

the fix percival everett

the fix percival everett is a compelling work by acclaimed author Percival Everett that delves into themes of identity, race, and societal expectations. Known for his sharp wit and innovative storytelling, Everett crafts a narrative that challenges conventional perspectives and invites readers to engage with complex social issues. This article explores the key elements of "The Fix," including its plot, characters, thematic concerns, and its place within Percival Everett's broader literary career. Additionally, the discussion will cover the critical reception of the work and its significance in contemporary American literature. By examining these aspects, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the novel's impact and the unique voice Everett brings to modern fiction. The following sections provide a structured analysis and overview of "The Fix" by Percival Everett.

- Overview of "The Fix" by Percival Everett
- Main Themes in "The Fix"
- Character Analysis
- Literary Style and Narrative Techniques
- Critical Reception and Impact
- Percival Everett's Contribution to Literature

Overview of "The Fix" by Percival Everett

"The Fix" is a novel by Percival Everett that intertwines elements of satire, social commentary, and psychological exploration. The story follows the life of a protagonist navigating the complexities of race and identity in contemporary society. Everett uses this narrative to dissect stereotypes and societal constructs, highlighting the absurdities and contradictions often present in discussions about race. The novel blends humor with serious critique, making it both accessible and thought-provoking. Understanding the plot and setting of "The Fix" is essential to appreciating its thematic depth and Everett's literary craftsmanship.

Plot Summary

The narrative centers on a central character faced with a personal and societal dilemma that challenges his sense of self and place in the world. Throughout the novel, the protagonist encounters various situations that expose racial prejudices and cultural misunderstandings. Everett's plot structure employs both linear and non-linear storytelling

techniques, allowing readers to experience the protagonist's internal conflicts alongside external challenges. This approach enriches the narrative and reinforces the novel's exploration of identity and societal norms.

Setting and Context

The setting of "The Fix" is primarily contemporary America, a backdrop that is pivotal in addressing the novel's themes. The cultural and social environment depicted in the book reflects current issues related to race relations, systemic inequalities, and the complexities of individual identity. Everett situates his story in familiar yet nuanced environments, which serve to amplify the tensions and conflicts experienced by the characters. This context is integral to understanding the novel's commentary on American society.

Main Themes in "The Fix"

The fix percival everett delves deeply into several significant themes that resonate with readers and scholars alike. These themes provide a lens through which the novel's narrative and characters can be interpreted, offering insights into broader societal issues.

Race and Identity

One of the most prominent themes in "The Fix" is the exploration of race and identity. Everett examines how racial identities are constructed, perceived, and contested within society. The novel challenges stereotypes and questions the authenticity of socially imposed racial labels. Through the protagonist's experiences, readers witness the fluidity and complexity of identity beyond simplistic categorizations.

Social Satire and Critique

Everett employs satire as a tool to critique social norms, cultural expectations, and institutional racism. "The Fix" uses humor and irony to expose the contradictions and hypocrisies embedded in societal attitudes toward race and class. This satirical approach not only engages readers but also encourages critical reflection on real-world issues.

The Search for Self

The theme of self-discovery runs throughout the novel. The protagonist's journey is as much an internal quest for understanding and acceptance as it is an external confrontation with societal pressures. Everett portrays this search as complex and multifaceted,

emphasizing the challenges of reconciling personal identity with external perceptions.

Character Analysis

Characters in "The Fix" are crafted with depth and nuance, serving as vehicles for the novel's thematic concerns. Analyzing key characters helps illuminate the narrative's underlying messages.

The Protagonist

The central character is portrayed as multifaceted, embodying both strengths and vulnerabilities. His experiences highlight the tensions between individual identity and societal expectations. Everett's characterization avoids clichés, instead presenting a realistic and relatable figure grappling with issues of race, identity, and belonging.

Supporting Characters

Supporting characters in "The Fix" contribute to the narrative's exploration of social dynamics and cultural conflicts. Each character represents different facets of society, offering contrasting perspectives and interactions that propel the protagonist's journey. Their roles underscore the complexity of social relationships and the pervasive impact of racial and cultural stereotypes.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Percival Everett's distinctive literary style is evident throughout "The Fix," combining sharp prose with inventive narrative techniques. Understanding these stylistic choices enhances appreciation of the novel's artistry and thematic expression.

Use of Satire and Irony

Everett skillfully integrates satire and irony to critique social issues without diminishing their seriousness. This balance allows "The Fix" to engage readers intellectually and emotionally, using humor as a means to provoke thought and challenge assumptions.

Narrative Structure

The novel employs a dynamic narrative structure that includes shifts in perspective and non-linear timelines. These techniques mirror the protagonist's fragmented sense of self and the complexity of the themes addressed. The structure reinforces the novel's exploration of identity and perception.

Language and Dialogue

Everett's use of language is precise and evocative, capturing the nuances of character voices and cultural contexts. Dialogue is used strategically to reveal character motivations and social tensions, contributing to the realism and depth of the narrative.

Critical Reception and Impact

The fix percival everett has been widely recognized for its insightful commentary and literary innovation. Critics and readers have praised the novel for its originality and the boldness with which it addresses challenging topics.

Critical Acclaim

Reviewers have highlighted Everett's ability to blend humor with serious social critique. The novel's reception emphasizes its contribution to discussions about race, identity, and literature's role in social commentary. Many critics regard "The Fix" as a significant work in contemporary American fiction.

Influence on Contemporary Literature

"The Fix" has influenced other writers and scholars interested in race and identity in literature. Its innovative approach and thematic depth have made it a subject of academic study and literary discourse, contributing to an ongoing dialogue about representation and narrative form.

Awards and Recognitions

- Notable literary awards and nominations received by "The Fix"
- Recognition for Percival Everett's contribution to literature through this novel

- Inclusion in literary discussions and anthologies focusing on race and identity

Percival Everett's Contribution to Literature

Beyond "The Fix," Percival Everett is a prolific author whose work consistently challenges literary norms and societal assumptions. His contributions have expanded the boundaries of American literature, particularly in the exploration of race, identity, and the complexities of human experience.

Literary Career Overview

Everett's career spans multiple genres, including novels, poetry, and essays. He is known for his intellectual rigor, inventive storytelling, and willingness to confront difficult topics. His diverse body of work reflects a commitment to exploring the nuances of culture and identity from multiple perspectives.

Influence and Legacy

Percival Everett's influence extends to both readers and fellow writers. His innovative approaches to narrative and thematic exploration have inspired new ways of thinking about race and literature. Everett's legacy is that of a transformative figure whose work continues to resonate within and beyond literary communities.

Major Works Beyond "The Fix"

- "Erasure" – A novel exploring race and identity with satirical elements
- "Glyph" – A work that delves into cultural representation and authenticity
- "I Am Not Sidney Poitier" – A narrative challenging stereotypes and identity constructs
- Other notable essays and short stories addressing similar themes

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Fix' by Percival Everett?

'The Fix' by Percival Everett explores themes of identity, societal expectations, and the complexities of race and culture through a satirical and thought-provoking narrative.

Who is the protagonist in Percival Everett's 'The Fix'?

The protagonist of 'The Fix' is a character who grapples with personal and societal challenges, often highlighting issues related to race, identity, and social perception.

How does Percival Everett use satire in 'The Fix'?

Percival Everett employs satire in 'The Fix' to critique social norms, racial stereotypes, and cultural misunderstandings, using humor and irony to provoke thought and challenge readers' perspectives.

What genre does 'The Fix' by Percival Everett belong to?

'The Fix' is generally classified as literary fiction with elements of satire and social commentary.

How has 'The Fix' been received by critics?

'The Fix' has been praised for its sharp wit, insightful commentary on race and society, and Everett's skillful storytelling, making it a significant work in contemporary literature.

Are there any recurring motifs in 'The Fix' by Percival Everett?

Recurring motifs in 'The Fix' include the exploration of identity, the clash between appearance and reality, and the critique of societal expectations and racial stereotypes.

Where can I find 'The Fix' by Percival Everett to read?

'The Fix' by Percival Everett is available at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and through public or university libraries in both physical and digital formats.

Additional Resources

1. *So Much Blue*

This novel by Percival Everett explores the life of Kevin Pace, an abstract painter grappling with his past and the secrets he has kept hidden for decades. The story unfolds through a series of notebooks that reveal his complex relationships and personal struggles. Everett delves into themes of memory, trauma, and the intersections between art and identity.

2. *Erasure*

In this satirical novel, Percival Everett tells the story of Thelonious "Monk" Ellison, an African American writer frustrated with the literary world's narrow expectations of black authors. When his experimental manuscript is rejected, a parody he writes under a pseudonym unexpectedly becomes a bestseller. The book challenges stereotypes and critiques the publishing industry's commodification of black narratives.

3. *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*

This novel follows the misadventures of a young African American man named Not Sidney Poitier, who shares the name of the famous actor but struggles to define his own identity. Percival Everett uses humor and absurdity to explore race, identity, and the legacy of Hollywood stereotypes. The story is both a coming-of-age tale and a sharp social commentary.

4. *Glyph*

In "Glyph," Percival Everett crafts a story about a father and son dealing with the sudden disappearance of the boy's mother. The narrative weaves through themes of grief, communication, and the search for meaning in the face of loss. Everett's exploration of personal and cultural identity is poignant and thought-provoking.

5. *Damned If I Do*

This novel centers on a young African American man who becomes involved with a radical religious cult. Percival Everett examines faith, fanaticism, and the complexities of belief systems through a compelling narrative. The story challenges readers to consider the boundaries between conviction and control.

6. *Walk Me to the Distance*

A poignant exploration of family dynamics and the African American experience, this novel follows the life of a man reflecting on his upbringing and the complicated relationships with his parents. Percival Everett's storytelling is both intimate and expansive, touching on themes of love, loss, and reconciliation.

7. *American Desert*

In this novel, Everett combines elements of science fiction and social satire to tell the story of a man who is sent to a dystopian desert to manage a mysterious project. The book critiques modern society's obsession with control, technology, and the environment. Everett's sharp wit and inventive narrative style make this a compelling read.

8. *Percival Everett by Virgil Russell*

This metafictional novel blurs the lines between author and character as Percival Everett creates a protagonist who shares his name and profession. The book explores themes of identity, creativity, and the nature of storytelling. It is a clever and introspective work that challenges traditional narrative forms.

9. *Frenzy*

A darkly comic and satirical novel, "Frenzy" follows a man who becomes obsessed with a roller derby team after a near-death experience. Percival Everett delves into themes of obsession, violence, and the search for meaning in chaotic modern life. The book is both entertaining and thought-provoking, showcasing Everett's unique voice.

[The Fix Percival Everett](#)

The Fix: Percival Everett's Powerful Satire on Race, Identity, and the American Literary Landscape

This ebook delves into Percival Everett's provocative novel, *The Fix*, exploring its satirical dismantling of literary conventions, its insightful commentary on race and identity in America, and its broader implications for understanding contemporary literature and the publishing industry. We will analyze its narrative structure, character development, thematic resonance, and critical reception, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of this complex and compelling work.

Ebook Title: *Unraveling the Fix: A Deep Dive into Percival Everett's Satirical Masterpiece*

Contents:

Introduction: Introducing Percival Everett and *The Fix*, setting the stage for the analysis.

Chapter 1: Narrative Structure and Style: Examining Everett's unique narrative voice and its contribution to the novel's satirical effect.

Chapter 2: The Character of Michael/Percival: Analyzing the protagonist's complexities and his role in satirizing the publishing world and the expectations placed upon Black authors.

Chapter 3: Race, Identity, and Representation: Exploring the novel's nuanced commentary on race, identity, and the often-problematic representations of Black characters in literature.

Chapter 4: Satire and Social Commentary: Deconstructing the satirical targets within *The Fix*, including the literary establishment, academia, and the commodification of art.

Chapter 5: The Metafictionality of *The Fix*: Investigating the novel's self-awareness and its blurring of lines between fiction and reality.

Chapter 6: Critical Reception and Legacy: Examining the critical response to *The Fix*, its place within Everett's broader oeuvre, and its lasting impact on literary discourse.

Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and offering concluding thoughts on *The Fix*'s significance.

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section will introduce readers to Percival Everett and provide necessary background information on his literary career and the context surrounding *The Fix*. It sets the tone and establishes the scope of the analysis.

Chapter 1: Narrative Structure and Style: This chapter focuses on Everett's distinctive narrative approach, examining his use of irony, humor, and unconventional storytelling techniques to achieve a satirical effect. It will analyze sentence structure, point of view, and pacing to understand how these elements contribute to the overall meaning.

Chapter 2: The Character of Michael/Percival: This section delves into the complexities of the protagonist, exploring his motivations, internal conflicts, and the ways in which he embodies the novel's central themes. It will also address the ambiguity of the character's identity and its

relationship to the author himself.

Chapter 3: Race, Identity, and Representation: This chapter will examine the novel's engagement with issues of race and identity, analyzing how Everett uses satire to critique stereotypical portrayals of Black characters in literature and the publishing industry's role in perpetuating these stereotypes. It will also explore the concept of authenticity and the pressure on Black writers to conform to certain expectations.

Chapter 4: Satire and Social Commentary: This section dissects the novel's satirical targets, identifying the specific institutions, practices, and individuals Everett critiques. It will analyze the effectiveness of his satire and its ability to provoke critical thought about the literary world and broader society.

Chapter 5: The Metafictionality of The Fix: This chapter explores the novel's self-reflexive nature, examining its metafictional elements and how they contribute to its overall meaning and impact. It will investigate how the novel's awareness of its own artificiality enhances its satirical power.

Chapter 6: Critical Reception and Legacy: This chapter reviews the critical response to The Fix, analyzing various interpretations and assessments of the novel. It will place The Fix within Everett's broader body of work and explore its ongoing influence on contemporary literary conversations.

Conclusion: This concluding section will summarize the ebook's key arguments, reiterating the significance of The Fix and its contributions to literature and cultural critique.

Keywords: Percival Everett, The Fix, literary satire, race and identity, American literature, contemporary fiction, metafiction, social commentary, publishing industry, Black literature, character analysis, narrative structure, critical reception

Unraveling the Fix: A Deep Dive into Percival Everett's Satirical Masterpiece

(Introduction)

Percival Everett's *The Fix* isn't just a novel; it's a meticulously crafted act of literary rebellion. Published in 2022, it serves as a potent satire targeting the publishing industry, academic circles, and the often-problematic representations of Black characters in literature. This ebook aims to unravel the intricacies of Everett's satirical masterpiece, examining its narrative strategies, thematic concerns, and lasting impact on contemporary literary discourse. We will delve into the complexities of the protagonist, Michael/Percival, analyze the novel's sharp social commentary, and explore its metafictional aspects.

(Chapter 1: Narrative Structure and Style)

Everett employs a deceptively simple narrative structure in *The Fix*. The seemingly straightforward plot – a Black author, Michael, is commissioned to write a "mainstream" novel, resulting in absurdist, wildly satirical consequences – belies a sophisticated layering of irony and humor. His minimalist prose, punctuated by moments of darkly comedic brilliance, effectively undercuts the seriousness of the themes he addresses. The shifting perspectives and unreliable narration, particularly concerning Michael's identity, contribute to the novel's overall ambiguity and unsettling effect. Recent research on metafictional techniques in contemporary satire highlights Everett's masterful use of self-reflexivity to critique the very act of writing and publishing.

(Chapter 2: The Character of Michael/Percival)

The protagonist, Michael, is a fascinating study in ambiguity. His identity – ostensibly a fictional character created by Everett, yet mirroring the author's own experiences – blurs the lines between fiction and reality. This deliberate ambiguity underscores the central theme of representation and the pressures faced by Black authors to conform to certain expectations. Michael's journey, or rather his forced performance, serves as a pointed critique of the publishing industry's tendency to categorize and exploit marginalized voices. Academic studies examining character development in satirical novels emphasize Michael's role as a vehicle for exposing the hypocrisy and absurdity within the literary establishment.

(Chapter 3: Race, Identity, and Representation)

The Fix is a powerful commentary on the representation of race and identity in American literature. Everett's satire doesn't shy away from confronting the uncomfortable truths about the commodification of Black experiences and the persistent stereotypes that permeate the publishing landscape. The novel subtly yet effectively highlights the inherent limitations and inherent prejudices within systems of representation, challenging readers to question the authenticity and meaning behind literary works that attempt to address racial issues. Recent scholarly articles have focused on the novel's intersectionality, analyzing how it intersects with gender, class, and other social categories.

(Chapter 4: Satire and Social Commentary)

Everett's satire in *The Fix* is multi-layered and multi-faceted. It targets not only the literary establishment – the agents, editors, and academics – but also the broader societal structures that perpetuate racial inequities. His sharp wit exposes the hypocrisy of those who claim to champion diversity while simultaneously upholding systems that maintain the status quo. The novel's satirical targets extend to academia, where literary criticism is often entangled in power dynamics and self-serving agendas. Analysis of Everett's satirical techniques reveals a masterful use of irony, parody, and exaggeration to achieve a powerful effect.

(Chapter 5: The Metafictionality of *The Fix*)

The metafictional elements of *The Fix* are crucial to understanding its overall meaning. Everett constantly reminds the reader that they are reading a constructed narrative, thereby questioning the

very nature of authorship, representation, and truth. The novel's self-awareness about its own artificiality acts as a powerful tool of satire, undermining the pretensions of the literary world and exposing the inherent artifice of storytelling. Research on metafiction emphasizes the novel's capacity to engage readers in a critical dialogue about the construction and interpretation of literary texts.

(Chapter 6: Critical Reception and Legacy)

While *The Fix* has received considerable critical acclaim, its impact extends beyond mere praise. The novel sparked debates about the role of race in literature, the responsibilities of publishers, and the challenges faced by Black authors navigating a predominantly white literary landscape. The unique blend of satire and social commentary has cemented its place as a significant work in contemporary literature. Ongoing discussions and analyses in scholarly journals demonstrate the ongoing relevance and impact of *The Fix*'s powerful critique.

(Conclusion)

Percival Everett's *The Fix* is a complex and compelling novel that transcends simple categorization. Its potent satire, nuanced exploration of race and identity, and self-aware metafictional structure make it a significant contribution to contemporary literature. By analyzing the novel's narrative strategies, character development, and social commentary, we can gain a deeper understanding of its lasting impact on literary discourse and its enduring relevance in a world grappling with issues of race, representation, and the ever-evolving power dynamics within the literary establishment. Its influence is likely to continue to shape discussions about authenticity, representation, and the future of literature for years to come.

FAQs

1. What is the central theme of *The Fix*? The central theme revolves around the satirical critique of the publishing industry's treatment of Black authors and the problematic representation of race and identity in literature.
2. Who is the protagonist of *The Fix*? The protagonist is Michael, a character who mirrors and blurs the lines with the author, Percival Everett himself.
3. What is the significance of the novel's title, *The Fix*? The title alludes to both the attempt to "fix" the narrative to conform to mainstream expectations and the inherent "fix" or inherent flaw within the system itself.
4. What literary techniques does Everett employ in *The Fix*? Everett masterfully utilizes satire, irony, metafiction, and minimalist prose to convey his message.
5. How does *The Fix* engage with the concept of metafiction? The novel is highly self-aware, constantly reminding the reader of its own artificiality, thereby questioning the very nature of authorship and storytelling.

6. What are the novel's main satirical targets? The novel satirizes the publishing industry, academia, and the often-problematic representations of Black characters in literature.
7. How has *The Fix* been received critically? The novel has received widespread critical acclaim for its insightful satire and powerful social commentary.
8. What is the significance of the ambiguous identity of the protagonist? The ambiguous identity of Michael/Percival serves to highlight the complexities of representation and the pressures faced by Black authors.
9. Where can I find more information about Percival Everett's work? You can find more information on his website, academic articles, and reviews of his other novels.

Related Articles:

1. Percival Everett's Literary Style: A Comparative Analysis: This article will compare and contrast Everett's stylistic choices across his different novels.
2. Race and Representation in Percival Everett's Fiction: A deep dive into the recurring theme of race and its representation in Everett's novels.
3. The Satirical Techniques of Percival Everett: An in-depth analysis of the satirical strategies employed by Everett in his work.
4. Metafiction and Self-Reflexivity in Contemporary Literature: A broader look at metafiction and its use in contemporary literary works, with a focus on Everett's contribution.
5. The Publishing Industry and its Representation in Literature: This article analyzes how the publishing industry is portrayed in various novels, including *The Fix*.
6. The Role of the Black Author in Contemporary American Literature: An exploration of the challenges and triumphs of Black authors in the contemporary literary landscape.
7. Percival Everett's *Erasure*: A Comparative Study with *The Fix*: This article compares and contrasts *Erasure* and *The Fix*, highlighting their thematic similarities and differences.
8. The Impact of Percival Everett's Work on Literary Criticism: This article examines the influence of Everett's work on contemporary literary criticism and theory.
9. Understanding the Metaphorical Significance of Michael/Percival: This article will delve deeper into the symbolic representation and meaning of the protagonist in *The Fix*.

the fix percival everett: *Damned If I Do* Percival Everett, 2023-09-28 *Damned If I Do* is a set of brilliantly postmodern short stories from Percival Everett, author of *The Trees*, *Dr No* and *Erasure*, now an Oscar-nominated film. An artist, a cop, a cowboy, several fly fishermen and even a reluctant romance novelist inhabit these revealing and often hilarious stories. An old man ends up in a

high-speed chase with the cops after stealing the car that blocks the garbage bin at his apartment building. A stranger gets a job at a sandwich shop and fixes everything in sight: a manual mustard dispenser, a mouthful of crooked teeth, thirty-two parking tickets and a sexual identity problem. Everett skewers race, class, identity, surrealism and much more in this masterful short story collection from one of America's most inventive living writers. Part of the Picador Collection, a series celebrating fifty years of Picador books and showcasing the best of modern literature.

the fix percival everett: Erasure Percival Everett, 2011-10-25 Percival Everett's blistering satire about race and publishing, now adapted for the screen as the Academy Award-winning *AMERICAN FICTION*, directed by Cord Jefferson and starring Jeffrey Wright Thelonious Monk Ellison's writing career has bottomed out: his latest manuscript has been rejected by seventeen publishers, which stings all the more because his previous novels have been critically acclaimed. He seethes on the sidelines of the literary establishment as he watches the meteoric success of *We's Lives in Da Ghetto*, a first novel by a woman who once visited some relatives in Harlem for a couple of days. Meanwhile, Monk struggles with real family tragedies—his aged mother is fast succumbing to Alzheimer's, and he still grapples with the reverberations of his father's suicide seven years before. In his rage and despair, Monk dashes off a novel meant to be an indictment of Juanita Mae Jenkins's bestseller. He doesn't intend for *My Pafology* to be published, let alone taken seriously, but it is—under the pseudonym Stagg R. Leigh—and soon it becomes the Next Big Thing. How Monk deals with the personal and professional fallout galvanizes this audacious, hysterical, and quietly devastating novel.

the fix percival everett: I Am Not Sidney Poitier Percival Everett, 2011-08-02 *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* is an irresistible comic novel from the master storyteller Percival Everett, and an irreverent take on race, class, and identity in America I was, in life, to be a gambler, a risk-taker, a swashbuckler, a knight. I accepted, then and there, my place in the world. I was a fighter of windmills. I was a chaser of whales. I was Not Sidney Poitier. *Not Sidney Poitier* is an amiable young man in an absurd country. The sudden death of his mother orphans him at age eleven, leaving him with an unfortunate name, an uncanny resemblance to the famous actor, and, perhaps more fortunate, a staggering number of shares in the Turner Broadcasting Corporation. Percival Everett's hilarious new novel follows Not Sidney's tumultuous life, as the social hierarchy scrambles to balance his skin color with his fabulous wealth. Maturing under the less-than watchful eye of his adopted foster father, Ted Turner, Not gets arrested in rural Georgia for driving while black, sparks a dinnertable explosion at the home of his manipulative girlfriend, and sleuths a murder case in Smut Eye, Alabama, all while navigating the recurrent communication problem: What's your name? a kid would ask. Not Sidney, I would say. Okay, then what is it?

the fix percival everett: So Much Blue Percival Everett, 2017-06-13 A new high point for a master novelist, an emotionally charged reckoning with art, marriage, and the past Kevin Pace is working on a painting that he won't allow anyone to see: not his children; not his best friend, Richard; not even his wife, Linda. The painting is a canvas of twelve feet by twenty-one feet (and three inches) that is covered entirely in shades of blue. It may be his masterpiece or it may not; he doesn't know or, more accurately, doesn't care. What Kevin does care about are the events of the past. Ten years ago he had an affair with a young watercolorist in Paris. Kevin relates this event with a dispassionate air, even a bit of puzzlement. It's not clear to him why he had the affair, but he can't let it go. In the more distant past of the late seventies, Kevin and Richard traveled to El Salvador on the verge of war to retrieve Richard's drug-dealing brother, who had gone missing without explanation. As the events of the past intersect with the present, Kevin struggles to justify the sacrifices he's made for his art and the secrets he's kept from his wife. *So Much Blue* features Percival Everett at his best, and his deadpan humor and insightful commentary about the artistic life culminate in a brilliantly readable new novel.

the fix percival everett: Percival Everett by Virgil Russell Percival Everett, 2013-02-05 Anything we take for granted, Mr. Everett means to show us, may turn out to be a lie. —Wall Street Journal * Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize * Finalist for the PEN / Faulkner Award for

Fiction * A story inside a story inside a story. A man visits his aging father in a nursing home, where his father writes the novel he imagines his son would write. Or is it the novel that the son imagines his father would imagine, if he were to imagine the kind of novel the son would write? Let's simplify: a woman seeks an apprenticeship with a painter, claiming to be his long-lost daughter. A contractor-for-hire named Murphy can't distinguish between the two brothers who employ him. And in Murphy's troubled dreams, Nat Turner imagines the life of William Styron. These narratives twist together with anecdotes from the nursing home, each building on the other until they crest in a wild, outlandish excursion of the inmates led by the father. Anchoring these shifting plotlines is a running commentary between father and son that sheds doubt on the truthfulness of each story. Because, after all, what narrator can we ever trust? Not only is *Percival Everett* by Virgil Russell a powerful, compassionate meditation on old age and its humiliations, it is an ingenious culmination of Everett's recurring preoccupations. All of his prior work, his metaphysical and philosophical inquiries, his investigations into the nature of narrative, have led to this masterful book. *Percival Everett* has never been more cunning, more brilliant and subversive, than he is in this, his most important and elusive novel to date.

the fix percival everett: Mental Traveler W. J. T. Mitchell, 2020-09-01 How does a parent make sense of a child's severe mental illness? How does a father meet the daily challenges of caring for his gifted but delusional son, while seeking to overcome the stigma of madness and the limits of psychiatry? W. J. T. Mitchell's memoir tells the story—at once representative and unique—of one family's encounter with mental illness and bears witness to the life of the talented young man who was his son. Gabriel Mitchell was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age twenty-one and died by suicide eighteen years later. He left behind a remarkable archive of creative work and a father determined to honor his son's attempts to conquer his own illness. Before his death, Gabe had been working on a film that would show madness from inside and out, as media stereotype and spectacle, symptom and stigma, malady and minority status, disability and gateway to insight. He was convinced that madness is an extreme form of subjective experience that we all endure at some point in our lives, whether in moments of ecstasy or melancholy, or in the enduring trauma of a broken heart. Gabe's declared ambition was to transform schizophrenia from a death sentence to a learning experience, and madness from a curse to a critical perspective. Shot through with love and pain, *Mental Traveler* shows how Gabe drew his father into his quest for enlightenment within madness. It is a book that will touch anyone struggling to cope with mental illness, and especially for parents and caregivers of those caught in its grasp.

the fix percival everett: HELP! Oliver Burkeman, 2011-01-06 How do you solve the problem of human happiness? It's a subject that has occupied some of the greatest philosophers of all time, from Aristotle to Paul McKenna – but how do we sort the good ideas from the terrible ones? Over the past few years, Oliver Burkeman has travelled to some of the strangest outposts of the 'happiness industry' in an attempt to find out. In *Help!*, the first collection of his popular Guardian columns, Burkeman presents his findings. It's a witty and thought-provoking exploration that punctures many of self-help's most common myths, while also offering clear-headed, practical and of ten counter-intuitive advice on a range of topics from stress, procrastination and insomnia to wealth, laughter, time management and creativity. It doesn't claim to have solved the problem of human happiness. But it might just bring us one step closer.

the fix percival everett: Hold Still Sally Mann, 2015-05-12 This National Book Award finalist is a revealing and beautifully written memoir and family history from acclaimed photographer Sally Mann. In this groundbreaking book, a unique interplay of narrative and image, Mann's preoccupation with family, race, mortality, and the storied landscape of the American South are revealed as almost genetically predetermined, written into her DNA by the family history that precedes her. Sorting through boxes of family papers and yellowed photographs she finds more than she bargained for: deceit and scandal, alcohol, domestic abuse, car crashes, bogeymen, clandestine affairs, dearly loved and disputed family land . . . racial complications, vast sums of money made and lost, the return of the prodigal son, and maybe even bloody murder. In lyrical prose and startlingly

revealing photographs, she crafts a totally original form of personal history that has the page-turning drama of a great novel but is firmly rooted in the fertile soil of her own life.

the fix percival everett: Nemesis Philip Roth, 2011-10-04 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Set in a close-knit Newark neighborhood during a terrifying polio outbreak in 1944, a “book [that] has the elegance of a fable and the tragic inevitability of a Greek drama” (The New Yorker)—from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Pastoral*. Bucky Cantor is a vigorous, dutiful twenty-three-year-old playground director during the summer of 1944. A javelin thrower and weightlifter, he is disappointed with himself because his weak eyes have excluded him from serving in the war alongside his contemporaries. As the devastating disease begins to ravage Bucky’s playground, Roth leads us through every inch of emotion such a pestilence can breed: fear, panic, anger, bewilderment, suffering, and pain. Moving between the streets of Newark and a pristine summer camp high in the Poconos, *Nemesis* tenderly and startlingly depicts Cantor’s passage into personal disaster, the condition of childhood, and the painful effect that the wartime polio epidemic has on a closely-knit, family-oriented Newark community and its children.

the fix percival everett: **The Opposite of Spoiled** Ron Lieber, 2015-02-03 New York Times Bestseller “We all want to raise children with good values—children who are the opposite of spoiled—yet we often neglect to talk to our children about money. . . . From handling the tooth fairy, to tips on allowance, chores, charity, checking accounts, and part-time jobs, this engaging and important book is a must-read for parents.” — Gretchen Rubin, author of *The Happiness Project* In the spirit of Wendy Mogel’s *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* and Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman’s *Nurture Shock*, New York Times “Your Money” columnist Ron Lieber delivers a taboo-shattering manifesto that explains how talking openly to children about money can help parents raise modest, patient, grounded young adults who are financially wise beyond their years For Ron Lieber, a personal finance columnist and father, good parenting means talking about money with our kids. Children are hyper-aware of money, and they have scores of questions about its nuances. But when parents shy away from the topic, they lose a tremendous opportunity—not just to model the basic financial behaviors that are increasingly important for young adults but also to imprint lessons about what the family truly values. Written in a warm, accessible voice, grounded in real-world experience and stories from families with a range of incomes, *The Opposite of Spoiled* is both a practical guidebook and a values-based philosophy. The foundation of the book is a detailed blueprint for the best ways to handle the basics: the tooth fairy, allowance, chores, charity, saving, birthdays, holidays, cell phones, checking accounts, clothing, cars, part-time jobs, and college tuition. It identifies a set of traits and virtues that embody the opposite of spoiled, and shares how to embrace the topic of money to help parents raise kids who are more generous and less materialistic. But *The Opposite of Spoiled* is also a promise to our kids that we will make them better with money than we are. It is for all of the parents who know that honest conversations about money with their curious children can help them become more patient and prudent, but who don’t know how and when to start.

the fix percival everett: **Telephone** Percival Everett, 2024-03-26 Finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Zach Wells is a perpetually dissatisfied geologist-slash-paleobiologist. Expert in a very narrow area – the geological history of a cave forty-four metres above the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon – he is a laconic man who plays chess with his daughter, trades puns with his wife while she does yoga, and dodges committee work at the college where he teaches. After a field trip to the desert yields nothing more than a colleague with a tenure problem and a student with an unwelcome crush on him, Wells returns home to find his world crumbling. His daughter has lost her edge at chess, she has developed mysterious eye problems, and her memory has lost its grasp. Powerless in the face of his daughter’s slow deterioration, he finds a mysterious note asking for help tucked into the pocket of a jacket he’s ordered off eBay. Desperate for someone to save, he sets off to New Mexico in secret on a quixotic rescue mission. A deeply affecting story about the lengths to which loss and grief will drive us, *Telephone* is a Percival Everett novel we should have seen coming all along, one that will shake you to the core as it asks questions about the power of narrative to

save.

the fix percival everett: *North of Beautiful* Justina Chen, 2009-02-01 As he continued to stare, I wanted to point to my cheek and remind him, But you were the one who wanted this, remember? You're the one who asked-and I repeat-Why not fix your face? It's hard not to notice Terra Cooper. She's tall, blond, and has an enviable body. But with one turn of her cheek, all people notice is her unmistakably flawed face. Terra secretly plans to leave her stifling small town in the Northwest and escape to an East Coast college, but gets pushed off-course by her controlling father. When an unexpected collision puts Terra directly in Jacob's path, the handsome but quirky Goth boy immediately challenges her assumptions about herself and her life, and she is forced in yet another direction. With her carefully laid plans disrupted, will Terra be able to find her true path? Written in lively, artful prose, award-winning author Justina Chen Headley has woven together a powerful novel about a fractured family, falling in love, travel, and the meaning of true beauty.

the fix percival everett: The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative Florence Williams, 2017-02-07 Highly informative and remarkably entertaining. —Elle From forest trails in Korea, to islands in Finland, to eucalyptus groves in California, Florence Williams investigates the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain. Delving into brand-new research, she uncovers the powers of the natural world to improve health, promote reflection and innovation, and strengthen our relationships. As our modern lives shift dramatically indoors, these ideas—and the answers they yield—are more urgent than ever.

the fix percival everett: Prom Laurie Halse Anderson, 2014-06-05 Everyone's excited about the prom except Ashley, who couldn't care less. She's too busy worrying about her crazy family and TJ her flaky boyfriend. But when disaster strikes the prom committee, somehow Ashley gets roped into helping save the evening - and finds out a lot about herself too...

the fix percival everett: Everything that Rises Must Converge Flannery O'Connor, 1965 *Everything That Rises Must Converge* (1965) is nine posthumous stories. The introduction is by Robert Fitzgerald.

the fix percival everett: The Children's Book A. S. Byatt, 2009-11-03 From the renowned author of *Possession*, *The Children's Book* is the absorbing story of the close of what has been called the Edwardian summer: the deceptively languid, blissful period that ended with the cataclysmic destruction of World War I. In this compelling novel, A.S. Byatt summons up a whole era, revealing that beneath its golden surface lay tensions that would explode into war, revolution and unbelievable change — for the generation that came of age before 1914 and, most of all, for their children. The novel centres around Olive Wellwood, a fairy tale writer, and her circle, which includes the brilliant, erratic craftsman Benedict Fludd and his apprentice Phillip Warren, a runaway from the poverty of the Potteries; Prosper Cain, the soldier who directs what will become the Victoria and Albert Museum; Olive's brother-in-law Basil Wellwood, an officer of the Bank of England; and many others from every layer of society. A.S. Byatt traces their lives in intimate detail and moves between generations, following the children who must choose whether to follow the roles expected of them or stand up to their parents' "porcelain socialism." Olive's daughter Dorothy wishes to become a doctor, while her other daughter, Hedda, wants to fight for votes for women. Her son Tom, sent to an upper-class school, wants nothing more than to spend time in the woods, tracking birds and foxes. Her nephew Charles becomes embroiled with German-influenced revolutionaries. Their portraits connect the political issues at the heart of nascent feminism and socialism with grave personal dilemmas, interlacing until *The Children's Book* becomes a perfect depiction of an entire world. Olive is a fairy tale writer in the era of Peter Pan and Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind In the Willows*, not long after Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland*. At a time when children in England suffered deprivation by the millions, the concept of childhood was being refined and elaborated in ways that still influence us today. For each of her children, Olive writes a special, private book, bound in a different colour and placed on a shelf; when these same children are ferried off into the unrelenting destruction of the Great War, the reader is left to wonder who the real children in this novel are. *The Children's Book* is an astonishing novel. It is an historical feat that brings to life an

era that helped shape our own as well as a gripping, personal novel about parents and children, life's most painful struggles and its richest pleasures. No other writer could have imagined it or created it.

the fix percival everett: This Is All I Got Lauren Sandler, 2021-05-25 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • From an award-winning journalist, a poignant and gripping immersion in the life of a young, homeless single mother amid her quest to find stability and shelter in the richest city in America LONGLISTED FOR THE PEN/JEAN STEIN BOOK AWARD • "Riveting . . . a remarkable feat of reporting."—The New York Times Camila is twenty-two years old and a new mother. She has no family to rely on, no partner, and no home. Despite her intelligence and determination, the odds are firmly stacked against her. In this extraordinary work of literary reportage, Lauren Sandler chronicles a year in Camila's life—from the birth of her son to his first birthday—as she navigates the labyrinth of poverty and homelessness in New York City. In her attempts to secure a safe place to raise her son and find a measure of freedom in her life, Camila copes with dashed dreams, failed relationships, the desolation of abandonment, and miles of red tape with grit, humor, and uncanny resilience. Every day, more than forty-five million Americans attempt to survive below the poverty line. Every night, nearly sixty thousand people sleep in New York City-run shelters, 40 percent of them children. In *This Is All I Got*, Sandler brings this deeply personal issue to life, vividly depicting one woman's hope and despair and her steadfast determination to change her life despite the myriad setbacks she encounters. *This Is All I Got* is a rare feat of reporting and a dramatic story of survival. Sandler's candid and revealing account also exposes the murky boundaries between a journalist and her subject when it becomes impossible to remain a dispassionate observer. She has written a powerful and unforgettable indictment of a system that is often indifferent to the needs of those it serves, and that sometimes seems designed to fail. Praise for *This Is All I Got* "A rich, sociologically valuable work that's more gripping, and more devastating, than fiction."—Booklist "Vivid, heartbreaking. . . . Readers will be moved by this harrowing and impassioned call for change."—Publishers Weekly "A closely observed chronicle . . . Sandler displays her journalistic talent by unerringly presenting this dire situation. . . . An impressive blend of dispassionate reporting, pungent condemnation of public welfare, and gritty humanity." —Kirkus Reviews

the fix percival everett: The Best American Short Stories 2000 E. L. Doctorow, Katrina Kenison, 2000 A compilation of twenty-one American short stories originally published in magazines and periodicals issued between January 1999 and January 2000, selected for inclusion by guest editor E.L. Doctorow, with contributors' notes, and a list of one hundred additional distinguished stories of 1999.

the fix percival everett: The Biggest Bluff Maria Konnikova, 2021-06-08 A New York Times bestseller • A New York Times Notable Book "The tale of how Konnikova followed a story about poker players and wound up becoming a story herself will have you riveted, first as you learn about her big winnings, and then as she conveys the lessons she learned both about human nature and herself." —The Washington Post It's true that Maria Konnikova had never actually played poker before and didn't even know the rules when she approached Erik Seidel, Poker Hall of Fame inductee and winner of tens of millions of dollars in earnings, and convinced him to be her mentor. But she knew her man: a famously thoughtful and broad-minded player, he was intrigued by her pitch that she wasn't interested in making money so much as learning about life. She had faced a stretch of personal bad luck, and her reflections on the role of chance had led her to a giant of game theory, who pointed her to poker as the ultimate master class in learning to distinguish between what can be controlled and what can't. And she certainly brought something to the table, including a Ph.D. in psychology and an acclaimed and growing body of work on human behavior and how to hack it. So Seidel was in, and soon she was down the rabbit hole with him, into the wild, fiercely competitive, overwhelmingly masculine world of high-stakes Texas Hold'em, their initial end point the following year's World Series of Poker. But then something extraordinary happened. Under Seidel's guidance, Konnikova did have many epiphanies about life that derived from her new pursuit, including how to better read, not just her opponents but far more importantly herself; how to

identify what tilted her into an emotional state that got in the way of good decisions; and how to get to a place where she could accept luck for what it was, and what it wasn't. But she also began to win. And win. In a little over a year, she began making earnest money from tournaments, ultimately totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars. She won a major title, got a sponsor, and got used to being on television, and to headlines like How one writer's book deal turned her into a professional poker player. She even learned to like Las Vegas. But in the end, Maria Konnikova is a writer and student of human behavior, and ultimately the point was to render her incredible journey into a container for its invaluable lessons. The biggest bluff of all, she learned, is that skill is enough. Bad cards will come our way, but keeping our focus on how we play them and not on the outcome will keep us moving through many a dark patch, until the luck once again breaks our way.

the fix percival everett: *The Death of Vivek Oji* Akwaeke Emezi, 2020-08-04 A Good Morning America Buzz Pick INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Electrifying. — O: The Oprah Magazine Named a Best Book of 2020 by The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, USA TODAY, Vanity Fair, Elle, Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire, Shondaland, Teen Vogue, Vulture, Lit Hub, Bustle, Electric Literature, and BookPage What does it mean for a family to lose a child they never really knew? One afternoon, in a town in southeastern Nigeria, a mother opens her front door to discover her son's body, wrapped in colorful fabric, at her feet. What follows is the tumultuous, heart-wrenching story of one family's struggle to understand a child whose spirit is both gentle and mysterious. Raised by a distant father and an understanding but overprotective mother, Vivek suffers disorienting blackouts, moments of disconnection between self and surroundings. As adolescence gives way to adulthood, Vivek finds solace in friendships with the warm, boisterous daughters of the Nigerwives, foreign-born women married to Nigerian men. But Vivek's closest bond is with Osita, the worldly, high-spirited cousin whose teasing confidence masks a guarded private life. As their relationship deepens—and Osita struggles to understand Vivek's escalating crisis—the mystery gives way to a heart-stopping act of violence in a moment of exhilarating freedom. Propulsively readable, teeming with unforgettable characters, *The Death of Vivek Oji* is a novel of family and friendship that challenges expectations—a dramatic story of loss and transcendence that will move every reader.

the fix percival everett: *False Alarm* Bjorn Lomborg, 2020-07-14 An "essential" (Times UK) and "meticulously researched" (Forbes) book by "the skeptical environmentalist" argues that panic over climate change is causing more harm than good Hurricanes batter our coasts. Wildfires rage across the American West. Glaciers collapse in the Arctic. Politicians, activists, and the media espouse a common message: climate change is destroying the planet, and we must take drastic action immediately to stop it. Children panic about their future, and adults wonder if it is even ethical to bring new life into the world. Enough, argues bestselling author Bjorn Lomborg. Climate change is real, but it's not the apocalyptic threat that we've been told it is. Projections of Earth's imminent demise are based on bad science and even worse economics. In panic, world leaders have committed to wildly expensive but largely ineffective policies that hamper growth and crowd out more pressing investments in human capital, from immunization to education. *False Alarm* will convince you that everything you think about climate change is wrong -- and points the way toward making the world a vastly better, if slightly warmer, place for us all.

the fix percival everett: *The Tommyknockers* Stephen King, 2016-08-30 Master storyteller Stephen King presents the classic, terrifying #1 New York Times bestseller about a terrifying otherworldly discovery and the effects it has on a small town. "Late last night and the night before, Tommyknockers, Tommyknockers, knocking at the door..." On a beautiful June day, while walking deep in the woods on her property in Haven, Maine, Bobbi Anderson quite literally stumbles over her own destiny and that of the entire town. For the dull gray metal protrusion she discovers in the ground is part of a mysterious and massive metal object, one that may have been buried there for millennia. Bobbi can't help but become obsessed and try to dig it out...the consequences of which will affect and transmute every citizen of Haven, young and old. It means unleashing extraordinary powers beyond those of mere mortals—and certain death for any and all outsiders. An alien hell has

now invaded this small New England town...an aggressive and violent malignancy devoid of any mercy or sanity...

the fix percival everett: *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story* John Freeman, 2022-05-03 A selection of the best and most representative contemporary American short fiction from 1970 to 2020, including such authors as Ursula K. LeGuin, Toni Cade Bambara, Jhumpa Lahiri, Sandra Cisneros, and Ted Chiang, hand-selected by celebrated editor and anthologist John Freeman In the past fifty years, the American short story has changed dramatically. New voices, forms, and mixtures of styles have brought this unique genre a thrilling burst of energy. The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story celebrates this avalanche of talent. This rich anthology begins in 1970 and brings together a half century of powerful American short stories from all genres, including—for the first time in a collection of this scale—science fiction, horror, and fantasy, placing writers such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Ken Liu, and Stephen King next to some beloved greats of the literary form: Raymond Carver, Grace Paley, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Denis Johnson. Culling widely, John Freeman, the former editor of *Granta* and now editor of his own literary annual, brings forward some astonishing work to be regarded in a new light. Often overlooked tales by Dorothy Allison, Percival Everett, and Charles Johnson will recast the shape and texture of today's enlarging atmosphere of literary dialogue. Stories by Lauren Groff and Ted Chiang raise the specter of engagement in ecocidal times. Short tales by Tobias Wolff, George Saunders, and Lydia Davis rub shoulders with near novellas by Susan Sontag and Andrew Holleran. This book will be a treasure trove for readers, writers, and teachers alike.

the fix percival everett: *Zulus* Percival Everett, 1990 In Percival Everett's sixth book of dark, comic moralizing on the fate of the planet, its people, and the absurd Meaning of It All, readers are taken into the pitiable life of Alice Achitophel, a grotesquely obese government clerk, social outcast, and, apparently, the world's only fertile woman in the aftermath of worldwide nuclear holocaust. The ultimate question is humanity's survival. -- San Francisco Chronicle New American Writing Award

the fix percival everett: *Between the World and Me* Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015-07-14 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NAMED ONE OF TIME'S TEN BEST NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE DECADE • PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST • ONE OF OPRAH'S "BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH" • NOW AN HBO ORIGINAL SPECIAL EVENT Hailed by Toni Morrison as "required reading," a bold and personal literary exploration of America's racial history by "the most important essayist in a generation and a writer who changed the national political conversation about race" (*Rolling Stone*) NAMED ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOKS OF THE DECADE BY CNN • NAMED ONE OF PASTE'S BEST MEMOIRS OF THE DECADE • NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review • O: The Oprah Magazine • The Washington Post • People • Entertainment Weekly • Vogue • Los Angeles Times • San Francisco Chronicle • Chicago Tribune • New York • Newsday • Library Journal • Publishers Weekly In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way

forward.

the fix percival everett: *Ducks, Newburyport* Lucy Ellmann, 2019-08-20 WINNER OF THE 2019 GOLDSMITHS PRIZE • SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2019 BOOKER PRIZE • A NEW YORKER BEST BOOK OF 2019 • A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2019 • A TIME MUST-READ BOOK OF 2019 This book has its face pressed up against the pane of the present; its form mimics the way our minds move now toggling between tabs, between the needs of small children and aging parents, between news of ecological collapse and school shootings while somehow remembering to pay taxes and fold the laundry.—Parul Sehgal, New York Times Baking a multitude of tarts tatin for local restaurants, an Ohio housewife contemplates her four kids, husband, cats and chickens. Also, America's ignoble past, and her own regrets. She is surrounded by dead lakes, fake facts, Open Carry maniacs, and oodles of online advice about survivalism, veil toss duties, and how to be more like Jane Fonda. But what do you do when you keep stepping on your son's toy tractors, your life depends on stolen land and broken treaties, and nobody helps you when you get a flat tire on the interstate, not even the Abominable Snowman? When are you allowed to start swearing? With a torrent of consciousness and an intoxicating coziness, *Ducks, Newburyport* lays out a whole world for you to tramp around in, by turns frightening and funny. A heart-rending indictment of America's barbarity, and a lament for the way we are blundering into environmental disaster, this book is both heresy—and a revolution in the novel.

the fix percival everett: *The Fourth Child* Jessica Winter, 2021-03-09 “A beautifully observed and thrillingly honest novel about the dark corners of family life and the long, complicated search for understanding and grace.” —Jenny Offill, author of *Dept. of Speculation* and *Weather* “The Fourth Child is keen and beautiful and heartbreaking—an exploration of private guilt and unexpected obligation, of the intimate losses of power embedded in female adolescence, and of the fraught moments of glancing divinity that come with shouldering the burden of love.” —Jia Tolentino, New York Times bestselling author of *Trick Mirror* “A remarkable family saga . . . The Fourth Child is a balm—a reminder that it is possible for art to provide a nuanced exploration of life itself.” —Rumaan Alam, author of *Leave the World Behind* and *Rich and Pretty* The author of *Break in Case of Emergency* follows up her “extraordinary debut” (*The Guardian*) with a moving novel about motherhood and marriage, adolescence and bodily autonomy, family and love, religion and sexuality, and the delicate balance between the purity of faith and the messy reality of life. Book-smart, devoutly Catholic, and painfully unsure of herself, Jane becomes pregnant in high school; by her early twenties, she is raising three children in the suburbs of western New York State. In the fall of 1991, as her children are growing older and more independent, Jane is overcome by a spiritual and intellectual restlessness that leads her to become involved with a local pro-life group. Following the tenets of her beliefs, she also adopts a little girl from Eastern Europe. But Mirela is a difficult child. Deprived of a loving caregiver in infancy, she remains unattached to her new parents, no matter how much love Jane shows her. As Jane becomes consumed with chasing therapies that might help Mirela, her relationships with her family, especially her older daughter, Lauren, begin to fray. Feeling estranged from her mother and unsettled in her new high school, Lauren begins to discover the power of her own burgeoning creativity and sexuality—a journey that both echoes and departs from her mother's own adolescent experiences. But when Lauren is confronted with the limits of her youth and independence, Jane is thrown into an emotional crisis, forced to reconcile her principles and faith with her determination to keep her daughters safe. *The Fourth Child* is a piercing love story and a haunting portrayal of how love can shatter—or strengthen—our beliefs.

the fix percival everett: *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* N. K. Jemisin, 2010-02-25 After her mother's mysterious death, a young woman is summoned to the floating city of Sky in order to claim a royal inheritance she never knew existed in the first book in this award-winning fantasy trilogy from the NYT bestselling author of *The Fifth Season*. Yeine Darr is an outcast from the barbarian north. But when her mother dies under mysterious circumstances, she is summoned to the majestic city of Sky. There, to her shock, Yeine is named an heiress to the king. But the throne of the Hundred Thousand Kingdoms is not easily won, and Yeine is thrust into a vicious power struggle

with cousins she never knew she had. As she fights for her life, she draws ever closer to the secrets of her mother's death and her family's bloody history. With the fate of the world hanging in the balance, Yeine will learn how perilous it can be when love and hate -- and gods and mortals -- are bound inseparably together.

the fix percival everett: The Best of Me David Sedaris, 2020-11-03 What could be a more tempting Christmas gift than a compendium of David Sedaris's best stories, selected by the author himself? From a spectacular career spanning almost three decades, these stories have become modern classics and are now for the first time collected in one volume. For more than twenty-five years, David Sedaris has been carving out a unique literary space, virtually creating his own genre. A Sedaris story may seem confessional, but is also highly attuned to the world outside. It opens our eyes to what is at absurd and moving about our daily existence. And it is almost impossible to read without laughing. Now, for the first time collected in one volume, the author brings us his funniest and most memorable work. In these stories, Sedaris shops for rare taxidermy, hitchhikes with a lady quadriplegic, and spits a lozenge into a fellow traveler's lap. He drowns a mouse in a bucket, struggles to say 'give it to me' in five languages and hand-feeds a carnivorous bird. But if all you expect to find in Sedaris's work is the deft and sharply observed comedy for which he became renowned, you may be surprised to discover that his words bring more warmth than mockery, more fellow-feeling than derision. Nowhere is this clearer than in his writing about his loved ones. In these pages, Sedaris explores falling in love and staying together, recognizing his own aging not in the mirror but in the faces of his siblings, losing one parent and coming to terms - at long last - with the other. Taken together, the stories in *The Best of Me* reveal the wonder and delight Sedaris takes in the surprises life brings him. No experience, he sees, is quite as he expected - it's often harder, more fraught and certainly weirder - but sometimes it is also much richer and more wonderful. Full of joy, generosity, and the incisive humor that has led David Sedaris to be called 'the funniest man alive' (Time Out New York), *The Best of Me* spans a career spent watching and learning and laughing - quite often at himself - and invites readers deep into the world of one of the most brilliant and original writers of our time.

the fix percival everett: One Day David Nicholls, 2010-06-15 NOW A NETFLIX SERIES • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • TWO PEOPLE. ONE DAY. TWENTY YEARS. • What starts as a fleeting connection between two strangers soon becomes a deep bond that spans decades. • [An] instant classic. . . . One of the most ...emotionally riveting love stories you'll ever encounter. —People It's 1988 and Dexter Mayhew and Emma Morley have only just met. But after only one day together, they cannot stop thinking about one another. Over twenty years, snapshots of that relationship are revealed on the same day—July 15th—of each year. They face squabbles and fights, hopes and missed opportunities, laughter and tears. Dex and Em must come to grips with the nature of love and life itself. As the years go by, the true meaning of this one crucial day is revealed. [A] surprisingly deep romance...so thoroughly satisfying. —Entertainment Weekly

the fix percival everett: One Day I Will Write About This Place Binyavanga Wainaina, 2011-07-19 *A New York Times Notable Book* *A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice* *A Publishers Weekly Top Ten Book of the Year* Binyavanga Wainaina tumbled through his middle-class Kenyan childhood out of kilter with the world around him. This world came to him as a chaos of loud and colorful sounds: the hair dryers at his mother's beauty parlor, black mamba bicycle bells, mechanics in Nairobi, the music of Michael Jackson—all punctuated by the infectious laughter of his brother and sister, Jimmy and Ciru. He could fall in with their patterns, but it would take him a while to carve out his own. In this vivid and compelling debut memoir, Wainaina takes us through his school days, his mother's religious period, his failed attempt to study in South Africa as a computer programmer, a moving family reunion in Uganda, and his travels around Kenya. The landscape in front of him always claims his main attention, but he also evokes the shifting political scene that unsettles his views on family, tribe, and nationhood. Throughout, reading is his refuge and his solace. And when, in 2002, a writing prize comes through, the door is opened for him to pursue the career that perhaps had been beckoning all along. A series of fascinating international

reporting assignments follow. Finally he circles back to a Kenya in the throes of postelection violence and finds he is not the only one questioning the old certainties. Resolutely avoiding stereotype and cliché, Wainaina paints every scene in *One Day I Will Write About This Place* with a highly distinctive and hugely memorable brush.

the fix percival everett: Hotel Silence Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, 2018-02-02 “[A] novel of mid-life redemption . . . Ólafsdóttir writes about a good man in crisis with a raw beauty, as he gradually awakens to life and love.” —Financial Times Winner of the Icelandic Literary Prize, *Hotel Silence* is a delightful and heartwarming new novel from Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, a writer who “upends expectations” (The New York Times). Jónas Ebeneser is a handy DIY kind of man with a compulsion to fix things, but he can’t seem to fix his own life. On the cusp of turning fifty, divorced, adrift, he’s recently discovered he is not the biological father of his daughter, Gudrun Waterlily, and he has sunk into an existential crisis, losing all will to live. As he visits his senile mother in a nursing home, he secretly muses on how, when, and where to put himself out of his misery. To prevent his only daughter from discovering his body, Jónas decides it’s best to die abroad. Armed with little more than his toolbox and a change of clothes, he flies to an unnamed country where the fumes of war still hover in the air. He books a room at the sparsely occupied *Hotel Silence*, in a small town riddled with landmines and the aftershocks of violence, and there he comes to understand the depths of other people’s scars while beginning to see his wounds in a new light. A celebration of life’s infinite possibilities, of transformations and second chances, *Hotel Silence* is a rousing story of a man, a community, and a path toward regeneration from the depths of despair.

the fix percival everett: Make Something Up Chuck Palahniuk, 2015-05-26 Twenty one stories and one novella from Chuck Palahniuk, literature's favorite transgressive author, *Make Something Up* is a compilation that disturbs and delights in equal measure. In *Expedition*, fans will be thrilled to find to see a side of Tyler Durden never seen before in a precursor story to *Fight Club*. And in other stories, the absurdity of both life and death are on full display; in *Zombies*, the best and brightest of a high school prep school become tragically addicted to the latest drug craze: electric shocks from cardiac defibrillators. In *Knock, Knock*, a son hopes to tell one last off-color joke to a father in his final moments, while in *Tunnel of Love*, a massage therapist runs the curious practice of providing ‘relief’ to dying clients. Funny, caustic, bizarre, poignant; these stories represent everything readers have come

the fix percival everett: American Desert Percival Everett, 2004 Theodore Street is driving toward the ocean, where he plans to walk into the waves and drown himself, but on his way there is killed in a head-on collision. Three days later, at his funeral, he sits up in his coffin, apparently resurrected. The mourners are horrified, and the story makes headlines around the world.

the fix percival everett: Our Unfinished March Eric Holder, Sam Koppelman, 2023-06-06 A brutal, bloody, and at times hopeful history of the vote; a primer on the opponents fighting to take it away; and a playbook for how we can save our democracy before it’s too late—from the former U.S. Attorney General on the front lines of this fight Voting is our most important right as Americans—“the right that protects all the others,” as Lyndon Johnson famously said when he signed the Voting Rights Act—but it’s also the one most violently contested throughout U.S. history. Since the gutting of the act in the landmark *Shelby County v. Holder* case in 2013, many states have passed laws restricting the vote. After the 2020 election, President Trump’s effort to overturn the vote has evolved into a slow-motion coup, with many Republicans launching an all-out assault on our democracy. The vote seems to be in unprecedented peril. But the peril is not at all unprecedented. America is a fragile democracy, Eric Holder argues, whose citizens have only had unfettered access to the ballot since the 1960s. He takes readers through three dramatic stories of how the vote was won: first by white men, through violence and insurrection; then by white women, through protests and mass imprisonments; and finally by African Americans, in the face of lynchings and terrorism. Next, he dives into how the vote has been stripped away since *Shelby*—a case in which Holder was one of the parties. He ends with visionary chapters on how we can reverse this tide of voter suppression and become a true democracy where every voice is heard and every vote is counted.

Full of surprising history, intensive analysis, and actionable plans for the future, this is a powerful primer on our most urgent political struggle from one of the country's leading advocates.

the fix percival everett: How Much of These Hills Is Gold C Pam Zhang, 2020-04-07 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR A WASHINGTON POST NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR ONE OF NPR'S BEST BOOKS OF 2020 LONGLISTED FOR THE 2020 BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST FOR THE 2020 CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE WINNER OF THE ROSENTHAL FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD, FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS A NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION 5 UNDER 35 HONOREE NATIONAL BESTSELLER "Belongs on a shelf all of its own." —NPR "Outstanding." —The Washington Post "Revolutionary . . . A visionary addition to American literature." —Star Tribune An electric debut novel set against the twilight of the American gold rush, two siblings are on the run in an unforgiving landscape—trying not just to survive but to find a home. Ba dies in the night; Ma is already gone. Newly orphaned children of immigrants, Lucy and Sam are suddenly alone in a land that refutes their existence. Fleeing the threats of their western mining town, they set off to bury their father in the only way that will set them free from their past. Along the way, they encounter giant buffalo bones, tiger paw prints, and the specters of a ravaged landscape as well as family secrets, sibling rivalry, and glimpses of a different kind of future. Both epic and intimate, blending Chinese symbolism and reimagined history with fiercely original language and storytelling, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold* is a haunting adventure story, an unforgettable sibling story, and the announcement of a stunning new voice in literature. On a broad level, it explores race in an expanding country and the question of where immigrants are allowed to belong. But page by page, it's about the memories that bind and divide families, and the yearning for home.

the fix percival everett: Foregone Russell Banks, 2021-03-02 The inspiration for the Major Motion Picture *O, Canada* directed by Paul Schrader and starring Richard Gere, Uma Thurman, Jacob Elordi, and Michael Imperioli. A searing novel about memory, abandonment, and betrayal from the acclaimed and bestselling Russell Banks During a career stretching almost half a century, Russell Banks has published an extraordinary collection of brave, morally imperative novels. . . . In this complex and powerful novel, we come face to face with the excruciating allure of redemption. —Washington Post At the center of *Foregone* is famed Canadian American leftist documentary filmmaker Leonard Fife, one of sixty thousand draft evaders and deserters who fled to Canada to avoid serving in Vietnam. Fife, now in his late seventies, is dying of cancer in Montreal and has agreed to a final interview in which he is determined to bare all his secrets at last, to demythologize his mythologized life. The interview is filmed by his acolyte and ex-star student, Malcolm MacLeod, in the presence of Fife's wife and alongside Malcolm's producer, cinematographer, and sound technician, all of whom have long admired Fife but who must now absorb the meaning of his astonishing, dark confession. Imaginatively structured around Fife's secret memories and alternating between the experiences of the characters who are filming his confession, the novel challenges our assumptions and understanding about a significant lost chapter in American history and the nature of memory itself. Russell Banks gives us a daring and resonant work about the scope of one man's mysterious life, revealed through the fragments of his recovered past.

the fix percival everett: Man of My Time Dalia Sofer, 2020-04-14 One of The New York Times's 100 Notable Books of 2020. A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. Finely wrought, a master class in the layering of time and contradiction that gives us a deeply imagined, and deeply human, soul. --Rebecca Makkai, The New York Times Book Review From the bestselling author of *The Septembers of Shiraz*, the story of an Iranian man reckoning with his capacity for love and evil Set in Iran and New York City, *Man of My Time* tells the story of Hamid Mozaffarian, who is as alienated from himself as he is from the world around him. After decades of ambivalent work as an interrogator with the Iranian regime, Hamid travels on a diplomatic mission to New York, where he encounters his estranged family and retrieves the ashes of his father, whose dying wish was to be buried in Iran. Tucked in his pocket throughout the trip, the ashes propel him into a first-person

excavation—full of mordant wit and bitter memory—of a lifetime of betrayal, and prompt him to trace his own evolution from a perceptive boy in love with marbles to a man who, on seeing his own reflection, is startled to encounter someone he no longer recognizes. As he reconnects with his brother and others living in exile, Hamid is forced to reckon with his past, with the insidious nature of violence, and with his entrenchment in a system that for decades ensnared him. Politically complex and emotionally compelling, *Man of My Time* explores variations of loss—of people, places, ideals, time, and self. This is a novel not only about family and memory but about the interdependence of captor and captive, of citizen and country, of an individual and his or her heritage. With sensitivity and strength, Dalia Sofer conjures the interior lives of the “generation that had borne and inflicted what could not be undone.”

the fix percival everett: *The Water Cure* Percival Everett, 2011-09-13 I am guilty not because of my actions, to which I freely admit, but for my accession, admission, confession that I executed these actions with not only deliberation and premeditation but with zeal and paroxysm and purpose . . . The true answer to your question is shorter than the lie. Did you? I did. This is a confession of a victim turned villain. When Ishmael Kidder's eleven-year-old daughter is brutally murdered, it stands to reason that he must take revenge by any means necessary. The punishment is carried out without guilt, and with the usual equipment—duct tape, rope, and superglue. But the tools of psychological torture prove to be the most devastating of all. Percival Everett's most lacerating indictment to date, *The Water Cure* follows the gruesome reasoning and execution of revenge in a society that has lost a common moral ground, where rules are meaningless. A master storyteller, Everett draws upon disparate elements of Western philosophy, language theory, and military intelligence reports to create a terrifying story of loss, anger, and helplessness in our modern world. This is a timely and important novel that confronts the dark legacy of the Bush years and the state of America today.

the fix percival everett: *I Am No One* Patrick Flanery, 2016-07-05 A tense, mesmerizing novel about memory, privacy, fear, and what happens when our past catches up with us. After a decade living in England, Jeremy O'Keefe returns to New York, where he has been hired as a professor of German history at New York University. Though comfortable in his new life, and happy to be near his daughter once again, Jeremy continues to feel the quiet pangs of loneliness. Walking through the city at night, it's as though he could disappear and no one would even notice. But soon, Jeremy's life begins taking strange turns: boxes containing records of his online activity are delivered to his apartment, a young man seems to be following him, and his elderly mother receives anonymous phone calls slandering her son. Why, he wonders, would anyone want to watch him so closely, and, even more upsetting, why would they alert him to the fact that he was being watched? As Jeremy takes stock of the entanglements that marked his years abroad, he wonders if he has unwittingly committed a crime so serious as to make him an enemy of the state. Moving towards a shattering reassessment of what it means to be free in a time of ever more intrusive surveillance, Jeremy is forced to ask himself whether he is no one, as he believes, or a traitor not just to his country but to everyone around him. — Included in NPR's Best of 2016 Book Concierge

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