton and Deptford trilogies along with Davies' last two novels, Murther & Walking Spirits and The Cunning Man. Winnie wants a monster! Some monsters smell like pirate feet and some might read your diary, but they are so darn cute! All Winnie’s friends have one. But how much do Oogly-Wumps eat? Don’t they ever sleep? Can monsters get lonely? I

Want a Monster! is a humorous, energetic celebration of the responsibility and joy of owning your dream pet, perfect for fans of Peter Brown's Children Make Terrible Pets or anyone who's ever longed for or loved a pet of any kind. Includes a "Would You Like to Adopt a Monster?" activity at the back of the book. Canadian Fiction Studies are an answer to every librarian's, student's, and teacher's wishes. Each book, about 80 pages in length, contains clear, readable information on a major Canadian novel. These studies are carefully designed readings of the novels; they are not substitutes for reading them. Each book is attractively produced and follows the same format, so students will know exactly what to expect: • a chronology of the author's life • the importance of the book • critical reception • reading of the text • selected list of works cited

A tale of ambition, love and vengeance which covers 60 years, three continents, and two wars. A man bearing a great guilt gets caught up in events with disastrous, and sometimes comic, results. Followed by "Manticore". (Reissue). *Murder & Walking Spirits* is available as an eBook for the first time. "I was never so amazed in my life as when the Sniffer drew his concealed weapon from its case and struck me to the ground, stone dead." So begins the unusual story of Connor "Gil" Gilmartin when he catches his wife in flagrante with the Sniffer, his former colleague and now his murderer. Though he is struck dead in the very first line of this novel, death is only the first indignity Gil is about to suffer. For he lingers on as a ghost, and from this bleak vantage-made even less endurable by the fact that he must spend the afterlife sitting beside his killer at a film festival-he is forced to view the exploits and failures of his ancestors, from the forerunners who sailed up the Hudson to Canada during the American Revolution right up to his university-professor parents. In which David Staunton continues his psychoanalysis in Zurich and falls in love with his analyst, Doctor Helena Von Haller. *Memory*, Ji Bai would say, is this old sack here, this poor dear that nobody has any use for any more. As the novel

begins, Salim Juma, in exile from Tanzania, opens up a gunny sack bequeathed to him by a beloved great-aunt. Inside it he discovers the past — his own family’s history and the story of the Asian experience in East Africa. Its relics and artefacts bring with them the lives of Salim’s Indian great-grandfather, Dhanji Govindji, his extensive family, and all their loves and betrayals. Dhanji Govindji arrives in Matamu — from Zanzibar, Porbander, and ultimately Junapur — and has a son with an African slave named Bibi Taratibu. Later, growing in prosperity, he marries Fatima, the woman who will bear his other children. But when his half-African son Husein disappears, Dhanji Govindji pays out his fortune in trying to find him again. As the tentacles of the First World War reach into Africa, with the local German colonists fighting British invaders, he spends more and more time searching. One morning he is suddenly murdered: he had spent not just his own money but embezzled that of others to finance the quest for his lost son. “Well, listen, son of Juma, you listen to me and I shall give you your father Juma and his father Husein and his father...” Part II of the novel is named for Kulsum, who marries Juma, Husein’s son; she is the mother of the narrator, Salim. We learn of Juma’s childhood as a second-class member of his stepmother’s family after his mother, Moti, dies. After his wedding to Kulsum there is a long wait in the unloving bosom of his stepfamily for their first child, Begum. It is the 1950s, and whispers are beginning of the Mau Mau rebellion. Among the stories tumbling from the gunny sack comes the tailor Edward bin Hadith’s story of the naming of Dar es Salaam, the city Kulsum moves to with her children after her husband’s death. And gradually her son takes over the telling, recalling his own childhood. His life guides the narrative from here on. He remembers his mother’s store and neighbours’ intrigues, the beauty of his pristine English teacher at primary school, cricket matches, and attempts to commune with the ghost of his father. It is a vibrantly described, deeply felt childhood. The nation, meanwhile, is racked by political tensions

on its road to independence, which comes about as Salim Juma reaches adolescence. With the surge in racial tension and nationalist rioting, several members of his close-knit community leave the country for England, America, and Canada. I see this comedy now as an attempt to foil the workings of fate: how else to explain, what else to call, the irrevocable relentless chain of events that unfolded... The title of Part III, Amina, is the name of Salim's great unfulfilled love, and will also be the name of his daughter. He meets the first Amina while doing his National Service at Camp Uhuru, a place he feels he has been sent to in error. Amina is African, and their relationship inevitably causes his family anxiety, until the increasingly militant Amina leaves for New York. Salim becomes a teacher at his old school, and marries, but keeps a place for Amina in his heart. When she returns and is arrested by the more and more repressive government, Salim is hurriedly exiled abroad. He leaves his wife and daughter with the promise that he will send for them, knowing that he will not. The novel ends with Salim alone, the last memories coming out of the gunny sack, hoping that he will be his family's last runaway.

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