

Read Book *Mother Night* Kurt  
Vonnegut

## *Mother Night* Kurt Vonnegut

'Black satire of the highest polish'  
Guardian Whilst awaiting trial for  
war crimes in an Israeli prison,  
Howard W. Campbell Jr sets  
down his memoirs on an old  
German typewriter. He has used  
such a typewriter before, when he  
worked as a Nazi propagandist  
under Goebbels. Though that was  
before he agreed to become a spy  
for US military. Is Howard guilty?  
Can a black or white verdict ever  
be reached in a world that's a  
gazillion shades of grey? 'After  
Vonnegut, everything else seems

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a bit tame' Spectator

Kurt Vonnegut is one of the few American writers since Mark Twain to have won and sustained a great popular acceptance while boldly introducing new themes and forms on the literary cutting edge. This is the "Vonnegut effect" that Jerome Klinkowitz finds unique among postmodernist authors. In this innovative study of the author's fiction, Klinkowitz examines the forces in American life that have made Vonnegut's works possible. Vonnegut shared with readers a world that includes the expansive timeline from the Great Depression, during which his

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family lost their economic support, through the countercultural revolt of the 1960s, during which his fiction first gained prominence. Vonnegut also explored the growth in recent decades of America's sway in art, which his fiction celebrates, and geopolitics, which his novels question. A pioneer in Vonnegut studies, Jerome Klinkowitz offers *The Vonnegut Effect* as a thorough treatment of the author's fiction—a canon covering more than a half century and comprising twenty books. Considering both Vonnegut's methods and the cultural needs they have served, Klinkowitz

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explains how those works came to be written and concludes with an assessment of the author's place in American fiction.

"A genuine spiritual quest. . . .

Extraordinary." — New York Times  
Among the most profound and influential explorations of mind-expanding psychedelic drugs ever written, here are two complete classic books—*The Doors of Perception* and *Heaven and Hell*—in which Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World*, reveals the mind's remote frontiers and the unmapped areas of human consciousness. This edition also features an additional essay, "Drugs That Shape Men's

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Minds," now included for the first time.

"[Kurt Vonnegut] is either the funniest serious writer around or the most serious funny writer."—Los Angeles Times Book Review In this self-portrait by an American genius, Kurt Vonnegut writes with beguiling wit and poignant wisdom about his favorite comedians, country music, a dead friend, a dead marriage, and various cockamamie aspects of his all-too-human journey through life. This is a work that resonates with Vonnegut's singular voice: the magic sound of a born storyteller mesmerizing us with truth.

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“Vonnegut is at the top of his form, and it is

wonderful.” —Newsday

Essays on Writing, Writers and Life

(Opinions)

We Are What We Pretend To Be  
Stories

Welcome to the Monkey House:  
The Special Edition

Mother Night

*As the summer begins, Kate Brown -- attractive, intelligent, forty five, happily enough married, with a house in the London suburbs and three grown children -- has no reason to expect anything will change. But when the summer ends, the woman she was -- living behind a protective camouflage of feminine charm and caring -- no longer exists. This novel.*

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*Doris Lessing's brilliant excursion into the terrifying stretch of time between youth and old age, is her journey: from London to Turkey to Spain, from husband to lover to madness: on the road to a frightening new independence and a confrontation with self that lets her, finally, come truly of age.*

*Since its original publication in 1968, Welcome to the Monkey House has been one of Kurt Vonnegut's most beloved works. This special edition celebrates a true master of the short-story form by including multiple variant drafts of what would eventually be the title story. In a fascinating accompanying essay, "Building the Monkey House: At Kurt Vonnegut's Writing Table," noted Vonnegut scholar Gregory D. Sumner walks readers through Vonnegut's process as the author struggles—false start after false start—to hit upon what would be*

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*one of his greatest stories. The result is the rare chance to watch a great writer hone his craft in real time. Includes the following stories: "Where I Live" "Harrison Bergeron" "Who Am I This Time?" "Welcome to the Monkey House" "Long Walk to Forever" "The Foster Portfolio" "Miss Temptation" "All the King's Horses" "Tom Edison's Shaggy Dog" "New Dictionary" "Next Door" "More Stately Mansions" "The Hyannis Port Story" "D.P." "Report on the Barnhouse Effect" "The Euphio Question" "Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son" "Deer in the Works" "The Lie" "Unready to Wear" "The Kid Nobody Could Handle" "The Manned Missiles" "Epicac" "Adam" "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow"*

*"It turns out that Russo the nonfiction writer is a lot like Russo the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist. He is affably*



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*disagreeable, wry, idiosyncratic, vulnerably bighearted, a craftsman of lubricated sentences.*"—Jay Fielden, *New York Times Book Review* A master of the novel, short story, and memoir, the best-selling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Everybody's Fool* now gives us his very first collection of personal essays, ranging throughout writing and reading and living. In these nine essays, Richard Russo provides insight into his life as a writer, teacher, friend, and reader. From a commencement speech he gave at Colby College, to the story of how an oddly placed toilet made him reevaluate the purpose of humor in art and life, to a comprehensive analysis of Mark Twain's value, to his harrowing journey accompanying a dear friend as she pursued gender-reassignment surgery, *The Destiny Thief* reflects the broad interests and experiences of one of America's most

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*beloved authors. Warm, funny, wise, and poignant, the essays included here traverse Russo's writing life, expanding our understanding of who he is and how his singular, incredibly generous mind works. An utter joy to read, they give deep insight into the creative process from the prospective of one of our greatest writers. The New York Times bestseller from the author of Slaughterhouse-Five—a “gripping” posthumous collection of Kurt Vonnegut’s previously unpublished work on the subject of war and peace. A fitting tribute to a literary legend and a profoundly humane humorist, Armageddon in Retrospect is a collection of twelve previously unpublished writings. Imbued with Vonnegut's trademark rueful humor and outraged moral sense, the pieces range from a letter written by Vonnegut to his family in 1945, informing them that he'd been taken prisoner by the*

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*Germans, to his last speech, delivered after his death by his son Mark, who provides a warmly personal introduction to the collection. Taken together, these pieces provide fresh insight into Vonnegut's enduring literary genius and reinforce his ongoing moral relevance in today's world. Includes an Introduction by Mark Vonnegut*

*Or, Prometheus-5, a Space Fantasy  
God Bless You, Mr Rosewater, Or, Pearls Before Swine  
Complete Stories*

*Wampeters, Foma & Granfalloon  
The Doors of Perception and Heaven and Hell*

*The Sirens of Titan ; Player Piano ; Cat's Cradle ; Breakfast of Champions ; Mother Night*

**Like Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007) was a**

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**Midwestern everyman steeped in the rhythms of American speech whose anger at the way things are was matched only by his love for the best that we can be. His cunningly relaxed delivery was so original, so finely calibrated, and so profound an articulation of the Sixties' spirit that many critics overlooked the moral seriousness behind the standup-comic craftsmanship. Capturing Vonnegut in pyrotechnic mid-career, this first volume of a projected three-volume edition gathers four of his most acclaimed**

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**novels. Cat's Cradle (1963) is a comedy of the end of the world (it ends with ice). God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater (1965) is the tale of a so-called fool, his money, and the lawyer who contrives to part them (it ends with fire).**

**Slaughterhouse-Five (1969), Vonnegut's breakout book and one of the iconic masterpieces of twentieth-century American literature, is the tale of Billy Pilgrim, who, being unstuck in time, is doomed to continually relive both the firebombing of Dresden and his abduction by space aliens. And, in a text**

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enhanced by the author's spirited line drawings, *Breakfast of Champions* (1973) describes the fateful meeting of "two lonesome, skinny, fairly old white men," one of whom disastrously believes that everyone else is a robot. The volume is rounded out with three brilliant short stories and revealing autobiographical accounts of the bombing of Dresden. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in

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**print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.**

**One of the great American iconoclasts holds forth on politics, war, books and writers, and his personal life in a series of conversations, including his last published interview. During his long career Kurt Vonnegut won**

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**international praise for his novels, plays, and essays. In this new anthology of conversations with Vonnegut—which collects interviews from throughout his career—we learn much about what drove Vonnegut to write and how he viewed his work at the end. From Kurt Vonnegut's last interview Is there another book in you, by chance? No. Look, I'm 84 years old. Writers of fiction have usually done their best work by the time they're 45. Chess masters are through when they're 35, and so are baseball players. There are**



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plenty of other people writing. Let them do it. So what's the old man's game, then? My country is in ruins. So I'm a fish in a poisoned fishbowl. I'm mostly just heartsick about this. There should have been hope. This should have been a great country. But we are despised all over the world now. I was hoping to build a country and add to its literature. That's why I served in World War II, and that's why I wrote books. When someone reads one of your books, what would you like them to take from the experience? Well, I'd like the guy—or the girl, of

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**course—to put the book down and think, “This is the greatest man who ever lived.”**

**Rudolf Waltz's principal objection to life was that it was too easy to make horrible mistakes. He was himself to become a double-murderer at the age of twelve - on Mother's Day. This would at least make subsequent mistakes seem fairly trivial. Rudolf's father, Otto Waltz, had in 1910 bought a painting in Vienna from a destitute Adolf Hitler, thereby possibly saving him from starvation for a future generation. He made the further mistake of setting**

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himself up as an artist when he returned from Europe to Midland City, Ohio, where everyone knew Otto couldn't draw for sour apples. He had funds to indulge this grand illusion (in the splendor of a vast converted 'medieval granary' studio, reminiscent of Mount Fujiyama) because his father had made a fortune producing an opium-and-cocaine-laced quack medicine called Saint Elmo's Remedy, popularly known to be 'absolutely harmless unless discontinued'. The Waltz inheritance even stretched to a troupe of black servants,

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**which was just as well since Rudy's mother was as disinclined to look after a home as his 'artist' father was to paint.**

**Winner of the 1974 National Book Award “A screaming comes across the sky. . .” A few months after the Germans' secret V-2 rocket bombs begin falling on London, British Intelligence discovers that a map of the city pinpointing the sexual conquests of one Lieutenant Tyrone Slothrop, U.S. Army, corresponds identically to a map showing the V-2 impact sites. The implications of this**

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**discovery will launch Slothrop on an amazing journey across war-torn Europe, fleeing an international cabal of military-industrial superpowers, in search of the mysterious Rocket 00000, through a wildly comic extravaganza that has been hailed in The New Republic as “the most profound and accomplished American novel since the end of World War II.”**

**And So It Goes**

**Deadeye Dick**

**The Writer's Crusade**

**An Autobiographical Collage**

**Timequake**

**Slaughterhouse-Five**

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**“Vonnegut is George Orwell, Dr. Caligari and Flash Gordon compounded into one writer . . . a zany but moral mad scientist.”—Time**

**Mother Night is a daring challenge to our moral sense. American Howard W. Campbell, Jr., a spy during World War II, is now on trial in Israel as a Nazi war criminal. But is he really guilty? In this brilliant book rife with true gallows humor, Vonnegut turns black and white into a chilling shade of gray with a verdict that will haunt us all. “A great artist.”—Cincinnati Enquirer**

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**“A shaking up in the kaleidoscope of laughter . . . Reading Vonnegut is addictive!”—Commonweal**  
**“Some of the best and most moving Vonnegut.”—San Francisco Chronicle**  
**Slapstick presents an apocalyptic vision as seen through the eyes of the current King of Manhattan (and last President of the United States), a wickedly irreverent look at the all-too-possible results of today’s follies. But even the end of life-as-we-know-it is transformed by Kurt Vonnegut’s pen into**

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**hilarious farce—a final  
slapstick that may be the  
Almighty's joke on us all.  
“Both funny and sad . . . just  
about perfect.”—Los Angeles  
Times “Imaginative and  
hilarious . . . a brilliant  
vision of our wrecked,  
wacked-out  
future.”—Hartford Courant  
The subject of this play—as  
we are told at the outset—is  
love, pure and complicated.  
Set on the stage of The  
North Crawford Mask & Wig  
Club (“the finest community  
theatre in central  
Connecticut!”), three early  
comic masterpieces by Kurt**



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**Vonnegut (Long Walk to Forever, Who am I This Time? and Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son) are sewn together into a seamless evening of hilarity and humanity. With a single set, wonderful roles for seven versatile actors, and Vonnegut's singular wit and insight into human foibles, this is a smart, delightful comedy for the whole family. A special fiftieth anniversary edition of Kurt Vonnegut's masterpiece, "a desperate, painfully honest attempt to confront the monstrous crimes of the twentieth**

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**century” (Time), featuring a new introduction by Kevin Powers, author of the National Book Award finalist The Yellow Birds Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Slaughterhouse-Five, an American classic, is one of the world’s great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous World War II firebombing of Dresden, the novel is the result of what Kurt Vonnegut described as a twenty-three-year struggle to write a book about what he had witnessed as an American prisoner of war. It**

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**combines historical fiction, science fiction, autobiography, and satire in an account of the life of Billy Pilgrim, a barber's son turned draftee turned optometrist turned alien abductee. As Vonnegut had, Billy experiences the destruction of Dresden as a POW. Unlike Vonnegut, he experiences time travel, or coming "unstuck in time." An instant bestseller, Slaughterhouse-Five made Kurt Vonnegut a cult hero in American literature, a reputation that only strengthened over time,**

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**despite his being banned and censored by some libraries and schools for content and language. But it was precisely those elements of Vonnegut's writing—the political edginess, the genre-bending inventiveness, the frank violence, the transgressive wit—that have inspired generations of readers not just to look differently at the world around them but to find the confidence to say something about it. Authors as wide-ranging as Norman Mailer, John Irving, Michael Crichton, Tim O'Brien,**

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**Margaret Atwood, Elizabeth Strout, David Sedaris, Jennifer Egan, and J. K. Rowling have all found inspiration in Vonnegut's words. Jonathan Safran Foer has described Vonnegut as "the kind of writer who made people—young people especially—want to write." George Saunders has declared Vonnegut to be "the great, urgent, passionate American writer of our century, who offers us . . . a model of the kind of compassionate thinking that might yet save us from ourselves." Fifty years after**

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**its initial publication at the height of the Vietnam War, Vonnegut's portrayal of political disillusionment, PTSD, and postwar anxiety feels as relevant, darkly humorous, and profoundly affecting as ever, an enduring beacon through our own era's uncertainties. "Poignant and hilarious, threaded with compassion and, behind everything, the cataract of a thundering moral statement." —The Boston Globe**

**And Other Conversations  
A Novel  
Cat's Cradle / Rosewater /**

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### **Slaughterhouse-Five / Breakfast of Champions Kurt Vonnegut: A Life Pity the Reader The Vonnegut Love Letters, 1941-1945**

The author's first full-length novel in seven years, a hilarious moral satire features a science fiction writer, Kilgore Trout, who manages to turn time back a decade, insisting that everyone repeat it exactly the same way. Reprint.

Wampeters, Foma &  
Granfalloon is a rare

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opportunity to experience Kurt Vonnegut speaking in his own voice about his own life, his views of the world, his writing, and the writing of others.

An indignant, outrageous, witty, deeply felt collection of reviews, essays, and speeches, this is a window not only into Vonnegut's mind but also into his heart. "A book filled with madness and truth and absurdity and self-revelation . . . [Vonnegut is] a great



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cosmic comedian and rattler of human skeletons, an idealist disguised as a pessimist."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch Includes the following essays, speeches, and works: "Science Fiction" "Brief Encounters on the Inland Waterway" "Hello, Star Vega" "Teaching the Unteachable" "Yes, We Have No Nirvanas" "Fortitude" "'There's a Maniac Loose Out There'" "Excelsior! We're Going to the Moon! Excelsior!" "Address to the American

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Physical Society" "Good  
Missiles, Good Manners,  
Good Night" "Why They  
Read Hesse" "Oversexed  
in Indianapolis" "The  
Mysterious Madame  
Blavatsky" "Biafra: A  
People Betrayed"  
"Address to Graduating  
Class at Bennington  
College, 1970" "Torture  
and Blubber" "Address to  
the National Institute  
of Arts and Letters,  
1971" "Reflections on my  
Own Death" "In a Manner  
that Must Shame God  
Himself" "Thinking  
Unthinkable, Speaking

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Unspeakable" "Address at Rededication of Wheaton College Library, 1973"

"Invite Rita Rait to America!" "Address to P.E.N. Conference in Stockholm, 1973" "A Political Disease"

"Playboy Interview"

Here for the first time is the complete short fiction of one of the twentieth century's foremost imaginative geniuses. More than half of Vonnegut's output was short fiction, and never before has the world had occasion to wrestle with

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it all together.  
Organized  
thematically—"War,"  
"Women," "Science,"  
"Romance," "Work Ethic  
versus Fame and  
Fortune," "Behavior,"  
"The Band Director"  
(those stories featuring  
Lincoln High's band  
director and nice guy  
George Hemholtz), and  
"Futuristic"—these  
ninety-eight stories  
were written from 1941  
to 2007, and include  
those Vonnegut published  
in magazines and  
collected in Welcome to

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the Monkey House, Bagombo Snuff Box, and other books; here for the first time five previously unpublished stories; as well as a handful of others that were published online and read by few. During his lifetime Vonnegut published fewer than half of the stories he wrote, his agent telling him in 1958 upon the rejection of a particularly strong story, "Save it for the collection of your works which will be published

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someday when you become famous. Which may take a little time." Selected and introduced by longtime Vonnegut friends and scholars Dan Wakefield and Jerome Klinkowitz, Complete Stories puts Vonnegut's great wit, humor, humanity, and artistry on full display. An extraordinary literary feast for new readers, Vonnegut fans, and scholars alike.

The ultimate Vonnegut: all 14 novels plus a selection of the best of

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his stories in a definitive collector's boxed set. The novels of Kurt Vonnegut defined a generation a remain among the most enduringly popular and influential works of the last century. Now, for the first time, they are available in a single collector's edition, featuring authoritative annotated texts. This boxed set includes four Library of America volumes: Novels & Stories 1950-1962 Player Piano / The Sirens of

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Titan / Mother Night  
Novels & Stories  
1963-1973 Cat's Cradle /  
God Bless You, Mr.  
Rosewater /  
Slaughterhouse-Five /  
Breakfast of Champions  
Novels 1976-1985  
Slapstick / Jailbird /  
Deadeye Dick / Galapagos  
Novels 1987-1997  
Bluebeard / Hocus Pocus  
/ Timequake LIBRARY OF  
AMERICA is an  
independent nonprofit  
cultural organization  
founded in 1979 to  
preserve our nation's  
literary heritage by



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publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries. The Destiny Thief Slapstick or Lonesome No More!

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A Postmodern Iconography  
The Vonnegut Effect  
Kurt Vonnegut: The Last  
Interview  
God Bless You, Dr.  
Kevorkian

A double volume of the influential author's first and last written works includes the bitter satire "Basic Training" and the unfinished final novel, "If God Were Alive Today."

Kurt Vonnegut's darkly comic work became a symbol for the counterculture of a generation. From his debut novel, *Player Piano* (1951) through seminal 1960's novels such as *Cat's Cradle* (1963) and *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969) up to the recent success of *A Man*

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Without A Country (2005), Vonnegut's writing has remained commercially popular, offering a satirical yet optimistic outlook on modern life. Though many fellow writers admired Vonnegut - Gore Vidal famously suggesting that "Kurt was never dull" - the academic establishment has tended to retain a degree of scepticism concerning the validity of his work. This dynamic collection aims to re-evaluate Vonnegut's position as an integral part of the American post-war canon of literature.

A never-before-seen collection of deeply personal love letters from Kurt Vonnegut to his first wife, Jane, compiled and edited by their daughter " A glimpse into the

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mind of a writer finding his voice. ” —The Washington Post

“ If ever I do write anything of length—good or bad—it will be written with you in mind. ” Kurt Vonnegut ’ s eldest daughter, Edith, was cleaning out her mother ’ s attic when she stumbled upon a dusty, aged box. Inside, she discovered an unexpected treasure: more than two hundred love letters written by Kurt to Jane, spanning the early years of their relationship. The letters begin in 1941, after the former schoolmates reunited at age nineteen, sparked a passionate summer romance, and promised to keep in touch when they headed off to their respective colleges. And they did, through

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Jane ' s conscientious studying and Kurt ' s struggle to pass chemistry. The letters continue after Kurt dropped out and enlisted in the army in 1943, while Jane in turn graduated and worked for the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, D.C. They also detail Kurt ' s deployment to Europe in 1944, where he was taken prisoner of war and declared missing in action, and his eventual safe return home and the couple ' s marriage in 1945. Full of the humor and wit that we have come to associate with Kurt Vonnegut, the letters also reveal little-known private corners of his mind. Passionate and tender, they form an illuminating portrait of a young soldier ' s life in World

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War II as he attempts to come to grips with love and mortality. And they bring to light the origins of Vonnegut the writer, when Jane was the only person who believed in and supported him supported him, the young couple having no idea how celebrated he would become. A beautiful full-color collection of handwritten letters, notes, sketches, and comics, interspersed with Edith ' s insights and family memories, Love, Kurt is an intimate record of a young man growing into himself, a fascinating account of a writer finding his voice, and a moving testament to the life-altering experience of falling in love.

The story of Kurt Vonnegut and

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Slaughterhouse-Five, an enduring masterpiece on trauma and memory Kurt Vonnegut was twenty years old when he enlisted in the United States Army. Less than two years later, he was captured by the Germans in the single deadliest US engagement of the war, the Battle of the Bulge. He was taken to a POW camp, then transferred to a work camp near Dresden, and held in a slaughterhouse called Schlachthof Fünf where he survived the horrific firebombing that killed thousands and destroyed the city. To the millions of fans of Vonnegut ' s great novel Slaughterhouse-Five, these details are familiar. They ' re told by the book ' s author/narrator, and

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experienced by his enduring character Billy Pilgrim, a war veteran who “ has come unstuck in time. ” Writing during the tumultuous days of the Vietnam conflict, with the novel, Vonnegut had, after more than two decades of struggle, taken trauma and created a work of art, one that still resonates today. In *The Writer ' s Crusade*, author Tom Roston examines the connection between Vonnegut ' s life and *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Did Vonnegut suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder? Did Billy Pilgrim? Roston probes Vonnegut ' s work, his personal history, and discarded drafts of the novel, as well as original interviews with the



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writer ' s family, friends, scholars, psychologists, and other novelists including Karl Marlantes, Kevin Powers, and Tim O ' Brien. The Writer ' s Crusade is a literary and biographical journey that asks fundamental questions about trauma, creativity, and the power of storytelling.

Kurt Vonnegut and the American Novel

The Summer Before the Dark

Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories  
1950-1962 (LOA #226)

Player Piano

Love, Kurt

A novel

***"A free-wheeling vehicle . . . an unforgettable ride!"—The New York Times***  
***Cat's Cradle is***

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***Kurt Vonnegut's satirical commentary on modern man and his madness. An apocalyptic tale of this planet's ultimate fate, it features a midget as the protagonist, a complete, original theology created by a calypso singer, and a vision of the future that is at once blackly fatalistic and hilariously funny. A book that left an indelible mark on an entire generation of readers, Cat's Cradle is one of the twentieth century's most important works—and Vonnegut at his very best. "[Vonnegut is] an unimitative and inimitable social satirist." —Harper's Magazine***

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***“Our finest black-humorist . . . We laugh in self-defense.”—Atlantic Monthly***  
***The novels of Kurt Vonnegut depict a profoundly absurd and distinctly postmodern world. But in this critical study, Robert Tally argues that Vonnegut himself is actually a modernist, who is less interested in indulging in the free play of signifiers than in attempting to construct a model that could encompass the American experience at the end of the twentieth century. As a modernist wrestling with a postmodern condition, Vonnegut makes use of diverse and sometimes eccentric***

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***narrative techniques (such as metafiction, collage, and temporal slippages) to project a comprehensive vision of life in the United States.***

***Vonnegut's novels thus become experiments in making sense of the radical transformations of self and society during that curious, unstable period called, perhaps ironically, the 'American Century.' An untimely figure, Vonnegut develops a postmodern iconography of American civilization while simultaneously acknowledging the impossibility of a truly comprehensive representation. "Ranks with Vonnegut's best***

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***and goes one step beyond . . . joyous, soaring fiction.”—The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Broad humor and bitter irony collide in this fictional autobiography of Rabo Karabekian, who, at age seventy-one, wants to be left alone on his Long Island estate with the secret he has locked inside his potato barn. But then a voluptuous young widow badgers Rabo into telling his life story—and Vonnegut in turn tells us the plain, heart-hammering truth about man’s careless fancy to create or destroy what he loves. Praise for Bluebeard “Vonnegut is at his edifying best.”—The***

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***Philadelphia Inquirer* “The quicksilver mind of Vonnegut is at it again. . . . He displays all his talents—satire, irony, ridicule, slapstick, and even a shaggy dog story of epic proportions.”—The Cincinnati Post “[Kurt Vonnegut is] a voice you can trust to keep poking holes in the social fabric.”—San Francisco Chronicle “It has the qualities of classic Bosch and Slaughterhouse Vonnegut. . . . Bluebeard is uncommonly feisty.”—USA Today “Is Bluebeard good? Yes! . . . This is vintage Vonnegut—good wine from his best grapes.”—The Detroit News “A**

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***joyride . . . Vonnegut is more fascinated and puzzled than angered by the human stupidities and contradictions he discerns so keenly. So hop in his rumble seat. As you whiz along, what you observe may provide some new perspectives.”—Kansas City Star***

***From Slapstick's "Turkey Farm" to Slaughterhouse-Five's eternity in a Tralfamadorean zoo cage with Montana Wildhack, the question of the afterlife never left Kurt Vonnegut's mind. In God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian, Vonnegut skips back and forth between life and the Afterlife***

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*as if the difference between them were rather slight. In thirty odd "interviews," Vonnegut trips down "the blue tunnel to the pearly gates" in the guise of a roving reporter for public radio, conducting interviews: with Salvatore Biagini, a retired construction worker who died of a heart attack while rescuing his schnauzer from a pit bull, with John Brown, still smoldering 140 years after his death by hanging, with William Shakespeare, who rubs Vonnegut the wrong way, and with socialist and labor leader Eugene Victor Debs, one of Vonnegut's personal heroes.*



## Read Book *Mother Night* Kurt Vonnegut

***What began as a series of ninety-second radio interludes for WNYC, New York City's public radio station, evolved into this provocative collection of musings about who and what we live for, and how much it all matters in the end. From the original portrait by his friend Jules Feiffer that graces the cover, to a final entry from Kilgore Trout, God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian remains a joy. Chances Are . . .***

***Armageddon in Retrospect  
New Critical Essays on Kurt  
Vonnegut***

***The First and Last Works  
On Writing with Style***

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Before winning international fame with *Cat's Cradle* and *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut was a master of the drugstore paperback and the popular short story. This authoritative collection of his brilliant early work opens with *Player Piano* (1952), a Metropolis-like parable of breakneck technological innovation and its effect on those it robs of their livelihoods. *The Sirens of Titan* (1959), the interplanetary adventures of the world's wealthiest and most despised man, is both a pulp-fiction space opera and a satire on the vanity of human striving.

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The confessions of a German-American double agent well placed among the Nazi elite, *Mother Night* (1962) is a cautionary tale with a famous moral: "We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." Here too are six of Vonnegut's best short stories, gems that display his matchless talent for hilarious invention and caustic social criticism. A companion volume, *Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories 1963-1973*, collects *Cat's Cradle*; *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*; *Slaughterhouse-Five*; *Breakfast of Champions*; and three short stories,

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including "Welcome to the Monkey House." LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

Malachi Constant, "the richest

## Read Book Mother Night Kurt Vonnegut

man in America," gives up his indulgent lifestyle to follow an urgent calling to probe the depths of space. He participates in a Martian invasion of Earth, mates with the wife of an astronaut adrift on the tides of time, and follows the lure of the "Sirens of Titan."

Drawing on his experiences as a young man in the Great Depression and the Second World War, Kurt Vonnegut created a new style of fiction responsive to the post-war world and unique in its appeal to both popular audiences and avant-garde critics. His work was profoundly innovative and

## Read Book Mother Night Kurt Vonnegut

yet perfectly lucid. In this comprehensive introductory study, originally published in 1982, Jerome Klinkowitz traces Vonnegut's influences within the American middle class, his early efforts as a short-story writer for magazines in the 1960s and his startling and unprecedented success as a bestselling experimental novelist with *Slaughterhouse-Five*. His self-consciously moral posture led to readers throughout the world accepting him as their spokesman for humane values, a role which Klinkowitz considers within the context of his work.

A collection of stories by Kurt

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Vonnegut.

Who Am I This Time? (& Other Conundrums of Love)

Kurt Vonnegut

Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories 1963-1973 (LOA #216)

Gravity's Rainbow

Between Time and Timbuktu

The Sirens of Titan

"[Russo's] first novel in ten years hits the ball out of the park. . . . You'll lap up this gripping, wise, and wonderful summer treat." —The Boston Globe "A cascade of charm. . . . Russo is an undeniably endearing writer, and chances are this story will draw you back to the most consequential moments in your own life."—The

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Washington Post One beautiful September day, three men in their late sixties convene on Martha's Vineyard, friends ever since meeting in college in the sixties. They couldn't have been more different then, or even today—Lincoln's a commercial real estate broker, Teddy a tiny-press publisher, and Mickey is a musician beyond his rockin' age. But each man holds his own secrets, in addition to the monumental mystery that none of them has ever stopped puzzling over since a Memorial Day weekend right here on the Vineyard in 1971. Now, forty-five years later, three lives and that of a significant other are put on



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displaywhile the distant past confounds the present in a relentless squall of surprise and discovery. Shot through with Russo's trademark comedy and humanity, *Chances Are . . .* introduces a new level of suspense and menace that will quicken the reader's heartbeat throughout this absorbing saga. "A funny, savage appraisal of a totally automated American society of the future."—San Francisco Chronicle Kurt Vonnegut's first novel spins the chilling tale of engineer Paul Proteus, who must find a way to live in a world dominated by a supercomputer and run completely by machines. Paul's

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rebellion is vintage

Vonnegut—wildly funny, deadly serious, and terrifyingly close to reality. Praise for *Player Piano*

“An exuberant, crackling style . . .

. Vonnegut is a black humorist, fantasist and satirist, a man disposed to deep and comic reflection on the human

dilemma.”—*Life* “His black logic . . .

. . . gives us something to laugh about and much to fear.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

*Mother Night* Arrow

*Mother Night* Arrow

An experimental television play composed of excerpts from his novels and stories, *Between Time and Timbuktu* features Kurt Vonnegut’s special blend of scientific expertise, wit, and

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penetrating comment. "Most unusual, ultra imaginative . . . a sort of cross between 2001: A Space Odyssey and Alice in Wonderland."—Philadelphia Inquirer

The basic story line: Young Stony Stevenson wins a jingle contest and, as his prize, is blasted off into the time-space warp. The country's first poet-astronaut thus experiences both past and future human history simultaneously. His observations on it consist mainly of dramatized selections from the author's works. The result is a unique Vonnegut sampler cast in the form of "an excellent drama" (Pittsburgh Press).

Self-delusion and schizophrenia

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in Vonnegut's "Mother Night"

Palm Sunday

The Complete Novel Set

Player Piano / The Sirens of Titan

/ Mother Night / stories

Cat's Cradle

Bluebeard

A New York Times Notable Book for 2011

A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction

Book for 2011 The first authoritative

biography of Kurt Vonnegut Jr., a writer

who changed the conversation of American

literature. In 2006, Charles Shields reached

out to Kurt Vonnegut in a letter, asking for

his endorsement for a planned biography.

The first response was no ("A most

respectful demurring by me for the excellent

writer Charles J. Shields, who offered to be

my biographer"). Unwilling to take no for

an answer, propelled by a passion for his

subject, and already deep into his research,

## Read Book Mother Night Kurt Vonnegut

Shields wrote again and this time, to his delight, the answer came back: "O.K." For the next year—a year that ended up being Vonnegut's last—Shields had access to Vonnegut and his letters. And *So It Goes* is the culmination of five years of research and writing—the first-ever biography of the life of Kurt Vonnegut. Vonnegut resonates with readers of all generations from the baby boomers who grew up with him to high-school and college students who are discovering his work for the first time. Vonnegut's concise collection of personal essays, *Man Without a Country*, published in 2006, spent fifteen weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and has sold more than 300,000 copies to date. The twenty-first century has seen interest in and scholarship about Vonnegut's works grow even stronger, and this is the first book to examine in full the life of one of the most influential iconoclasts of his time.

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“ A rich, generous book about writing and reading and Kurt Vonnegut as writer, teacher, and friend . . . Every page brings pleasure and insight. ” —Gail Godwin, New York Times bestselling author

Here is an entirely new side of Kurt Vonnegut, Vonnegut as a teacher of writing. Of course he ’ s given us glimpses before, with aphorisms and short essays and articles and in his speeches. But never before has an entire book been devoted to Kurt Vonnegut the teacher. Here is pretty much everything Vonnegut ever said or wrote having to do with the writing art and craft, altogether a healing, a nourishing expedition. His former student, Suzanne McConnell, has outfitted us for the journey, and in these 37 chapters covers the waterfront of how one American writer brought himself to the pinnacle of the writing art, and we can all benefit as a result. Kurt Vonnegut was one of the few grandmasters of American literature, whose

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novels continue to influence new generations about the ways in which our imaginations can help us to live. Few aspects of his contribution have not been plumbed—fourteen novels, collections of his speeches, his essays, his letters, his plays—so this fresh view of him is a bonanza for writers and readers and Vonnegut fans everywhere. “ Part homage, part memoir, and a 100% guide to making art with words, *Pity the Reader: On Writing with Style* is a simply mesmerizing book, and I cannot recommend it highly enough! ” —Andre Dubus III, #1 New York Times bestselling author “ The blend of memory, fact, keen observation, spellbinding descriptiveness and zany characters that populated Vonnegut ’ s work is on full display here. ” —James McBride, National Book Award-winning author

Research Paper from the year 2011 in the subject Cultural Studies - Holocaust Studies,

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grade: A, Northern Arizona University,  
course: 20th Century American Literature,  
language: English, abstract: Kurt

Vonnegut ' s Mother Night was one of the two great competing postmodern analyses of the war against totalitarianism. Vonnegut saw World War II as an absurd and tragic consequence of mass schizophrenia in Nazi Germany, and the book ' s main character epitomizes and enables this cultural flaw.

Kurt Vonnegut and the Many Lives of Slaughterhouse-Five