

The Plains (Text Classics)

Barley Patch takes as its subject the reasons an author might abandon fiction—or so he thinks—forever. Using the form of an oblique self-interrogation, it begins with the Beckettian question "Must I write?" and proceeds to expand from this small, personal query to fill in the details of a landscape entirely unique in world letters, a chronicle of the images from life and fiction that have endured and mingled in the author's mind, as well as the details (and details within details) that they contain. As interested, if not more so, in the characters from his books—finished or unfinished—as with the members of his family or his daily life, the narrator lays bare the act of writing and imagining, finally giving us a glimpse of the mythical place where the characters of fiction dwell before they come into existence in books. In the spirit of Italo Calvino and Georges Perec, Barley Patch is like no other fiction being written today.

This groundbreaking novel is considered

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by many to be one of the most important early entries in the western genre. Recounting in rich detail the daily life of a foreman on a vast ranch in Wyoming, this gripping tale has sparked imaginations for more than a century, inspiring at least six film and television versions.

Wayne Macauley is one of the artists removed from his home, given a new place to live and the chance to 'give back to society'. In his strange new community, housed on a footy oval in a faraway town, he is told to create and be useful. He will write. Then he finds out about the rejection slips already written for the work he has yet to submit.

Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

Rising from the Plains

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Swords and Crowns and Rings: Text Classics

A Memoir of the Turf

Life and Adventures 1776-1801: Text Classics

The Story of the American Buffalo

No people have stirred the interest and imagination of the civilized world as have the North American Indians of the Great Plains. For thousands of years before the first European explorers appeared on the grasslands between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, the Indians of this region hunted the big, shaggy buffalo. As American settlements moved westward during the nineteenth century, the Plains Indians came to know the trader and the trapper, the missionary, the overland trail emigrant, the gold seeker, the cattleman, and the prairie farmer. As the white man's civilization relentlessly closed in upon them, some of the most powerful tribes fought back to preserve their traditional hunting grounds. Indian chiefs, experienced only in intertribal warfare, matched wits and courage with experts in military science of the United States Army. The Indian Wars of the Plains provided some of the bitterest battles and some of the most dramatic action in the history of warfare. Here is the dramatic story of the Plains Indians. This haunting novel is a classic of Australian literature. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail: a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself.

Brilliant, witty, scathing, *The Australian Ugliness* is the classic postwar account of Australian society, how we live in the environments we create, and the consequences of our failure to think about how we live.

Stories from a mind-bending Australian master, [a genius on the level of Beckett] (Teju Cole) Never before available to readers in

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this hemisphere, these stories—originally published from 1985 to 2012—offer an irresistible compendium of the work of one of contemporary fiction’s greatest magicians. While the Australian master Gerald Murnane’s reputation rests largely on his longer works of fiction, his short stories stand among the most brilliant and idiosyncratic uses of the form since Borges, Beckett, and Nabokov. Brutal, comic, obscene, and crystalline, *Stream System* runs from the haunting “*Land Deal*,” which imagines the colonization of Australia and the ultimate vengeance of its indigenous people as a series of nested dreams; to “*Finger Web*,” which tells a quietly terrifying, fractal tale of the scars of war and the roots of misogyny; to “*The Interior of Gaaldine*,” which finds its anxious protagonist stranded beyond the limits of fiction itself. No one else writes like Murnane, and there are few other authors alive still capable of changing how—and why—we read.

O Pioneers!

Earth's Children, Book Four

Such is Life

Tamarisk Row

The Cardboard Crown: Text Classics

The PlainsText ClassicsText Publishing

Twenty years ago, when I first arrived on the plains, I kept my eyes open. I looked for anything in the landscape that seemed to hint at some elaborate meaning behind appearances. There is no book in Australian literature like *The Plains*. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status as a classic. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, ‘a mirage of landscape, memory, love and

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literature itself'.

In this landmark of American fiction, Cather tells the story of young Alexandra Bergson, whose dying father leaves her in charge of the family and of the Nebraska lands they have struggled to farm.

This new work of fiction by one of Australia's most highly regarded authors focuses on the importance of trust, and the possibility of betrayal, in storytelling as in life. It tests the relationship established between author and reader, and on occasions of intimacy, between child and parent, boyfriend and girlfriend, husband and wife. Murnane's fiction is woven from images, and the feelings associated with them, and the images that flit through *A Million Windows* like butterflies - the reflections of the setting sun like spots of golden oil, the houses of two or perhaps three storeys, the procession of dark-haired females, the clearing in the forest, the colours indigo and silver-grey, the death of a young woman who had leaped into a well - build to an emotional crescendo that is all the more powerful for the intricacy of their patterning.

Nineteen Eighty-Four

The Reminiscences of a Ranchman

The Great Plains Trilogy

The First Cowboy Novel Set in the Wild West

A Fiction

A study of the changes initiated into the

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systems and culture of the plain dwellers
This carefully crafted ebook: "THE VIRGINIAN - A Horseman of the Plains (Western Classic)" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. This classic describes the life of a cowboy who is a natural aristocrat, set against a highly mythologized version of the Johnson County War and taking the side of the large land owners. The Virginian paved the way for many more westerns by such authors as Zane Grey, Louis L'Amour, and several others. Owen Wister (1860-1938) was an American writer and "father" of western fiction. When he started writing, he naturally inclined towards fiction set on the western frontier. Wister's most famous work remains the novel The Virginian. Winner, Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction, 2016 As a boy, Gerald Murnane became obsessed with horse racing. He had never ridden a horse, nor seen a race. Yet he was fascinated by photos of horse races in the Sporting Globe, and by the incantation of horses' names in radio broadcasts of races. Murnane discovered in these races more than he could find in religion or philosophy: they were the gateway to a world of imagination. Gerald Murnane is like no other writer, and Something for the Pain is like no other

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Murnane book. In this unique and spellbinding memoir, he tells the story of his life through the lens of horse racing. It is candid, droll and moving—a treat for lovers of literature and of the turf. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has been a primary teacher, an editor and a university lecturer. His debut novel, *Tamarisk Row* (1974), was followed by nine other works of fiction, including *The Plains* now available as a Text Classic, and most recently *A Million Windows*. In 1999 Murnane won the Patrick White Award and in 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. He lives in western Victoria.

'Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' Teju Cole 'Murnane is a careful stylist and a slyly comic writer with large ideas.' Robyn Cresswell, *Paris Review*
'Murnane is quite simply one of the finest writers we have produced.' Peter Craven
'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' Australian
'Something for the Pain is Gerald Murnane at his best. His meticulous exploration of his lifelong obsession with horse racing is by turns hilarious, moving and profound. If Australian writing were a horse race, Murnane would be the winner by three and a half lengths.' Andy Griffiths 'A marvellous book about horse

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racing, one of the best this country has produced. It is full of fast and loose stories and colourful characters...and lots of laughs.' Stephen Romei, Australian 'Something for the Pain bears testament to a lifelong obsession and further illustrates the breadth and depth of meaningfulness that Murnane can draw from a seemingly straightforward spectacle.' Australian Book Review 'Murnane is a writer of the greatest skill and tonal control. Reading his description of the death of a racehorse in the arms of its owner-trainer at Flemington racecourse, tears rolled down my cheeks: "The man put his arms around the horse's neck and pressed his face against the horse's head. The man went on lying there. The light rain went on falling."' Financial Times 'An absolute gem. It's literary, lucid, full of love for horses and racing and full of the strange highly-ordered madness of Murnane, full of a selfless disclosure. It's marvellous. Funny, moving, beautiful. A brilliant book.' Jonathan Green, Radio National Books and Arts 'Murnane recounts his life through his abiding obsession with horse racing. But you don't have to care about horse racing—it's the quality of the obsessed mind that matters.' Ben Lerner, New Yorker 'Yes, this is about Murnane's lifelong obsession with horseracing,

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but it's so much more than that. It's a memoir that illuminates his deliberately unusual life and his exquisite fiction.' Australian 'Murnane's books are strange and wonderful and nearly impossible to describe in a sentence or two...His later works are essayistic meditations on his own past, a personal mythology as attuned to the epic ordinariness of lost time as Proust, except with Murnane it's horse races, a boyhood marble collection, Catholic sexual hang-ups and life as a househusband in the suburban Melbourne of the 1970s.' New York Times With Giramondo's publication of *Barley Patch* and *A History of Books*, Gerald Murnane has attracted renewed interest as a brilliant writer and Nobel Prize contender. First published 25 years ago, *Inland* is one of Murnane's most complex and rewarding works, a study of guilt, longing and regret rich in metaphysical insights. From his native district in the Melbourne suburb of Pascoe Vale, Murnane's narrator imagines another world, in Szolnok county Hungary, and within that world another, in Ideal South Dakota, each haunted by the betrayal of a young girl, each driven by the possibility of restitution. Murnane's mastery over language and his pressing towards the edges of what fiction can

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accomplish make this book a landmark in Australian literature.
Landscape with Landscape

Inland

The Classic Book of the Karoo

THE VIRGINIAN - A Horseman of the Plains
(Western Classic)

Adrian Sherd is a teenage boy in Melbourne of the 1950s, the last years before television and the family car changed suburbia forever. Earnest and isolated, tormented by his hormones and his religious devotion, Adrian dreams of elaborate orgies with American film stars, and of marrying his sweetheart and fathering eleven children by her. He even dreams a history of the world as a chronicle of sexual frustration. A Lifetime on Clouds is funny, honest and sweetly told: a less ribald, Catholic Australian Portnoy's Complaint. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. His first novel, Tamarisk Row, was published in 1974. It was followed by A Lifetime on Clouds, The Plains and five other works of fiction, the most recent of which is A History of Books. In 1999 he won the Patrick White Award. Ten years later he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature.

'Unquestionably one of the most original

writers working in Australia today.'
Australian 'A Lifetime on Clouds delighted me: I was particularly admiring of the author's unfailing ability to say just enough and no more.' Les Murray, *Sydney Morning Herald* **'Murnane draws out a great deal of comedy from the distance between what his hero does and what he dreams.'** *Guardian* **'If you only ever read one Gerald Murnane novel in your life, I urge you to make it this one.'**
Andy Griffiths, in his introduction

First published in 1974, and out of print for almost twenty years, Tamarisk Row is Gerald Murnane's first novel, and in many respects his masterpiece, an unsparing evocation of a Catholic childhood in a Victorian country town in the late 1940s.

Ayla, the heroine first introduced in *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, is known and loved by millions of readers. Now, in *The Plains of Passage*, Ayla's story continues. Ayla and Jondalar set out on horseback across the windswept grasslands of Ice Age Europe. To the hunter-gatherers of their world--who have never seen tame animals--Ayla and Jondalar appear enigmatic and frightening. The mystery surrounding the woman, who speaks with a strange accent and talks to animals with their own sounds, is heightened

by her uncanny control of a large, powerful wolf. The tall, yellow-haired man who rides by her side is also held in awe, not only for the magnificent stallion he commands, but also for his skill as a crafter of stone tools, and for the new weapon he devises, the spear-thrower. In the course of their cross-continental odyssey, Ayla and Jondalar encounter both savage enemies and brave friends. Together they learn that the vast and unknown world can be difficult and treacherous, but breathtakingly beautiful and enlightening as well. All the pain and pleasure bring them closer to their ultimate destination, for the orphaned Ayla and the wandering Jondalar must reach that place on earth they can call home. As sweeping and spectacular as the land she creates, Jean M. Auel's *The Plains of Passage* is an astonishing novel of discovery, danger, and love, a triumph for one of the world's most original and popular authors. This eBook includes the full text of the novel plus the following additional content:

- **An Earth's Children® series sampler including free chapters from the other books in Jean M. Auel's bestselling series**
- **A Q&A with the author about the Earth's Children® series**

***Such is Life* (1903) is a novel by Joseph**

Furphy. Written under his pseudonym "Tom Collins," Such is Life is a unique and challenging story that took decades to achieve a proper audience. Earning comparisons to the works of Melville and Twain, Furphy's novel is considered a landmark of Australian literature. "The fore part of the day was altogether devoid of interest or event. Overhead, the sun blazing wastefully and thanklessly through a rarefied atmosphere; underfoot the hot, black clay, thirsting for spring rain, and bare except for inedible roley-poleys, coarse tussocks, and the woody stubble of close-eaten salt-bush; between sky and earth, a solitary wayfarer, wisely lapt in philosophic torpor." Setting out on a trek through the outback, Tom Collins begins his seemingly endless torrent of words, a journey through language to match his journey over land. Accompanied by a dog and two horses, he meets a vibrant array of characters from all nations and walks of life; from drovers to criminals, Collins can talk with them all. Described by Furphy himself as "offensively Australian," Such is Life is part travelogue, part philosophy, a novel ahead of its time that remains informative for our own. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this

edition of Joseph Furphy's Such is Life is a classic work of Australian literature reimagined for modern readers.

Wildflowers of the Great Plains Grasslands and Hills

Cowboy Life on the Western Plains

The Virginian

The Plains of Camdeboo

Border Districts

Ruth Park's Miles Franklin-winning novel brilliantly evokes Australia in the midst of the Great Depression. Written with warmth and affection, *Swords and Crowns and Rings* is a powerful story about human nature and the strength of an unlikely love.

The Mystery of a Hansom Cab is a mystery fiction novel by Australian writer Fergus Hume. The book takes place in Melbourne, Australia and involves an investigation into a homicide, after a corpse is discovered in the evening, in a hansom cab. *Vintage Mystery and Detective Stories* characterized the book as the best-selling detective novel of the nineteenth century. A brief introduction to the history of the American buffalo and how it was almost hunted into extinction.

Landscape with Landscape is Gerald Murnane's fourth book, after *The Plains*,

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and his first collection of short fiction. When it was first published, thirty years ago, it was cruelly reviewed. 'I feel sorry for my fourth-eldest, which of all my book-children was the most brutally treated in its early years,' Murnane writes in his foreword to this new edition. In hindsight it can be seen to contain some of his best writing, and to offer a wide-ranging exploration of the different landscapes which make up the imagination of this extraordinary Australian writer. Five of the six loosely connected stories also trace a journey through the suburbs of Melbourne in the 1960s, as the writer negotiates the conflicting demands of Catholicism and sex, self-consciousness and intimacy, alcohol and literature. The sixth story, 'The Battle of Acosta Nu', is remarkable for its depth of emotion, as it imagines a Paraguayan man imagining a country called Australia, while his son sickens and dies before his eyes.

Barley Patch

Redskin and Cow-boy

Stream System

The Mystery of a Hansom Cab

A Tale of the Western Plains

Set in Australia and England in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, The Cardboard Crown

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presents an unforgettable portrait of an upper middle-class family who love both countries but are not quite at home in either. Martin Boyd is a deeply humane novelist, a writer of family sagas without peer.

"Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Novel", often published as "1984", is a dystopian social science fiction novel by English novelist George Orwell. It was published on 8 June 1949 by Secker & Warburg as Orwell's ninth and final book completed in his lifetime. Thematically, "Nineteen Eighty-Four" centres on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance, and repressive regimentation of persons and behaviours within society. Orwell, himself a democratic socialist, modelled the authoritarian government in the novel after Stalinist Russia. More broadly, the novel examines the role of truth and facts within politics and the ways in which they are manipulated. The story takes place in an imagined future, the year 1984, when much of the world has fallen victim to perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance, historical negationism, and propaganda. Great Britain, known as Airstrip One, has become a province of a totalitarian superstate named Oceania that is ruled by the Party who employ the Thought Police to persecute individuality and independent thinking. Big Brother, the leader of the Party, enjoys an intense cult of personality despite the fact that he may not even exist. The protagonist, Winston Smith, is a diligent and skillful rank-and-file worker and Outer Party member who secretly hates the Party and dreams of rebellion. He enters into a forbidden relationship with a

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colleague, Julia, and starts to remember what life was like before the Party came to power.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee continues his Annals of the Former World series about the geology of North America along the fortieth parallel with Rising from the Plains. This third volume presents another exciting geological excursion with an engaging account of life—past and present—in the high plains of Wyoming. Sometimes it is said of geologists that they reflect in their professional styles the sort of country in which they grew up. Nowhere could that be more true than in the life of a geologist born in the center of Wyoming and raised on an isolated ranch. This is the story of that ranch, soon after the turn of the twentieth century, and of David Love, the geologist who grew up there, at home with the composition of the high country in the way that someone growing up in a coastal harbor would be at home with the vagaries of the sea.

A masterwork from Australia's greatest cult literary figure, published for the first time as the author originally intended

Jewels of the Plains

A Horseman of the Plains

Fires on the Plain

A Lifetime on Clouds

The Plains

Winner of the Patrick White Literary Award, 1999.

Introduction by Wayne Macauley. There is no book in Australian literature like *The Plains*. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status

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as a classic. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, ‘ a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself ’. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has been a primary teacher, an editor and a university lecturer. His debut novel, *Tamarisk Row* (1974), was followed by ten other works of fiction, including *The Plains* and most recently *Border Districts*. In 1999 Murnane won the Patrick White Award and in 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. He lives in western Victoria. Wayne Macauley is the author of three novels, *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe* (2004), *Caravan Story* (2007) and *The Cook* (2011), and the short fiction collection *Other Stories* (2010). He lives in Melbourne.

‘ Murnane is quite simply one of the finest writers we have produced. ’ Peter Craven ‘ A distinguished, distinctive, unforgettable novel. ’ Shirley Hazzard ‘ Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today and *The Plains* is a fascinating and rewarding book...The writing is extraordinarily good, spare, austere, strong, often oddly moving. ’ Australian ‘ A piece of imaginative writing so remarkably sustained that it is a subject for meditation rather than a mere reading...In the depths and surfaces of this extraordinary fable you will see your inner self eerily reflected again and again. ’ Sydney Morning Herald ‘ *The Plains* has that peculiar singularity that can make literature great. ’ Ed Wright, Australian, Best Books of 2015 ‘ Murnane touches on foibles and

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philosophy, plays with the makings of a fable or allegory, and all the while toys with tone, moving easily from earnest to deadpan to lightly ironic, a meld of Buster Keaton, the Kafka of the short stories, and Swift in *A Modest Proposal*...A provocative, delightful, diverting must-reread. ' STARRED Review, Kirkus Reviews ' Known for its sharp yet defamiliarizing take on the landscape and an aesthetic of purity historically associated with it, *The Plains* is uniformly described as a masterpiece of Australian literature. Look closer, though, and it's a haunting nineteenth-century novel of colonial violence captured inside the machine's test-pattern image—a distant, unassuming house on the plains. ' BOMB

Final work by internationally acclaimed Australian author Gerald Murnane, reflecting on his career as a writer, and the fifteen books which have led critics to praise him as ' a genius on the level of Beckett ' . A book which will appeal equally to Murnane ' s legion of fans, and to those new to his work, attracted by his reputation as a truly original Australian writer. In the first days of spring in his eighty-second year, Gerald Murnane began a project which would round off his career as a writer — he would read all of his books in turn and prepare a report on each. His original intention was to lodge the reports in two of his legendary archives, the Chronological Archive, which documents his life as a whole, and the Literary Archive, which is devoted to everything he has written. But as the reports grew, they themselves took on the form of a book, *Last Letter to a Reader*. The essays on each of his works travel through the

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capacious territory Murnane refers to as his mind: they dwell on the circumstances which gave rise to the writing, images, associations, reflections on the theory of fiction, and memories of a deeply personal kind. The final essay is on Last Letter to a Reader itself: it considers the elation and exhilaration which accompany the act of writing, and offers a moving ending to what must surely be his last work as death approaches. ‘ Help me, dear one, to endure patiently my going back to my own sort of heaven. ’ ‘ No living Australian writer, not even Les Murray, has higher claims to permanence or a richer sense of distinction ’ — Sydney Morning Herald ‘ The emotional conviction...is so intense, the somber lyricism so moving, the intelligence behind the chiseled sentences so undeniable, that we suspend all disbelief. ’ — J.M. Coetzee

Willa Cather was the 1922 winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Her breakthrough in literature were the three novels featured here in this edition, the so-called “ Great Plains Trilogy ” . All three novels stage in Nebraska and the surrounding Great Plains territory and deal with the life there, family challenges and romance. Included are: O Pioneers! The Song of the Lark My Antonia

Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe, Wayne Macauley's first novel, is a biting dark take on the great Australian dream. Fable-like, effortlessly readable and ultimately moving, it shows us the depth of Macauley's talent. Bram and his fellow residents are drawn by a dream: the promise of a freeway leading to a new suburb north of the city. The houses are built, but the freeway never comes. One by one, the

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dreamers leave, until only a small, hardcore group is left, including Bram, One-eyed Michael, and Michael's self-possessed daughter Jodie. As the disused houses crumble around them they barricade themselves in. They have a gun, a bulldozer, and a hellbent determination to stay till the end, whatever, whenever, that is. But the authorities have other ideas. Wayne Macauley is a Melbourne writer. He is the author of three highly acclaimed novels, Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe, Caravan Story and The Cook. 'Wayne Macauley has the soul of a poet and his surreal novella is stunningly written...It is a satire of exquisite poise and confidence...If more Australian literature was of this calibre, we'd be laughing.' Age '[It was] like falling into a bale of barbed wire in the dark and fighting to get out till morning. The more I struggled, the more it got under my skin.' Bulletin 'A salutary fable about the horrors awaiting our disaffected modern citizenry...lasting visual images and resonant symbolism.' Sydney Morning Herald 'Bewitching...ethereal...hallucinatory...In an era when many Australian novelists are playing it safe...Wayne Macauley is an ambitious talent worth watching.' Wet Ink 'Tapping the hidden heart of a different Australia...this is original Australian writing at its best.' Courier Mail

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The Long Prospect: Text Classics

Something for the Pain

Thunder on the Plains

Caravan Story

From Abronia to Zinnia, Jewels of the

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Plains describes the natural history and garden merits of more than five hundred Great Plains wildflowers. Considered the authoritative guide by native plant enthusiasts and horticulturists, it captures the unique beauty, resilience, and variety of wildflowers in the Great Plains. Claude A. Barr did not set out to be a writer. In 1910, he homesteaded 160 acres of prairie in the southwest corner of South Dakota, intending to become a farmer. Despite challenging conditions, Barr fell in love with the land and its native flora. He began contributing profiles of plains wildflowers to gardening magazines, which precipitated requests for seed and led him to start a mail-order nursery, Prairie Gem Ranch. What began as a Depression-era sideline eventually gained a worldwide clientele, and Barr became a respected ambassador for the wildflowers of this part of the American landscape. Decades of observing plants in the wild and growing them for his nursery, as well as careful study of scientific sources, gave Barr unequalled knowledge that culminated in this acclaimed book.

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Wonderfully written and deeply researched, Jewels of the Plains is more than a field guide or how-to manual. It's a pioneering text on native plant horticulture that details plant life on the prairie in the voice of one with intimate familiarity with the subject. Each description reads like a mini nature essay, giving insight into both the plants and Barr's engaging personality. Edited to incorporate new scientific information, this edition includes an Introduction and supplemental notes by botanist and horticulturalist James H. Locklear. He places Barr's remarkable life and work in historic and scientific context, illuminating his accomplishments from a fresh perspective.

First published in 1822, this is the extraordinary story of John Nicol, a sailor who circled the globe twice, fought Napoleon's navy, was in Hawaii just after Cook's death, and went to Port Jackson on a Second Fleet vessel with its cargo of female convicts.

In Border Districts, a man moves from a capital city to a remote town in the border country, where he intends to

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spend the last years of his life. It is time, he thinks, to review the spoils of a lifetime of seeing, a lifetime of reading. Which sights, which people, which books, fictional characters, turns of phrase, and lines of verse will survive into the twilight? A dark-haired woman with a wistful expression? An ancestral house in the grasslands? The colors in translucent panes of glass, in marbles and goldfish and racing silks? Feeling an increasing urgency to put his mental landscape in order, the man sets to work cataloging this treasure, little knowing where his "report" will lead and what secrets will be brought to light.

The Karoo is a vast semi-desert region that extends across parts of the Western and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa. This environmentally important area is the largest ecosystem in the country and is abundant in wildlife, vegetation, and ancient history. The Plains of Camdeboo is a celebration of this remarkable landscape. At first encounter the Karoo may seem arid, desolate and unforgiving, but to those who know it,

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it is a land of secret beauty and infinite variety. For generations author Eve Palmer's family have lived on the Karoo farm of Cranemere, situated on the Plains of Camdeboo. This family have battled for decades against this harsh desert; they have had to adapt to it, learning to fear, respect, and ultimately love it. First published in 1966, The Plains of Camdeboo has become a classic in South African literature. Here is a book that is not autobiography, not history, not botanical study, but all of these and more, blending into a uniquely vivid and personal account of life in the Karoo. The animals, the insects, the wealth of fossils, the countless flowers that spring miraculously to life after rain - all are woven into this rich and engaging story.

Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe
The Australian Ugliness: Text Classics
The Collected Short Fiction of Gerald Murnane

Last Letter to a Reader
The Plains of Passage (with Bonus Content)

A classic of the Australian outback, Such Is Life is the

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farcical, tragic reminiscences of Tom Collins, philosopher and rogue. As Tom drives his team across the plains of the Riverina and northern Victoria, he gets entangled in the fate of others like Rory O'Halloran, the two Alfs (Nosey and Warrigal) and Hungry Buckley of Baroona recreating the humour, the pathos, the irony of life in the bush. His is the tough-talking, law-dodging world of the 1880s, where swagmen and bullockies slept under the stars with 'grandeur, peace and purity above; squalor, worry and profanity below'. These inspired yarns, 'fatally governed by an inveterate truthfulness', are woven into one of the greatest books of Australian literature, combining a genius for story-telling with a wry wit and a deep feeling for the harsh sun-baked land and the people who worked it. Joseph Furphy was born at Port Phillip, Victoria, in 1843. 'Half bushman and half bookworm', Furphy worked as a goldminer, labourer and farmer before coming to the profession that would inspire *Such Is Life*, bullock driving. In 1904 he settled in Fremantle, Western Australia, to join his children. *Such Is Life* was originally published in 1903 and was soon regarded as one of Australia's great novels. Furphy's three other books - *Poems*, *Rigby's Romance* and *The Buln Buln and the Brolga* - were all published after his death in 1912.

Indians of the Plains

A Million Windows

The Great Plains

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A Season on Earth