The Berlin Stories

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a classic of 20th century fiction the berlin stories inspired the broadway musical and oscar winning film cabaret first

published in the 1930s the berlin stories contains two astonishing related novels the last of mr norris and goodbye to berlin which are recognized today as classics of modern fiction isherwood magnificently captures 1931 berlin charming with its avenues and cafés marvelously grotesque with its nightlife and dreamers dangerous with its vice and intrigue powerful and seedy with its mobs and millionaires this is the period when hitler was beginning his move to power the berlin stories is inhabited by a wealth of characters the unforgettable sally bowles whose misadventures in the demimonde were popularized on the american stage and screen by julie harris in i am a camera and liza minnelli in cabaret mr norris the improbable old debauchee mysteriously caught between the nazis and the communists plump fräulein schroeder who thinks an operation to reduce the scale of her büste might relieve her heart palpitations and the distinguished and doomed jewish family the landauers

the sally bowles character was the subject of a play i am a camera and a musical cabaret

a new york review books original in 1905 the young swiss writer robert walser arrived in berlin to join his older brother karl already an important stage set designer and immediately threw himself into the vibrant social and cultural life of the city berlin stories collects his alternately celebratory droll and satirical observations on every aspect of the bustling german capital from its theaters cabarets painters galleries and literary salons to the metropolitan street markets the tiergarten rapid service restaurants and the electric tram originally appearing in literary magazines as well as the feuilleton sections of newspapers the early stories are characterized by a joyous urgency and the generosity of an unconventional guide later pieces take the form of more personal reflections on the writing process memories and character studies all are full of counter intuitive images and vignettes of startling clarity showcasing a unique talent for whom no detail was trivial at grips with a city diving headlong into modernity

christopher isherwood

the ultimate literary bucket list the washington post celebrate the pleasure of reading and the thrill of discovering new titles in an extraordinary book that s as compulsively readable entertaining surprising and enlightening as the 1 000 plus titles it recommends covering fiction poetry science and science fiction memoir travel writing biography children's books history and more 1 000 books to read before you die ranges across cultures and through time to offer an eclectic collection of works that each deserve to come with the recommendation you have to read this but it s not a proscriptive list of the great works rather it s a celebration of the glorious mosaic that is our literary heritage flip it open to any page and be transfixed by a fresh take on a very favorite book or come across a title you always meant to read and never got around to or like browsing in the best kind of bookshop stumble on a completely unknown author and work and feel that tingle of discovery there are classics of course and unexpected treasures too lists to help pick and choose like offbeat escapes or a long climb but what a view and its alphabetical arrangement by author assures that surprises await on almost every turn of the page with cormac mccarthy and the road next to robert mccloskey and make way for ducklings alice walker next to izaac walton there are nuts and bolts too best editions to read other books by the author if you like this you II like that recommendations and an interesting endnote of adaptations where appropriate add it all up and in fact there are more than six thousand titles by nearly four thousand authors mentioned a life changing list for a lifetime of reading 948 pages later you still want more the washington post

drawing on much contemporary material including auden's fascinating unpublished diary this book places personal experience in the context of the life of a great city not only its political artistic and cultural life but the life of the streets bars and caf it presents portraits of figures often fascinating in their own right with whom auden and isherwood came

into contact and it demonstrates how especially in isherwood s fiction the raw material of daily existence was transformed into art the wide scope of this study which ranges from poetry and cinema to street violence and prostitution provides a richly detailed context for its account of two writers engaged in the process of self definition

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among the finest prose stylists in yiddish literature david bergelson 1884 1952 was caught up in many of the twentieth century s most defining events in 1909 he emerged as a pioneer of modernist prose observing the slow decay of the tsarist empire in 1917 he welcomed the revolution but the bloodshed of the ensuing civil war and the dogmatism of the bolsheviks drove him to emigration for more than a decade 1921 1934 he lived in weimar germany travelling extensively in europe and the united states shocked by the wall street crash of 1929 disheartened by the decline of yiddish culture in the west and inspired by soviet promises to create a jewish republic bergelson became a communist sympathiser and moved towards socialist realism returning to the soviet union after hitler's rise to power bergelson flourished in a state sponsored cultural environment in which his work was widely read both in yiddish and in russian translation after hitler s invasion of the soviet union in 1941 bergelson became a prominent member of the jewish anti fascist committee writing extensively about the holocaust in the paranoia of the cold war years the stalinist regime accused him of anti soviet activities and after a secret military trial he was executed on 12 august 1952 his 68th birthday for years critics have argued that bergelson produced his best work before the revolution and afterwards largely wrote communist propaganda david bergelson from modernism to socialist realism challenges this view by examining bergelson s entire oeuvre the book argues that bergelson continually reinvented himself as a writer experimenting with style and narrative technique even under the most severe restrictions of party dogma with contributions from an international team of

bergelson experts the volume offers a full length biography the first complete bibliography of bergelson's work translations of two of his most influential programmatic articles and a range of essays dealing with all periods of the writer's life with the contributions joseph sherman david bergelson 1884 1952 a biography lev bergelson memories of my father the early years 1918 1934 daniela mantovan language and style in nokh alemen 1913 bergelson's debt to flaubert kerstin hoge for children and adults alike reading bergelson's children's stories 1914 1919 as narratives of identity formation seth I wolitz yoysef shor 1922 between two worlds sasha senderovich in search of readership bergelson among the refugees 1928 mikhail krutikov narrating the revolution from tsugvintn 1922 to mides hadin 1929 ellen kellman uneasy patronage bergelson's years at forverts 1922 1926 gennady estraikh david bergelson in and on america 1929 1949 ber boris kotlerman why i am in favour of birobidzhan bergelson's fateful decision 1932 harriet murav memory and monument in baym dnyepr 1932 1940 david shneer from mourning to vengeance bergelson's holocaust journalism 1941 1945 jeffrey veidlinger du lebst mayn folk bergelson's play prints ruveni in historical context 1944 1947 joseph sherman jewish nationalism in bergelson's last book 1947 roberta saltzman a bibliography of david bergelson s work in yiddish and english david bergelson appendix a belles lettres and the social order 1919 david bergelson appendix b three centres characteristics 1926

the first thorough examination of isherwood s work and life in twenty years izzo s analysis brings into play the mortmere stories by isherwood and edward upward dating from the 1920s but published only in 1994 and the diaries 1939 1960 published in 1996 to reposition isherwood within a circle of british writers that included besides upward w h auden stephen spender and cecil day lewis

the first literary biography of tim o brien the preeminent american writer of the war in vietnam and one of the best

writers of his generation drawing on never before seen materials and original interviews vietnam made me a writer tim o brien featuring over one hundred interviews with family friends peers and others not to mention countless exchanges with tim o brien himself peace is a shy thing provides a nearly day by day gripping account of o brien s thirteen months as an infantryman in vietnam and gives equal diligence to reconstructing o brien s writing process this meticulously researched biography explores the life and journey that turned o brien into a literary icon and a household name it includes an unpublished short story about o brien from a college girlfriend documentation of his comical involvement with the washington post s coverage of watergate and a 1989 attic exchange between american and vietnamese writers on the eve of the publication of o brien s most beloved book the things they carried years before the two countries normalized relations peace is a shy thing is as much a history of the era as it is a story of o brien s life from his small town midwestern mid century childhood to winning the national book award and his status as literary elder statesman a story which vernon a combat veteran of the persian gulf war and a literary scholar trained by officers and professors of the vietnam era is uniquely suited to tell

visit reunited berlin with this outstanding cadogan guide see everything from the notorious cabaret nightlife on the kudam to the nearby potsdam mansion now a smart hotel where stalin truman and churchill carved up germany in 1945 ten walks take the reader through the city and lakeside parks 10 maps 20 line drawings

now thoroughly revised and updated the book discusses recent breakthroughs in media technology including such exciting advances as video discs and cassettes two way television satellites cable and much more

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