

a confederacy of dunces

a confederacy of dunces is a celebrated comic novel written by John Kennedy Toole, renowned for its vibrant depiction of New Orleans, its satirical exploration of society, and its unforgettable protagonist, Ignatius J. Reilly. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the novel, examining its plot, characters, major themes, historical context, and enduring legacy within American literature. Readers will discover detailed insights into the book's creation, its posthumous publication, and the critical acclaim it has garnered over the years. By delving into stylistic elements, cultural impact, and why "a confederacy of dunces" continues to captivate audiences worldwide, this guide aims to enhance understanding and appreciation of Toole's masterpiece. Whether you are a first-time reader or a returning fan, this article offers a thorough exploration and analysis of the novel's significance.

- Overview and Plot Summary of "A Confederacy of Dunces"
- Main Characters and Character Analysis
- Major Themes and Literary Devices
- Historical and Cultural Context
- Critical Reception and Legacy
- Stylistic Elements and Humor
- Influence on Modern Literature

Overview and Plot Summary of "A Confederacy of Dunces"

"A Confederacy of Dunces" is a satirical novel set in the colorful and bustling city of New Orleans during the 1960s. The story centers around Ignatius J. Reilly, an eccentric, highly educated, and unemployed man living with his mother, Irene. Ignatius's worldview, shaped by medieval philosophy and disdain for modern society, drives the plot as he navigates a series of misadventures following an accident involving his mother's car. The novel unfolds through Ignatius's interactions with a diverse cast of characters and his involvement with unique local businesses, such as the Night of Joy bar and Levy Pants factory. The narrative is rich in comedic episodes and social commentary, providing a vivid portrait of the city's cultural tapestry.

Setting and Atmosphere

The city of New Orleans serves as more than just a backdrop; it becomes a character in its own right. Toole's depiction of the French Quarter, its eccentric denizens, and the blend of old-world

charm with modern chaos all contribute to the novel's immersive atmosphere. The environment amplifies the absurdity of the protagonist's journey and reflects the social dynamics at play.

Plot Structure

The novel's plot is episodic, revolving around Ignatius's efforts to find employment, his confrontations with authority, and his attempts to impose his philosophical beliefs on those around him. Each subplot, whether at Levy Pants or Night of Joy, intertwines to reveal the complexity of Ignatius's character and the city itself. The resolution brings together various narrative threads, highlighting irony and satire.

Main Characters and Character Analysis

"A Confederacy of Dunces" features a memorable ensemble of characters, each contributing to the novel's humor and depth. Their interactions with Ignatius J. Reilly underscore the book's satirical edge and provide insight into the social context of New Orleans.

Ignatius J. Reilly

Ignatius is the anti-hero of the story, distinguished by his intellectual arrogance, physical presence, and outlandish behavior. He is both a comedic figure and a symbol of resistance to modernity. His inflated sense of self, grandiose plans, and disdain for popular culture make him one of literature's most distinctive protagonists.

Irene Reilly

Ignatius's mother, Irene, is a pivotal character who propels the action with her concerns for her son's future and her interactions with the local community. Her well-intentioned meddling and occasional exasperation provide a counterpoint to Ignatius's eccentricities.

Supporting Cast

- Myrna Minkoff: Ignatius's former classmate and ideological adversary, often challenging his views through correspondence.
- Mr. Levy: The owner of Levy Pants, embodying the struggles of small business and family dynamics.
- Lana Lee: Proprietor of Night of Joy bar, involved in various schemes that intersect with Ignatius's misadventures.
- Officer Mancuso: A police officer striving for professional validation while contending with the city's oddities.

Major Themes and Literary Devices

The success of “A Confederacy of Dunces” lies in its exploration of universal themes and inventive literary techniques. The novel’s satirical tone, philosophical undertones, and cultural observations resonate throughout the narrative.

Satire and Social Critique

Toole uses satire to lampoon social institutions, hypocrisy, and the absurdity of human behavior. The book critiques the bureaucracy, commercialism, and changing values of mid-20th-century America. Ignatius’s constant opposition to “progress” is both a source of comedy and reflection.

Philosophy and Intellectualism

Ignatius’s obsession with medieval thought and criticism of modernity serve as a vehicle for philosophical inquiry. The novel raises questions about intellectual elitism and the disconnect between theory and reality.

Alienation and Individuality

Many characters, especially Ignatius, experience alienation from society. Their search for purpose and identity is a recurring theme, exploring the tension between individuality and societal expectations.

Literary Devices

- Irony: The narrative is rife with situational and verbal irony, adding depth to the humor.
- Parody: The novel parodies various genres, including detective stories and philosophical treatises.
- Exaggeration: Toole exaggerates characters’ traits and situations to amplify comedic effect.

Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the historical and cultural background of “A Confederacy of Dunces” enhances its significance. The setting in 1960s New Orleans reflects a period of social transition, blending tradition with emerging modern influences.

New Orleans as a Cultural Microcosm

The city's multicultural heritage, vibrant street life, and unique traditions are central to the novel's atmosphere. The French Quarter, jazz music, and local dialects create an authentic sense of place that shapes character interactions and plot events.

Posthumous Publication

John Kennedy Toole wrote the novel in the 1960s but struggled to find a publisher. After Toole's tragic death in 1969, his mother championed the manuscript, eventually persuading author Walker Percy to support its publication. The book was released in 1980, achieving critical and commercial success.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Upon publication, "A Confederacy of Dunces" quickly rose to prominence, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981. Its blend of humor, literary craftsmanship, and poignant social commentary secured its status as a modern classic.

Critical Praise

Critics have lauded the novel's originality, wit, and insight into American society. The character of Ignatius J. Reilly is frequently cited as one of literature's great comic creations, while Toole's narrative style is praised for its inventiveness and clarity.

Long-Term Influence

- The book has inspired scholarly analysis across disciplines, including literature, philosophy, and cultural studies.
- "A Confederacy of Dunces" remains a staple on academic reading lists and continues to attract new generations of readers.
- Its influence extends to adaptations in theater and ongoing discussions about New Orleans's role in American literature.

Stylistic Elements and Humor in "A Confederacy of Dunces"

Toole's writing is characterized by sharp dialogue, vibrant descriptions, and comedic timing. The humor arises from exaggerated personalities, absurd situations, and clever wordplay, making the

narrative both accessible and intellectually stimulating.

Dialogue and Dialect

Authentic regional dialects and distinct speech patterns contribute to character development and realism. The interplay between characters often hinges on verbal wit, miscommunication, and cultural references unique to New Orleans.

Physical Comedy and Absurdity

Ignatius's physical presence and mannerisms are a source of slapstick humor, as are the increasingly convoluted scenarios in which he finds himself. The absurdity of everyday life is a recurring motif, highlighting the unpredictability of human experience.

Influence on Modern Literature

"A Confederacy of Dunces" has had a significant impact on contemporary literature, inspiring authors to blend humor, social critique, and regionalism. Its success paved the way for greater diversity in American literary voices and reinforced the importance of satire as a tool for cultural reflection.

Legacy in American Fiction

The novel's enduring popularity is reflected in its continued relevance to discussions about identity, community, and the role of the outsider. Its unconventional structure and fusion of genres have influenced a wide range of writers and storytellers.

Adaptations and Cultural References

- Attempts to adapt the novel for film and theater have highlighted its complexity and appeal.
- References to Ignatius J. Reilly and the book itself appear in popular culture, underscoring its place in the American literary canon.

Questions and Answers about "A Confederacy of Dunces"

Q: Who is the main character in “A Confederacy of Dunces”?

A: The main character is Ignatius J. Reilly, an eccentric, educated, and unemployed man living in New Orleans.

Q: What is the setting of the novel?

A: The story is set in New Orleans, primarily in the French Quarter, during the 1960s.

Q: What themes are explored in “A Confederacy of Dunces”?

A: Major themes include satire of society, alienation, philosophy and intellectualism, individuality, and social critique.

Q: Why is “A Confederacy of Dunces” considered a classic?

A: Its unique blend of humor, memorable characters, rich depiction of New Orleans, and insightful social commentary has earned it classic status.

Q: How was the novel published?

A: The novel was published posthumously in 1980 after John Kennedy Toole’s mother submitted the manuscript for consideration, leading to its eventual release.

Q: What award did “A Confederacy of Dunces” win?

A: It won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981.

Q: Are there adaptations of the novel?

A: There have been numerous attempts to adapt the novel for film and theater, although none have achieved the success of the original book.

Q: Who are some important supporting characters?

A: Key supporting characters include Irene Reilly, Myrna Minkoff, Mr. Levy, Lana Lee, and Officer Mancuso.

Q: What literary devices are prominent in the novel?

A: Irony, parody, exaggeration, and satire are prominent literary devices used throughout the book.

Q: How does the novel depict New Orleans?

A: It presents New Orleans as a vibrant, diverse, and sometimes chaotic city, central to the atmosphere and narrative of the novel.

[A Confederacy Of Dunces](#)

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A Confederacy of Dunces: A Hilarious Dive into Ignatius J. Reilly's Absurd World

Are you ready for a literary rollercoaster ride filled with hilarious absurdity, unforgettable characters, and a protagonist who's simultaneously infuriating and endearing? Then buckle up, because we're diving headfirst into John Kennedy Toole's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, *A Confederacy of Dunces*. This blog post will explore the novel's enduring appeal, analyze its unforgettable characters, dissect its satirical wit, and ultimately, help you understand why this comedic masterpiece continues to resonate with readers decades after its publication.

Ignatius J. Reilly: The Anti-Hero We Can't Help But Love (and Hate)

At the heart of *A Confederacy of Dunces* lies Ignatius J. Reilly, a self-proclaimed intellectual and a colossal slob. He's a man of immense girth and even more immense ego, trapped in a cycle of self-pity and outrageous pronouncements. His disdain for the modern world, his unwavering belief in his own superiority, and his general incompetence make him a truly captivating character. He's not a hero in the traditional sense; he's a flawed, frustrating, and utterly hilarious anti-hero who embodies the absurdity of human existence. We simultaneously cringe at his actions and are secretly amused by his outrageous pronouncements.

Ignatius's Epic Battles with Modernity:

Ignatius's struggles against the mundane realities of 1960s New Orleans are a source of constant comedic tension. His battles with employment, his strained relationships with his mother and the people around him, and his constant philosophical pronouncements against the "degenerate" aspects of modern life provide a steady stream of laughter. He's a fish out of water, constantly battling against a world he considers beneath him, leading to some of the book's most memorable and

hilarious scenes.

The Vibrant Cast of Supporting Characters: A Carnival of Quirks

Toole's genius lies not just in Ignatius, but in the vibrant supporting cast he created. Each character is a caricature, a wonderfully drawn representation of human folly, and they perfectly complement Ignatius's eccentricities. From the eternally exasperated Myrna Minkoff to the flamboyant and opportunistic Claude Robichaux, every character feels authentically New Orleanian, embodying the city's unique blend of charm, chaos, and absurdity.

A Cast of Supporting Characters That Steal the Show:

Characters like the hot-headed, easily manipulated Darlene, the neurotic and easily flustered Mr. Gonzales, and the mysterious and enigmatic Reverend, each contribute to the book's overall comedic effect. These characters are not merely background players; they are integral to Ignatius's comedic downfall and are often just as hilariously flawed as he is. Their interactions with Ignatius create some of the most memorable and uproarious scenes in the entire novel.

Satire, Social Commentary, and the Enduring Relevance of A Confederacy of Dunces

While undeniably hilarious, *A Confederacy of Dunces* also serves as a biting satire of 1960s American society. Toole cleverly uses Ignatius's outlandish pronouncements and actions to comment on consumerism, societal expectations, and the inherent absurdity of the human condition. This satirical element is what elevates the novel beyond mere slapstick comedy, granting it a depth and resonance that continues to captivate readers today.

A Timeless Commentary on Society:

The novel's commentary on class, race, and the changing social landscape of the time remains surprisingly relevant even decades later. Toole's masterful use of satire allows him to critique society's flaws without resorting to preachiness or didacticism. This subtle approach makes the social commentary more effective and ensures the book's lasting appeal.

The Lasting Legacy of a Literary Masterpiece

A Confederacy of Dunces is more than just a funny book; it's a literary masterpiece that has earned

its place in the canon of American literature. Its enduring popularity is a testament to Toole's masterful storytelling, his ability to create unforgettable characters, and his keen eye for the absurdities of everyday life. The novel's blend of humor, satire, and insightful social commentary continues to resonate with readers, making it a book that deserves to be read, reread, and cherished.

Conclusion:

John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces* remains a timeless classic, a testament to the power of comedic storytelling and insightful social commentary. Its enduring popularity comes from the unforgettable characters, the hilarious situations, and the underlying satire that still holds relevance today. If you haven't yet experienced the absurdity and brilliance of Ignatius J. Reilly and his world, do yourself a favor and pick up this Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece.

FAQs:

1. Is *A Confederacy of Dunces* a difficult read? While the language is rich and the narrative style unique, the book's humor makes it an engaging and accessible read for most.
2. Is the book suitable for all ages? Due to some mature themes and language, it's more appropriate for older teens and adults.
3. What makes *A Confederacy of Dunces* so funny? The humor comes from the combination of Ignatius's outrageous personality, the contrasting characters around him, and the satirical observations of society.
4. What is the significance of the title, "*A Confederacy of Dunces*"? The title itself refers to the collective incompetence and absurdity of the characters, highlighting the chaotic nature of the novel's world.
5. Where can I find a copy of *A Confederacy of Dunces*? It's widely available at bookstores, libraries, and online retailers.

a confederacy of dunces: A Confederacy of Dunces John Kennedy Toole, 2007-12-01 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize "A masterwork . . . the novel astonishes with its inventiveness . . . it is nothing less than a grand comic fugue."—The New York Times Book Review *A Confederacy of Dunces* is an American comic masterpiece. John Kennedy Toole's hero, one Ignatius J. Reilly, is huge, obese, fractious, fastidious, a latter-day Gargantua, a Don Quixote of the French Quarter. His story bursts with wholly original characters, denizens of New Orleans' lower depths, incredibly true-to-life dialogue, and the zaniest series of high and low comic adventures (Henry Kisor, Chicago Sun-Times).

a confederacy of dunces: A Confederacy of Dunces Cookbook Cynthia LeJeune Nobles, 2015-10-12 In John Kennedy Toole's iconic novel, Ignatius J. Reilly is never short of opinions about food or far away from his next bite. Whether issuing gibes such as canned food is a perversion, or taking a break from his literary ambitions with an occasional cheese dip, this lover of Lucky Dogs, café au lait, and wine cakes navigates 1960s New Orleans focused on gastronomical pursuits. For the novel's millions of fans, Cynthia LeJeune Nobles's *A Confederacy of Dunces Cookbook* offers recipes inspired by the delightfully commonplace and always delicious fare of Ignatius and his cohorts. Through an informative narrative and almost 200 recipes, Nobles explores the intersection

of food, history, and culture found in the Pulitzer Prize--winning novel, opening up a new avenue into New Orleans's rich culinary traditions. Dishes inspired by Ignatius's favorites -- macaroons and toothsome steak -- as well as recipes based on supporting characters -- Officer Mancuso's Pork and Beans and Dr. Talc's Bloody Marys -- complement a wealth of fascinating detail about the epicurean side of the novel's memorable settings. A guide to the D. H. Holmes Department Store's legendary Chicken Salad, the likely offerings of the fictitious German's Bakery, and an in-depth interview with the general manager of Lucky Dogs round out this delightful cookbook. A lighthearted yet impeccably researched look at the food of the 1960s, *A Confederacy of Dunces* Cookbook reaffirms the singularity and timelessness of both New Orleans cuisine and Toole's comic tour de force.

a confederacy of dunces: *Ken and Thelma* Fletcher, Joel, 2005-03-31 Ken has a real gift for mimicry and a refined sense of the absurd . . . the English faculty . . . both fear and court Ken because of his biting comic talent. --from Joel L. Fletcher's journal John Kennedy Toole's first published novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, which Walker Percy called a gargantuan tumultuous human tragi-comedy, became a publishing phenomenon, with almost two million copies in print worldwide in eighteen languages. The book's outrageous protagonist, Ignatius Reilly, is an icon of contemporary American fiction. Now Ken and Thelma sheds new light on the tragic life story of the author, known as 'Ken' to his friends. Drawing on his own journals and personal letters, Joel L. Fletcher recreates his friendship with Ken in the early 1960s and his long association with Ken's indomitable mother, Thelma Ducoing Toole, after the book's publication. *Ken and Thelma* features personal photographs, many never before published.

a confederacy of dunces: The Neon Bible John Kennedy Toole, 2007-12-01 "A moving evocation of the small-town South in the mid-twentieth century" that "belongs on the shelf with the works of Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, and Eudora Welty" (Orlando Sentinel). John Kennedy Toole—who won a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for his best-selling comic masterpiece *A Confederacy of Dunces*—wrote *The Neon Bible* for a literary contest at the age of sixteen. The manuscript languished in a drawer and became the subject of a legal battle among Toole's heirs. It was only in 1989, thirty-five years after it was written and twenty years after Toole's suicide at thirty-one, that this amazingly accomplished and evocative novel was freed for publication. "Heartfelt emotion, communicated in clean direct prose . . . a remarkable achievement." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* "John Kennedy Toole's tender, nostalgic side is as brilliantly effective as his corrosive satire. If you liked *To Kill A Mockingbird* you will love *The Neon Bible*." —Florence King "Shockingly mature. . . . Even at sixteen, Toole knew that the way to write about complex emotions is to express them simply." —Kerry Luft, *Chicago Tribune*

a confederacy of dunces: Theology and Geometry Leslie Marsh, 2020-01-29 This collection, the first of its kind, brings together specially commissioned academic essays to mark fifty years since the death of John Kennedy Toole.

a confederacy of dunces: A Confederacy of Dunces John Kennedy Toole, 2011 'This city is famous for its gamblers, prostitutes, exhibitionists, anti-Christ's, alcoholics, sodomites, drug addicts, fetishists, onanists, pornographers, frauds, jades, litterbugs, and lesbians . . . don't make the mistake of bothering me.' Ignatius J. Reilly: fat, flatulent, eloquent and almost unemployable. By the standards of ordinary folk he is pretty much unhinged, too. But is he bothered by this? No. For this misanthropic crusader against an America fallen into vice and ignorance has a mission: to rescue a naked female philosopher in distress. And he has a pirate costume and hot-dog cart to do it with . . . 'I succumbed, stunned and seduced, page after page, vocal with delight. A masterwork of comedy' *The New York Times*

a confederacy of dunces: A Cornucopia of Dunderheads John Kennedy Toole, 2015-12-01 WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO IGNATIUS J. REILLY? In this parody of *A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES* by John Kennedy Toole, John Kennedy Toole Jr. plunges Ignatius J. Reilly into a New York City winter wonderland, where our Falstaffian hero inadvertently becomes vice president of the Charlie Chan Chinese Fortune Cookie Company, and where he finds a recently unearthed slip of paper that contains an occult secret for overthrowing the governments of the world (in a most

unusual way, of course). Ignatius's parodic adventures would not be complete without his nemesis-friend, Myrna Minkoff. Add to the mix her parents, Mr. Minkoff and Mrs. Minkoff, two inept government agents (is there a redundancy here?), Ignatius's mother, his mother's fiancée, a virago or two, John Kennedy Toole, Ed Sullivan, and Myrna's concupiscent grandmother, Grandmother Horowitz, and you have the ingredients for a parody unlike any other ever written. With a foreword by Franz-Heinrich Katecki.

a confederacy of dunces: Ignatius Rising René Pol Nevils, Deborah George Hardy, 2005-04-01 The phenomenal success of John Kennedy Toole's comic masterpiece, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, is now legendary, a story that has long beckoned a deeper exploration into the life, imagination, and demise of the writer responsible for one of American literature's most memorable characters -- Ignatius J. Reilly. In *Ignatius Rising*, René Pol Nevils and Deborah George Hardy present the first biography of Toole, drawing upon scores of interviews with contemporaries of the writer and acquaintances of his influencing mother, Thelma, as well as unpublished letters, documents, and photographs. Frank yet sympathetic, *Ignatius Rising* deftly describes a life that is dark, tragic, bizarre, and amazing -- but luminous with the gift of laughter, a life not unlike those of Toole's beloved characters, now loved the world over.

a confederacy of dunces: The Scandal of Holiness Jessica Hooten Wilson, 2022-03-29 How do we become better people? Initiatives such as New Year's resolutions, vision boards, thirty-day plans, and self-help books often fail to compel us to live differently. We settle for small goals--frugal spending, less yelling at the kids, more time at the gym--but we are called to something far greater. We are created to be holy. Award-winning author Jessica Hooten Wilson explains that learning to hear the call of holiness requires cultivating a new imagination--one rooted in the act of reading. Learning to read with eyes attuned to the saints who populate great works of literature moves us toward holiness, where God opens up a way of living that extends far beyond what we can conjure for ourselves. Literature has the power to show us what a holy life looks like, and these depictions often scandalize even as they shape our imagination. As such, careful reading becomes a sort of countercultural spiritual discipline. The book includes devotionals, prayers, wisdom from the saints, and more to help individuals and groups cultivate a saintly imagination. Foreword by Lauren F. Winner.

a confederacy of dunces: Daughter of the Salt King A. S. Thornton, 2021-02-02 A 2021 Foreword INDIES Award Winner in Romance and Finalist in Fantasy A 2022 Benjamin Franklin Award Runner-Up in Best New Voice: Fiction "The heat and romance of the desert, the push and the pull of Emel's desperation, and the magic and humanity of a caustic jinni make *Daughter of the Salt King* an irresistible ride." —Amy Harmon, New York Times bestselling author "This riveting debut novel will leave readers eagerly awaiting Thornton's future works." —Booklist A girl of the desert and a jinni born long ago by the sea, both enslaved to the Salt King—but with this capricious magic, only one can be set free. As a daughter of the Salt King, Emel ought to be among the most powerful women in the desert. Instead, she and her sisters have less freedom than even her father's slaves . . . for the Salt King uses his own daughters to seduce visiting noblemen into becoming powerful allies by marriage. Escape from her father's court seems impossible, and Emel dreams of a life where she can choose her fate. When members of a secret rebellion attack, Emel stumbles upon an alluring escape route: her father's best-kept secret—a wish-granting jinni, Saalim. But in the land of the Salt King, wishes are never what they seem. Saalim's magic is volatile. Emel could lose everything with a wish for her freedom as the rebellion intensifies around her. She soon finds herself playing a dangerous game that pits dreams against responsibility and love against the promise of freedom. As she finds herself drawn to the jinni for more than his magic, captivated by both him and the world he shows her outside her desert village, she has to decide if freedom is worth the loss of her family, her home and Saalim, the only man she's ever loved. For readers who enjoy epic desert fantasies and forbidden romance like *The Forbidden Wish* by Jessica Khoury, *The Wrath & the Dawn* by Renée Ahdieh, and *Empire of Sand* by Tasha Suri.

a confederacy of dunces: Jabberwocky and Other Nonsense Lewis Carroll, 2012-09-06 The

first collected and annotated edition of Carroll's brilliant, witty poems, edited by Gillian Beer. 'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves / Did gyre and gimble in the wabe...' wrote Lewis Carroll in his wonderfully playful poem of nonsense verse, 'Jabberwocky'. This new edition collects together the marvellous range of Carroll's poetry, including nonsense verse, parodies, burlesques, and more. Alongside the title piece are such enduringly wonderful pieces as 'The Walrus and the Carpenter', 'The Mock Turtle's Song', 'Father William' and many more. This edition also includes notes, a chronology and an introduction by Gillian Beer that discusses Carroll's love of puzzles and wordplay and the relationship of his poetry with the Alice books 'Opening at random Gillian Beer's new edition of Lewis Carroll's poems, *Jabberwocky and Other Nonsense*, guarantees a pleasurable experience - not all of it nonsensical' - *Times Literary Supplement* Lewis Carroll was the pen-name of the Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Born in 1832, he was educated at Rugby School and Christ Church, Oxford, where he was appointed lecturer in mathematics in 1855, and where he spent the rest of his life. In 1861 he took deacon's orders, but shyness and a stammer prevented him from seeking the priesthood. His most famous works, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass* (1872), were originally written for Alice Liddell, the daughter of the Dean of his college. Charles Dodgson died of bronchitis in 1898. Gillian Beer is King Edward VII Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Cambridge and past President of Clare Hall College. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Literature. Among her works are *Darwin's Plots* (1983; third edition, 2009), *George Eliot* (1986), *Arguing with the Past: Essays in Narrative from Woolf to Sidney* (1989), *Open Fields: Science in Cultural Encounter* (1996) and *Virginia Woolf: The Common Ground* (1996).

a confederacy of dunces: The Roxy Letters Mary Pauline Lowry, 2020-04-07 Meet Roxy. For fans of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* and *Bridget Jones's Diary* comes "just the kind of comic novel we need right now" (*The Washington Post*) about an Austin artist trying to figure out her life one letter to her ex-boyfriend at a time. Bridget Jones penned a diary; Roxy writes letters. Specifically: she writes letters to her hapless, rent-avoidant ex-boyfriend—and current roommate—Everett. This charming and funny twenty-something is under-employed (and under-romanced), and she's decidedly fed up with the indignities she endures as a deli maid at Whole Foods (the original), and the dismaying speed at which her beloved Austin is becoming corporatized. When a new Lululemon pops up at the intersection of Sixth and Lamar where the old Waterloo Video used to be, Roxy can stay silent no longer. As her letters to Everett become less about overdue rent and more about the state of her life, Roxy realizes she's ready to be the heroine of her own story. She decides to team up with her two best friends to save Austin—and rescue Roxy's love life—in whatever way they can. But can this spunky, unforgettable millennial keep Austin weird, avoid arrest, and find romance—and even creative inspiration—in the process?

a confederacy of dunces: Christie Malry's Own Double-Entry B S Johnson, 2023-06-29 Christie Malry is a simple man. As a young accounts clerk at a confectionery factory in London he learns the principles of Double-Entry Bookkeeping. Frustrated by the petty injustices that beset his life - particularly those caused by the behaviour of authority figures - he determines a unique way to settle his grievances: a system of moral double-entry bookkeeping. So, for every offence society commits against him, Christie exacts recompense. 'Every Debit must have its Credit, the First Golden Rule' of the system. All accounts are to be settled, and they are - in the most alarming way. Christie Malry's *Own Double-Entry*, the last novel to be published in B S Johnson's lifetime, is undoubtedly his funniest.

a confederacy of dunces: Love in the Ruins Walker Percy, 2011-03-29 DIVDIV "A great adventure . . . So outrageous and so real, one is left speechless." —Chicago Sun Times/divDIV/divDIV In Walker Percy's future America, the country is on the brink of disaster. With citizens violently polarized along racial, political, and social lines, and a fifteen-year war still raging abroad, America is crumbling quickly into ruin. The country's one remaining hope is Dr. Thomas More, whose "lapsometer" is capable of diagnosing the spiritual afflictions—anxiety, depression, alienation—driving everyone's destructive and disastrous behavior./divDIV /divDIV But such a potent

machine has its pitfalls. As Dr. More soon learns, in the wrong hands, the powerful lapsometer could lead to open warfare, pushing America into anarchy at full-speed./div /div

a confederacy of dunces: *A Conspiracy of Dunces* Bill Shaw, 2012-08-27 A Conspiracy of Dunces, the third in Shaw's Pistol Thicket trilogy, is a rollicking send-up of John Kennedy Toole's 1980 Pulitzer Prize winning *A Confederacy of Dunces*. Ignatius P. Reilly, a product of Ignatius J's New Orleans neighborhood, is a 270 pound college star whose NFL destiny is sidetracked by a football injury. Not to be diminished, I.P. is sped upon a godly mission by his church, Trinity Baptist of Pistol Thicket, La., to install an evangelical president in the White House. Along the way, he is assailed by two liberal Marxist Occupy-DC beauties -- Lizza Sachs and Myrna Minkoff -- who make his life a political hell until . . . love happens. Ignatius P stretches his luck and his madcap schemes about as far as can be done as he works himself into the Bachmann campaign while countering the vicious assaults from Lizza and Myrna. Ignatius P. is supported by Tim Sorenson, a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, and Jim Loughlin, a Bachmann operative. But wait . . . but wait . . . there's a big election night party, November 6, 2012, in Charleston. Readers will be overwhelmed by the unexpected!!!

a confederacy of dunces: *The Novel Cure* Ella Berthoud, Susan Elderkin, 2013-10-08 A novel is a story, a collection of experiences transmitted from the mind of one to the mind of another. It offers a way to unwind, a way to focus, a way to learn about life—distraction, entertainment, and diversion. But it can also be something much more powerful. When read at the right time in your life, a novel can—quite literally—change it. *The Novel Cure* is a reminder of that power. To create this apothecary, the authors have trawled through two thousand years of literature for the most brilliant minds and engrossing reads. Structured like a reference book, it allows readers to simply look up their ailment, whether it be agoraphobia, boredom, or midlife crisis, then they are given the name of a novel to read as the antidote.

a confederacy of dunces: *American Philosophy* John Kaag, 2016-10-11 The epic wisdom contained in a lost library helps the author turn his life around John Kaag is a dispirited young philosopher at sea in his marriage and his career when he stumbles upon West Wind, a ruin of an estate in the hinterlands of New Hampshire that belonged to the eminent Harvard philosopher William Ernest Hocking. Hocking was one of the last true giants of American philosophy and a direct intellectual descendent of William James, the father of American philosophy and psychology, with whom Kaag feels a deep kinship. It is James's question "Is life worth living?" that guides this remarkable book. The books Kaag discovers in the Hocking library are crawling with insects and full of mold. But he resolves to restore them, as he immediately recognizes their importance. Not only does the library at West Wind contain handwritten notes from Whitman and inscriptions from Frost, but there are startlingly rare first editions of Hobbes, Descartes, and Kant. As Kaag begins to catalog and read through these priceless volumes, he embarks on a thrilling journey that leads him to the life-affirming tenets of American philosophy—self-reliance, pragmatism, and transcendence—and to a brilliant young Kantian who joins him in the restoration of the Hocking books. Part intellectual history, part memoir, *American Philosophy* is ultimately about love, freedom, and the role that wisdom can play in turning one's life around.

a confederacy of dunces: *New Teeth* Simon Rich, 2021-07-27 Laugh till you cry in this new collection of stories from the award-winning "Serena Williams of humor writing" (New York Times Book Review) about raising babies and trying not to be one. Called a "comedic Godsend" by Conan O'Brien and "the Stephen King of comedy writing" by John Mulaney, Simon Rich is back with *New Teeth*, his funniest and most personal collection yet. Two murderous pirates find a child stowaway on board and attempt to balance pillaging with co-parenting. A woman raised by wolves prepares for her parents' annual Thanksgiving visit. An aging mutant superhero is forced to learn humility when the mayor kicks him upstairs to a desk job. And in the hard-boiled caper "The Big Nap," a weary two-year-old detective struggles to make sense of "a world gone mad." Equal parts silly and sincere, *New Teeth* is an ode to growing up, growing older, and what it means to make a family.

a confederacy of dunces: *The Jesuits* Markus Friedrich, 2022-03-01 The most comprehensive

and up-to-date exploration of one of the most important religious orders in the modern world Since its founding by Ignatius of Loyola in 1540, the Society of Jesus—more commonly known as the Jesuits—has played a critical role in the events of modern history. From the Counter-Reformation to the ascent of Francis I as the first Jesuit pope, *The Jesuits* presents an intimate look at one of the most important religious orders not only in the Catholic Church, but also the world. Markus Friedrich describes an organization that has deftly walked a tightrope between sacred and secular involvement and experienced difficulties during changing times, all while shaping cultural developments from pastoral care and spirituality to art, education, and science. Examining the Jesuits in the context of social, cultural, and world history, Friedrich sheds light on how the order shaped the culture of the Counter-Reformation and participated in the establishment of European empires, including missionary activity throughout Asia and in many parts of Africa in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He also explores the place of Jesuits in the New World and addresses the issue of Jesuit slaveholders. The Jesuits often tangled with the Roman Curia and the pope, resulting in their suppression in 1773, but the order returned in 1814 to rise again to a powerful position of influence. Friedrich demonstrates that the Jesuit fathers were not a monolithic group and he considers the distinctive spiritual legacy inherited by Pope Francis. With its global scope and meticulous attention to archival sources and previous scholarship, *The Jesuits* illustrates the heterogeneous, varied, and contradictory perspectives of this famed religious organization.

a confederacy of dunces: French Exit Patrick deWitt, 2018-08-28 NOW A MAJOR FILM STARRING MICHELLE PFEIFFER AND LUCAS HEDGES A tragedy of manners from the Man Booker-shortlisted author of *The Sisters Brothers* 'My favourite book of his yet' Maria Semple, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* 'Pure joy' Mail on Sunday 'Buoyantly insane' New Yorker Frances Price is in dire straits. Scandals swirl around the recently widowed New York socialite, and her adult-aged, toddler-brained son Malcolm is no help. Cutting their losses, they grab their cat, Small Frank, and head for the exit. Paris becomes the backdrop for a giddy drive to self-destruction, helped along by a cast of singularly curious characters. Brimming with pathos, warmth and wit, *French Exit* is a riotous send-up of high society and a moving story of mothers and sons.

a confederacy of dunces: A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2018-05-31 Unlock the more straightforward side of *A Confederacy of Dunces* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis ! This engaging summary presents an analysis of *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole, a picaresque novel which follows the life of Ignatius J. Reilly, an eccentric, self-absorbed layabout whose endeavours always seem to be doomed to failure. The novel's comic tone stands in sharp contrast to its bleak portrayal of working-class life, and it has been lauded for its accurate and comprehensive depiction of the dialects of New Orleans. John Kennedy Toole was an American novelist whose work was not published until a decade after his suicide at the age of 31. *A Confederacy of Dunces* is generally considered his masterpiece, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981. Find out everything you need to know about *A Confederacy of Dunces* in a fraction of the time ! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: •A complete plot summary •Character studies •Key themes and symbols •Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries !

a confederacy of dunces: The Advanced Genius Theory Jason Hartley, 2010-05-18 Let the debate begin... The Advanced Genius Theory, hatched by Jason Hartley and Britt Bergman over pizza, began as a means to explain why icons such as Lou Reed, David Bowie, and Sting seem to go from artistic brilliance in their early careers to losing it as they grow older. The Theory proposes that they don't actually lose it, but rather, their work simply advances beyond our comprehension. The ramifications and departures of this argument are limitless, and so are the examples worth considering, such as George Lucas's *Jar Jar Binks*, Stanley Kubrick's fascination with coffee commercials, and the last few decades of Paul McCartney's career. With equal doses of humor and

philosophy, theorist Jason Hartley examines music, literature, sports, politics, and the very meaning of taste, presenting an entirely new way to appreciate the pop culture we love . . . and sometimes think we hate. The Advanced Genius Theory is a manifesto that takes on the least understood work by the most celebrated figures of our time.

a confederacy of dunces: Alligator Zoo-park Magic C. H. Hooks, 2018 Fiction. Is Jeffers an Alligator Zoo-Park magician or the Messiah? Two friends live unapologetically on the edge of poverty in the rugged, un-decorous part of the South. Jimmy, a single father with an addict ex, and Jeffers, a magician whose tricks are closer to miracles--both are immersed in a place where trailers and Hot Pockets dominate the landscape, and alligators roam free. When Jimmy witnesses losing his best friend to his biggest trick gone awry, he reflects on their lifelong friendship and what it really means to escape. C.H. Hooks' mesmerizing novel, ALLIGATOR ZOO-PARK MAGIC, hovers in the boundaries between city boys and country boys, businessmen and truck drivers, a van named NAILR and a radiator-busting deer drinking beer. The world is both nature untamed and twisted in a theme park of mermaids and crispy-fried reptile bites. Yet, Hooks does so much more than create a new spin on the mystical, mythical South. This fascinating debut delves into the true nature of the heart: everyone's need to belong to someone, to some place, and, most importantly, to oneself.--Erica Dawson Mr. Hooks has produced a magic show of the highest order.--Jensen Beach I've died and been born anew! C.H. Hooks is a damned wizard, and ALLIGATOR ZOO-PARK MAGIC is a holy hell of a book.--Harrison Scott Key AZPM is in the best tradition of Southern literature--it's fast and funny, dark and desperate.--Shane Hinton Draw a direct line from Larry Brown and Harry Crews to Chris Hooks.--Jeff Parker

a confederacy of dunces: The Ask Sam Lipsyte, 2010-02-27 In this dark comic novel by the author of Home Land, a college development officer's last chance to keep his job comes at a high cost. A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Milo Burke—husband, father, development officer at a third-tier university—has just joined the burgeoning class of the newly unemployed. Grasping after off jobs to support his wife and child, Milo is relieved to get another chance from his former boss. All he has to do is reel in a potential donor who, mysteriously, has requested Milo's involvement. But it turns out that the ask is Milo's sinister college classmate Purdy Stuart. And the "give" won't come cheap. Exploring such themes as work, war, sex, class, child rearing, romantic comedies, Benjamin Franklin, cooking shows on death row, and the eroticization of chicken wire, The Ask is a hilarious tour de force from a writer who has already shown that the deepest fictions are often the funniest.

a confederacy of dunces: The Rest of Their Lives Jean-Paul Didierlaurent, 2017-10-19 Filled with all the larger-than-life characters and enchanting storytelling that made readers fall for The Reader on the 6.27, Jean-Paul Didierlaurent's follow-up novel, The Rest of Their Lives, is set to charm the world. It's hard to find love with a job like Ambroise's - an embalmer in a small French town, he rarely spends time with the living. And while Manelle - a home-help for the elderly - enjoys her days taking care of her spirited clients, she finds her evenings are often spent with TV dinners for one. So when chance - and an unusual road trip - bring Ambroise and Manelle together, they are both more than ready for the rest of their lives to begin . . .

a confederacy of dunces: A Country of Ghosts Margaret Killjoy, 2021-11-23 Dimos Horacki is a Borolian journalist and a cynical patriot, his muckraking days behind him. But when his newspaper ships him to the front, he's embedded in the Imperial Army and the reality of colonial expansion is laid bare before him. His adventures take him from villages and homesteads to the great refugee city of Hronople, built of glass, steel, and stone, all while a war rages around him. The empire fights for coal and iron, but the anarchists of Hron fight for their way of life. A Country of Ghosts is a novel of utopia besieged and a tale that challenges every premise of contemporary society.

a confederacy of dunces: Fiction and Repetition J. Hillis Miller, 1985-10-15 In Fiction and Repetition, one of our leading critics and literary theorists offers detailed interpretations of seven novels: Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights, Thackeray's Henry Esmond, Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles and The Well-Beloved, Conrad's Lord Jim, and Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Between the

Acts. Miller explores the multifarious ways in which repetition generates meaning in these novels—repetition of images, metaphors, motifs; repetition on a larger scale of episodes, characters, plots; and repetition from one novel to another by the same or different authors. While repetition creates meanings, it also, Miller argues, prevents the identification of a single determinable meaning for any of the novels; rather, the patterns made by the various repetitive sequences offer alternative possibilities of meaning which are incompatible. He thus sees “undecidability” as an inherent feature of the novels discussed. His conclusions make a provocative contribution to current debates about narrative theory and about the principles of literary criticism generally. His book is not a work of theory as such, however, and he avoids the technical terminology dear to many theorists; his book is an attempt to interpret as best he can his chosen texts. Because of his rare critical gifts and his sensitivity to literary values and nuances, his readings send one back to the novels with a new appreciation of their riches and their complexities of form.

a confederacy of dunces: *Say Nothing* Patrick Radden Keefe, 2020-02-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • SOON TO BE AN FX LIMITED SERIES STREAMING ON HULU • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • From the author of *Empire of Pain*—a stunning, intricate narrative about a notorious killing in Northern Ireland and its devastating repercussions. One of The New York Times’s 20 Best Books of the 21st Century Masked intruders dragged Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widow and mother of 10, from her Belfast home in 1972. In this meticulously reported book—as finely paced as a novel—Keefe uses McConville's murder as a prism to tell the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Interviewing people on both sides of the conflict, he transforms the tragic damage and waste of the era into a searing, utterly gripping saga. —New York Times Book Review Reads like a novel ... Keefe is ... a master of narrative nonfiction. . .An incredible story.—Rolling Stone A Best Book of the Year: The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, TIME, NPR, and more! Jean McConville's abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the I.R.A. was responsible. But in a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. In 2003, five years after an accord brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, a set of human bones was discovered on a beach. McConville's children knew it was their mother when they were told a blue safety pin was attached to the dress—with so many kids, she had always kept it handy for diapers or ripped clothes. Patrick Radden Keefe's mesmerizing book on the bitter conflict in Northern Ireland and its aftermath uses the McConville case as a starting point for the tale of a society wracked by a violent guerrilla war, a war whose consequences have never been reckoned with. The brutal violence seared not only people like the McConville children, but also I.R.A. members embittered by a peace that fell far short of the goal of a united Ireland, and left them wondering whether the killings they committed were not justified acts of war, but simple murders. From radical and impetuous I.R.A. terrorists such as Dolours Price, who, when she was barely out of her teens, was already planting bombs in London and targeting informers for execution, to the ferocious I.R.A. mastermind known as The Dark, to the spy games and dirty schemes of the British Army, to Gerry Adams, who negotiated the peace but betrayed his hardcore comrades by denying his I.R.A. past—Say Nothing conjures a world of passion, betrayal, vengeance, and anguish.

a confederacy of dunces: *The Memory of Running* Ron McLarty, 2005-12-27 Smithy is an American original, worthy of a place on the shelf just below your Hucks, your Holdens, your Yossarians. —Stephen King Every so often, a novel comes along that captures the public’s imagination with a story that sweeps readers up and takes them on a thrilling, unforgettable ride. Ron McLarty’s *The Memory of Running* is this decade’s novel. By all accounts, especially his own, Smithson Smithy Ide is a loser. An overweight, friendless, chain-smoking, forty-three-year-old drunk, Smithy’s life becomes completely unhinged when he loses his parents and long-lost sister within the span of one week. Rolling down the driveway of his parents’ house in Rhode Island on his old Raleigh bicycle to escape his grief, the emotionally bereft Smithy embarks on an epic, hilarious, luminous, and extraordinary journey of discovery and redemption.

a confederacy of dunces: *The Letters of Mina Harker* Dodie Bellamy, 2021-10-19 Bellamy's

debut novel revives the central female character from Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and imagines her as an independent woman living in San Francisco during the 1980s. Hypocrisy's not the problem, I think, it's allegory the breeding ground of paranoia. The act of reading into--how does one know when to stop? KK says that Dodie has the advantage because she's physical and I'm only psychic. ... The truth is: everyone is adopted. My true mother wore a turtleneck and a long braid down her back, drove a Karmann Ghia, drank Chianti in dark corners, fucked Gregroy Corso ... --Dodie Bellamy, *The Letters of Mina Harker* First published in 1998, Dodie Bellamy's debut novel *The Letters of Mina Harker* sought to resuscitate the central female character from Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and reimagine her as an independent woman living in San Francisco during the 1980s--a woman not unlike Dodie Bellamy. Harker confesses the most intimate details of her relationships with four different men in a series of letters. Vampirizing Mina Harker, Bellamy turns the novel into a laboratory: a series of attempted transmutations between the two women in which the real story occurs in the gaps and the slippages. Lampooning the intellectual theory-speak of that era, Bellamy's narrator fights to inhabit her own sexuality despite feelings of vulnerability and destruction. Stylish but ruthlessly unpretentious, *The Letters of Mina Harker* was Bellamy's first major claim to the literary space she would come to inhabit.

a confederacy of dunces: How Not to Read Dan Wilbur, 2012-09-04 *The Last Stupid Book You'll Ever Need to Read* Don't want to slog through lengthy old books like *A Tale of Two Cities* or *The Giving Tree*? Sick of being judged by your avid-reader "friends" who talk about books you've never heard of? Want to sound smarter without the strain of actually bettering yourself? Never fear. In *How Not to Read*, you'll find techniques to fake your way through literature so you never have to read another book--ever! Inside, you'll find: •Tips for getting through anything you have to read by reading faster: Just read every third word. (*One Hundred Years of Solitude* becomes "Many as the Colonel was, that when him ice." Wow! It's like a Gertrude Stein poem only more comprehensible!) •Entire genres summed up in a single page: Historical fiction becomes "Guess who else had sex: Hitler!" •Literary insults to make yourself seem smarter: "The only thing sadder than you is a Joycean epiphany!" "You're as weak as a passive sentence written in negative form. And probably not considered by anyone to be worth more than an adverb." It's time to stop fearing those people who keep bringing up Ayn Rand. *How Not to Read* is here to liberate the world from ever needing to read a book again.

a confederacy of dunces: Riotous Assembly Tom Sharpe, 2011-05-26 When Miss Hazelstone of Jacaranda Park kills her Zulu cook in a sensational crime passionel, the gallant members of the South African police force are soon on the scene: Kommandant van Heerden, whose secret longing for the heart of an English gentleman leads to the most memorable transplant operation yet recorded; Luitenant Verkramp of the Security Branch, ever active in the pursuit of Communist cells; Konstabel Els, with his propensity for shooting first and not thinking later - and also for forcing himself upon African women in a manner legally reserved for male members of their own race. In the course of the strange events which follow, we encounter some very esoteric perversions when the Kommandant is held captive in Miss Hazelstone's remarkable rubber room; and some even more amazing perversions of justice when Miss Hazelstone's brother, the Bishop of Barotseland, is sentenced to be hanged on the ancient gallows in the local prison. Not a 'political' novel in any previously imagined sense, *Riotous Assembly* provided a completely fresh approach to the South African scene - an approach startling in its deadpan savagery and yet also outrageously funny.

a confederacy of dunces: Envy Юрий Карлович Олеша, 1967 This is the most comprehensive collection in English of Olesha's work. It includes eight stories that have been translated especially for the Anchor edition.--Back cover.

a confederacy of dunces: Leave it to Psmith Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, 1953-01 Ronald Psmith (the p is silent, as in pshrimp) is always willing to help a damsel in distress. So when he sees Eve Halliday without an umbrella during a downpour, he nobly offers her an umbrella, even though it s one he picks out of the Drone Club s umbrella rack. Psmith is so besotted with Eve that, when Lord Emsworth, her new boss, mistakes him for Ralston McTodd, a poet, Psmith pretends to

be him so he can make his way to Blandings Castle and woo her. And so the farce begins: criminals disguised as poets with a plan to steal a priceless diamond necklace, a secretary who throws flower pots through windows, and a nighttime heist that ends in gunplay. How will everything be sorted out? Leave it to Psmith

a confederacy of dunces: *Antkind* Charlie Kaufman, 2021-07-06 The bold and boundlessly original debut novel from the Oscar®-winning screenwriter of *Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, and *Synecdoche, New York*. **LOONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE** • “A dyspeptic satire that owes much to Kurt Vonnegut and Thomas Pynchon . . . propelled by Kaufman’s deep imagination, considerable writing ability and bull’s-eye wit.—The Washington Post “An astonishing creation . . . riotously funny . . . an exceptionally good [book].”—The New York Times Book Review • “Kaufman is a master of language . . . a sight to behold.”—NPR **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR AND MEN’S HEALTH** B. Rosenberger Rosenberg, neurotic and underappreciated film critic (failed academic, filmmaker, paramour, shoe salesman who sleeps in a sock drawer), stumbles upon a hitherto unseen film made by an enigmatic outsider—a film he’s convinced will change his career trajectory and rock the world of cinema to its core. His hands on what is possibly the greatest movie ever made—a three-month-long stop-motion masterpiece that took its reclusive auteur ninety years to complete—B. knows that it is his mission to show it to the rest of humanity. The only problem: The film is destroyed, leaving him the sole witness to its inadvertently ephemeral genius. All that’s left of this work of art is a single frame from which B. must somehow attempt to recall the film that just might be the last great hope of civilization. Thus begins a mind-boggling journey through the hilarious nightmarescape of a psyche as lushly Kafkaesque as it is atrophied by the relentless spew of Twitter. Desperate to impose order on an increasingly nonsensical existence, trapped in a self-imposed prison of aspirational victimhood and degeneratively inclusive language, B. scrambles to re-create the lost masterwork while attempting to keep pace with an ever-fracturing culture of “likes” and arbitrary denunciations that are simultaneously his *bête noire* and his *raison d’être*. A searing indictment of the modern world, *Antkind* is a richly layered meditation on art, time, memory, identity, comedy, and the very nature of existence itself—the grain of truth at the heart of every joke.

a confederacy of dunces: The Last One Fatima Daas, 2021-11-23 “Fatima Daas carves out a portrait, like a patient, attentive sculptor...or like a mine searcher, aware that each word could make everything explode.” —Virginie Despentes Drawn from the author’s experiences growing up in a Paris banlieue, a powerful, lyric debut that explores the diverse, often conflicting facets of her identity—French, Algerian, Muslim, lesbian. The youngest daughter of Algerian immigrants, Fatima Daas is raised in a home where love and sexuality are considered taboo, and signs of affection avoided. Living in the majority-Muslim suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, she often spends more than three hours a day on public transportation to and from the city, where she feels like a tourist observing Parisian manners. She goes from unstable student to maladjusted adult, doing four years of therapy—her longest relationship. But as she gains distance from her family and comes into her own, she grapples more directly with her attraction to women and how it fits with her religion, which she continues to practice. When Nina comes into her life, she doesn’t know exactly what she needs but feels that something crucial has been missing. This extraordinary first novel, anchored and buoyed by the refrain “My name is Fatima,” is a vital portrait of a young woman finding herself in a modern world full of contradictions. Daas’s journey to living her sexuality in spite of expectations about who she should be offers a powerful perspective on the queer experience. **PEN Translation Prize Finalist** **Bustle: Best Book of the Month** **Library Journal: Best Debut Novel of the Season** **Lambda Literary: Most Anticipated Book of the Month**

a confederacy of dunces: Made In Scotland Billy Connolly, 2018-10-18 **THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER** ‘Where do you come from? It’s one of the most basic human questions of all. But there is another question, which might sound a wee bit similar but is actually very different: What do you come from? And, let me tell you, that question can take you all sorts of strange places...’ In *Made in*

Scotland, legendary comic and national treasure Billy Connolly returns to his roots, reflecting on his life, his homeland and what it means – then and now – to be Scottish. Full of Billy's distinctive humour, *Made in Scotland* is a hilarious and heartfelt love letter to the place and the people that made him.

a confederacy of dunces: *Darconville's Cat* Alexander Theroux, 1996-04-15 The conflicts between love and hate, good and evil, and life and art are explored in a portrait of Alaric Darconville, a twenty-nine-year-old professor at Quinsy College--a women's college in Virginia--who falls in love with and is jilted by one of his students

a confederacy of dunces: *Catch-22* Joseph Heller, 2002 Get your A in gear! They're today's most popular study guides-with everything you need to succeed in school. Written by Harvard students for students, since its inception SparkNotes(TM) has developed a loyal community of dedicated users and become a major education brand. Consumer demand has been so strong that the guides have expanded to over 150 titles. SparkNotes'(TM) motto is Smarter, Better, Faster because: - They feature the most current ideas and themes, written by experts. - They're easier to understand, because the same people who use them have also written them. - The clear writing style and edited content enables students to read through the material quickly, saving valuable time. And with everything covered--context; plot overview; character lists; themes, motifs, and symbols; summary and analysis, key facts; study questions and essay topics; and reviews and resources--you don't have to go anywhere else!

a confederacy of dunces: *The Eyes of the Overworld* Jack Vance, 1972

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