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# **The Confusions Of Young Torless Robert Musil**

Franz Kafka is one of the most intriguing writers of the 20th century. In this text

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the author provides an up-to-date introduction to Kafka, beginning with an examination of his life and then discussing some of the major themes that emerge in Kafka's work.

At the start of this fiendishly comic and suspenseful novel, a mild-mannered English academic chuckles as he watches

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his wife commit adultery. The action takes place before she met him. But lines between film and reality, past and present become terrifyingly blurred in this sad and funny tour de force from the author of Flaubert's Parrot.

The Confusions of Young Törless Oxford  
University Press

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In a pluralistic society without absolute standards of judgment, how can an individual live a moral life? This is the question Robert Musil (1880-1942), an Austrian-born engineer and mathematician turned writer, asked in essays, plays, and fiction that grapple with the moral ambivalence of modern

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life. Though unfinished, his monumental novel of Vienna in the febrile days before World War I, *The Man without Qualities*, is identified by German scholars as the most important literary work of the twentieth century. In a fresh examination of his essays, notebooks, and fiction, Patrizia McBride reconstructs Musil's

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understanding of ethics as a realm of experience that eludes language and thought. After situating Musil's work within its contemporary cultural-philosophical horizon, as well as the historical background of rising National Socialism, McBride shows how the writer's notion of ethics as a void can be

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understood as a coherent and innovative response to the crises haunting Europe after World War I. She explores how Musil rejected the outdated, rationalistic morality of humanism, while simultaneously critiquing the irrationalism of contemporary art movements, including symbolism,

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impressionism, and expressionism. Her work reveals Musil's remarkable relevance today-particularly those aspects of his thought that made him unfashionable in his own time: a commitment to fighting ethical fundamentalism and a literary imagination that validates the pluralistic



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character of modern life.

A Novel

A Berlin Story

The Immoralist

Women's Indian Captivity Narratives

Death in Rome

In 1911, following his 1906 debut,

The Confusions of Young Törless,

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Robert Musil published the two experimental stories that make up Unions. "The Completion of Love" and "The Temptation of Quiet Veronica" were some of Musil's earliest forays into what would become a life-long exploration of the life, adventures, and psychological processes of his fiancé,

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Martha Marcovaldi -- the future Martha Musil. When Musil later wrote of the "two authors" of his great unfinished work, *The Man without Qualities*, the co-author referred to was no other than Martha. The stories in *Unions*, drawn from Martha's life, explode conventional morality;

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explore questions of self, union, and dissolution of self; and approximate exceptional sensations of erotic and intellectual perception in a shimmering and exceedingly dense proliferation of metaphors. The images, Musil tells us in a note, are the bone, not just the skin, of these

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carefully crafted stories. Each word is as motivated as the internal and external moments it attempts to embody in language. Although Musil did not continue to work in this experimental style in his later writing, in a late note he affirmed that *Unions*, the fruit of much artistic struggle and

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deep personal engagement, was the only one of his books that he sometimes still read from. This is a new English-language translation of the two stories and the first one to appear -- in the form of Musil's original publication -- as Unions. A scholarly introduction by the

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translator, Genese Grill, explains the provenance of the stories and the need for a new approach to this book so central to his oeuvre.

White's *The Bestiary: A Book of Beasts* was the first and, for a time, the only English translation of a medieval bestiary. White provides an excellent

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appendix that explains how the creatures of the bestiary influenced the development of allegory and symbolism in art and literature. 'They no longer hold themselves up with all their might, but sink a little and at that moment appear totally human' Of the very first rank of prose



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stylists, Robert Musil captures a scene's every telling detail and symbolic aspect with a precise and remarkable beauty. In these nine stories and essays, he considers holidaymakers and stone monuments, tales of war and blackbirds, and the great pathos of a tiny death: a fly's

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impossible fight against the grip of  
flypaper. This book includes Flypaper,  
Monkey Island, Fisherman on the  
Baltic, Sheep, As Seen in Another  
Light, Sarcophagus Cover,  
Monuments, The Paint Spreader, It's  
Lovely Here and The Blackbird.  
Fiercely observed, often hilarious, and

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“reminiscent of Ibsen and Strindberg ” (The New York Times Book Review), this exquisitely controversial novel was initially banned in its author ’ s homeland. A searing portrayal of Vienna ’ s bourgeoisie, it begins with the arrival of an unnamed writer at an ‘ artistic

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dinner , hosted by a composer and his society wife—a couple he once admired and has come to loathe. The guest of honor, a distinguished actor from the Burgtheater, is late. As the other guests wait impatiently, they are seen through the critical eye of the writer, who narrates a silent but

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frenzied tirade against these former friends, most of whom have been brought together by Joana, a woman they buried earlier that day.

Reflections on Joana ' s life and suicide are mixed with these denunciations until the famous actor arrives, bringing an explosive end to

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the evening that even the writer could not have seen coming.

The Enthusiasts

Kafka: A Very Short Introduction

The Loser

Three Women

Four men who are related to each other but became estranged during

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World War II are reunited in Rome after the war.

The clearest, boldest and most systematic statement of Simon Critchley's influential views on philosophy, ethics, and politics, *Infinitely Demanding* identifies a

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massive political disappointment at the heart of liberal democracy.

Arguing that what is called for is an ethics of commitment that can inform a radical politics, Critchley considers the possibility of political subjectivity and action after Marx



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and Marxism, taking in the work of Kant, Levinas, Badiou and Lacan. Infinitely Demanding culminates in an argument for anarchism as an ethical practice and a remotivating means of political organization. Two erotic novellas by one of the

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masters of high modernism. First published in 1911, *Intimate Ties* is Robert Musil's second book, consisting of two novellas, "The Culmination of Love" and "The Temptation of Silent Veronica." Each revolves around a troubled

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woman in the throes of her sexual and romantic woes, as their memories of the past return to influence their present desires. Musil tracks the psyche of his protagonists in a blurring of impressions that is reflected in his

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experimental prose. Intimate Ties offers the reader an early glimpse of the high modernist style Musil would perfect in his magnum opus The Man Without Qualities.

As the nineteenth century draws to an end, young Torless is sent to a

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military boarding school for the sons of the nobility on the eastern outreaches of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Far from his comfortable, free-thinking bourgeois home and left to his own devices, he experiences the joy, pain and self-

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doubt of adolescence. He is confronted with desire and love, but also his own cruelty, as he finds himself participating in his fellow pupils' bullying campaigns. A dark Bildungsroman which shocked its readership at the time, Robert

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Musil's first novel is a fresco of psychoanalysis, philosophy, eroticism, snobbery, sado-masochism and schoolboy humour, a hothouse of alternately repressed and unchained desires that prefigure the carnage of both World

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Wars.

The Catholic School  
Ethics of Commitment, Politics of  
Resistance  
Confusions of Young Master  
Torless  
Coup de Grace



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Two Novellas

***Enthralling generations of readers, the narrative of capture by Native Americans is arguably the first American literary form dominated by the***

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***experiences of women.  
The ten selections in this  
anthology span the early  
history of this country  
(1682-1892) and range in  
literary style from fact-  
based narrations to***

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***largely fictional,  
spellbinding adventure  
stories. The women are  
variously victimized,  
triumphant, or, in the  
case of Mary Jemison,  
permanently***

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***transculturated. This collection includes well known pieces such as Mary Rowlandson's "A True History" (1682), Cotton Mather's version of Hannah Dunstan's***

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***infamous captivity and  
escape (after scalping her  
captors!), and the  
"Panther Captivity", as  
well as lesser known  
texts. As Derounian-  
Stodola demonstrates in***

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***the introduction, the stories also raise questions about the motives of their (often male) narrators and promoters, who in many cases embellish***

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***melodrama to heighten  
anti-British and anti-  
Indian propaganda, shape  
the tales for  
ecclesiastical purposes,  
or romanticize them to  
exploit the growing***

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***popularity of sentimental  
fiction in order to boost  
sales. For more than  
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has been the leading  
publisher of classic  
literature in the English-***



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enhanced by  
introductions and notes  
by distinguished scholars  
and contemporary***

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***authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.***

***In the Wall Jumper, real people cross the Wall not to defect but to quarrel***

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***with their lovers, see  
Hollywood movies, and  
sometimes just because  
they can't help  
themselves—the Wall has  
divided their emotions as  
much as it has their***

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**country.**

***A fresh and extensive  
look at the works of the  
great Austrian novelist in  
the context of the  
German and Austrian  
culture of his time.***

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***LONGLISTED FOR THE  
MAN BOOKER PRIZE A  
NEW YORK MAGAZINE  
BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR  
From the Nobel Prize-  
winning author J. M.  
Coetzee, the haunting***

*Page 46/146*

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***sequel to The Childhood  
of Jesus, continuing the  
journey of David, Simón,  
and Inés. The Death of  
Jesus is forthcoming from  
Viking. "When you travel  
across the ocean on a***

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***boat, all your memories  
are washed away and you  
start a completely new  
life. That is how it is.  
There is no before. There  
is no history. The boat  
docks at the harbour and***



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***we climb down the  
gangplank and we are  
plunged into the here and  
now. Time begins.” David  
is the small boy who is  
always asking questions.  
Simón and Inés take care***

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***of him in their new town,  
Estrella. He is learning  
the language; he has  
begun to make friends.  
He has the big dog  
Bolívar to watch over  
him. But he'll be seven***

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***soon and he should be at school. And so, with the guidance of the three sisters who own the farm where Simón and Inés work, David is enrolled in the Academy of Dance.***

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***It's here, in his new  
golden dancing slippers,  
that he learns how to call  
down the numbers from  
the sky. But it's here,  
too, that he will make  
troubling discoveries***

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***about what grown-ups  
are capable of. In this  
mesmerizing allegorical  
tale, Coetzee deftly  
grapples with the big  
questions of growing up,  
of what it means to be a***

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***“parent,” the constant  
battle between intellect  
and emotion, and how we  
choose to live our lives.  
The Sleepwalkers  
Being a Translation from  
a Latin Bestiary of the***

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***Twelfth Century***

***The Wall Jumper***

***Young Törless***

***Precision and Soul***

*The playwright and novelist  
Thomas Bernhard was one of the  
most widely translated and*

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*admired writers of his generation,  
winner of the three most coveted  
literary prizes in Germany.*

*Gargoyles, one of his earliest  
novels, is a singular, surreal study  
of the nature of humanity. One  
morning a doctor and his son set*



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*out on daily rounds through the grim mountainous Austrian countryside. They observe the colorful characters they encounter—from an innkeeper whose wife has been murdered to a crippled musical prodigy kept in*

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*a cage—coping with physical misery, madness, and the brutality of the austere landscape. The parade of human grotesques culminates in a hundred-page monologue by an eccentric, paranoid prince, a relentlessly*

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*flowing cascade of words that is  
classic Bernhard.*

*Three Women, a new translation,  
is a major book of stories by the  
great Austrian writer, Robert Musil.  
With his epic trilogy, The  
Sleepwalkers, Hermann Broch*

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*established himself as one of the great innovators of modern literature, a visionary writer-philosopher the equal of James Joyce, Thomas Mann, or Robert Musil. Even as he grounded his narratives in the intimate daily life*

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*of Germany, Broch was identifying the oceanic changes that would shortly sweep that life into the abyss. Whether he is writing about a neurotic army officer (The Romantic), a disgruntled bookkeeper and would-be assassin*

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*(The Anarchist), or an opportunistic war-deserter (The Relacist), Broch immerses himself in the twists of his characters' psyches, and at the same time soars above them, to produce a prophetic portrait of a world*

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*tormented by its loss of faith,  
morals, and reason.*

*A study of eighteenth- and early  
nineteenth-century poetry in  
English, French and German,  
focusing on the mock epic (from  
Pope's Dunciad to Byron's Don*

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*Juan) as a critique of serious epic poetry and also as a literary means of exploring a wide range of sexual and religious issues in a humorous style.*

*Flypaper*

*A Companion to the Works of*



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*Robert Musil*  
*Selected Writings*  
*Infinitely Demanding*  
*Before She Met Me*

This collection of exploratory pieces, short stories, and reflections was originally

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published in Zurich in 1936. It was the last volume Robert Musil published before his sudden death in 1942. Musil had begun to fathom the impossibility of completing his monumental masterpiece

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The Man Without Qualities and this volume reveals a radically different aspect of his work. Musil observes a fly's tragic struggle with flypaper, the laughter of a horse; he peers through

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microscopes and telescopes, dissecting both large and small. Musil's quest for the essential is a voyage into the minute.

The Oxford Handbook to  
European Romanticism is a

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guide to European Romanticism written for an English-speaking audience. It finishes with a chapter on the European Romantic attitude to Britain. The authors are all expert in the

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original languages of the  
writers and topics which they  
discuss. European  
Romanticism sits in an  
epochal period full of  
historical excitement,  
beginning with the French

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Revolution and extending to the uprisings of 1848 across Europe. It witnessed what was arguably the first world war, against Napoleon, and the post-Napoleonic settlement at the Congress

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of Vienna which shaped the  
Europe which lasted until the  
Great War.

Germany's greatest writer,  
Goethe, and Russia's,  
Pushkin, lived during this  
time. Other writers from



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different countries are comparably important - Mme de Staël, the founder of the sociology of literature and the original cultural commentator in her book On Germany; Giacomo Leopardi,

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the second greatest Italian poet after Dante; Victor Hugo, greatest French writer of the 19th century, hélas, and many others.

Writings: Young Torless,  
Three Women, The

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Perfecting of a Love and  
other Writings, by Musil by  
Robert Musil>

The Confusions of Young  
Torless is a taut, powerful  
depiction of teenage  
masculinity in this short

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novel set in an Austrian military academy. An unpopular boy is gradually bullied and humiliated by a coterie of better-off classmates until the almost unbearable conclusion. This

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was the work which made  
Musil's name and is his most  
popular work before his  
unfinished masterpiece, The  
Man Without Qualities.  
Mock-Epic Poetry from Pope  
to Heine

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Unions: Two Stories

Intimate Ties

The Confusions of Young  
Törless

The Defence of Duffer's Drift

**The entertaining companion  
novel to the best-selling The**

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Sweet Second Life of Darrell Kincaid. Michelle Lawrence's perfect life has been just as she's designed it. But then her husband, Chad, ruins everything by taking a job in San Francisco, about as far from their

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comfortable family home as it's possible to get without actually emigrating. Up until now, Chad's primary focus has been keeping her happy, and Michelle can see no good reason why this should change. But change it has, and



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Michelle now has to deal with Chad's increasing detachment, while building a new life with her two small children in a place filled with cat-eating coyotes. On top of that, Michelle's oldest friend is turning against marriage

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while her newest is a little too  
obsessed with clean taps. And  
down the redwood-lined street,  
there's Aishe Herne, a woman  
who could pick a fight with a  
silent order of nuns. Aishe has  
designed her own kind of perfect

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life, in which there's room for her, her teenage son and no one else. But when cousin Patrick lands in town like a Cockney nemesis, both Aishe and Michelle must begin determined campaigns to regain their grip on

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the steering wheel of their lives.

The Catherine Robertson Trilogy

Book 1: The Sweet Second Life

of Darrell Kincaid Book 2: The

Not So Perfect Life of Mo

Lawrence Book 3: The

Misplaced Affections of Charlotte

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Forbes

A semiautobiographical coming-of-age story, framed by the harrowing 1975 Circeo massacre Edoardo Albinati's *The Catholic School*, the winner of Italy's most prestigious award, *The Strega*

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Prize, is a powerful investigation of the heart and soul of contemporary Italy. Three well-off young men—former students at Rome's prestigious all-boys Catholic high school San Leone Magno—brutally tortured, raped,

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and murdered two young women in 1975. The event, which came to be known as the Circeo massacre, shocked and captivated the country, exposing the violence and dark underbelly of the upper middle class at a

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moment when the traditional structures of family and religion were seen as under threat. It is this environment, the halls of San Leone Magno in the late 1960s and the 1970s, that Edoardo Albinati takes as his



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subject. His experience at the school, reflections on his adolescence, and thoughts on the forces that produced contemporary Italy are painstakingly and thoughtfully rendered, producing a

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remarkable blend of memoir,  
coming-of-age novel, and true-  
crime story. Along with indelible  
portraits of his teachers and  
fellow classmates—the charming  
Arbus, the literature teacher  
Cosmos, and his only Fascist

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friend, Max—Albinati also gives us his nuanced reflections on the legacy of abuse, the Italian bourgeoisie, and the relationship between sex, violence, and masculinity.

At a bleak, isolated military

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school on the fringes of the  
Austro-Hungarian Empire, four  
young cadets —Torless,  
Beineberg, Reiting and their  
victim Basini—rift even further  
away from their school- fellows  
into a private world of ritual,

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secrecy and torture. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of

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authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. From the Trade Paperback edition.

"We do not have too much intellect and too little soul, but too little precision in matters of

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the soul."—Robert Musil Best known as author of the novel The Man without Qualities, Robert Musil wrote these essays in Vienna and Berlin between 1911 and 1937. Offering a perspective on modern society



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and intellectual life, they are concerned with the crisis of modern culture as it manifests itself in science and mathematics, capitalism and nationalism, the changing roles of women and writers, and more.

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Writing to find his way in a world where moral systems everywhere were seemingly in decay, Musil strives to reconcile the ongoing conflict between functional relativism and the passionate search for ethical

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values. Robert Musil was born in 1880 and died in 1942. His first novel, *Young Törless*, is available in English. A new two-volume translation by Burton Pike and Sophie Wilkins of *The Man without Qualities* is

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forthcoming from Alfred A.  
Knopf. "Now we have these thirty-  
one invaluable and entertaining  
pieces, from an article on 'The  
Obscene and Pathological in Art'  
to the equally provocative talk  
'On Stupidity,' which, with a new

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translation of The Man without  
Qualities forthcoming . . . amount  
to a literary event for the reader  
of English comparable to  
Constance Garnett's massive  
translation of Chekhov's  
stories."—Joseph Coates,

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Chicago Tribune "Musil is one of the few great moderns, one of the handful who ventured to confront the issues that shape and define our time. . . . He has a range and a striking capacity every bit as great as that of

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Mann, Joyce, or

Beckett."—Boston Review

"These essays are crucial in understanding a writer and critic whose lifelong task was an attempt to resolve the dichotomy between the precision of

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scientific form and the soul—the  
matter of life and art."—Choice  
Posthumous Papers of a Living  
Author

Gargoyles

Agathe

The Void of Ethics



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The Book of Beasts

*Like his contemporary and rival Sigmund Freud, Robert Musil boldly explored the dark, irrational undercurrents beneath the calm surface of bourgeois life. The Confusions of Young Torless,*

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*published while he was a student,  
uncovers the bullying, snobbery,  
and vicious homoerotic violence at  
an elite boys' academy.*

*Unsparingly honest in its depiction  
of the author's tangled feelings  
about his mother, other women,*

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*and male bonding, it also vividly illustrates the crisis of a whole society, where the breakdown of traditional values and the cult of pitiless masculine strength were soon to lead to the cataclysm of the First World War and later to the rise*

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*of fascism. A century later, Musil's first novel still retains its shocking, prophetic power--back cover.*

*Set in the Baltic provinces in the aftermath of World War I, Coup de Grace tells the story of an intimacy that grows between three young*

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*people hemmed in by civil war: Erick, a Prussian fighting with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks; Conrad, his best friend from childhood; and Sophie, whose unrequited love for Conrad becomes an unbearable burden.*

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*lacerating, lyrical, provocative prose is incomparably his own. One of Bernhard's most acclaimed novels, The Loser centers on a fictional relationship between piano virtuoso Glenn Gould and two of his fellow students who feel compelled to*

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*renounce their musical ambitions in the face of Gould's incomparable genius. One commits suicide, while the other-- the obsessive, witty, and self-mocking narrator-- has retreated into obscurity. Written as a monologue in one remarkable*



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*unbroken paragraph, The Loser is a brilliant meditation on success, failure, genius, and fame.*

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*reconciliation of the two sides of his personality, split apart by a straitlaced education and a narrow social moralism. Gide's work can be seen as an investigation of freedom and empowerment in the face of moralistic and puritanical*

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*constraints, and centres on his  
continuous effort to achieve  
intellectual honesty.*

*Thought Flights*

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Or, The Forgotten Sister*

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*The Oxford Handbook of European  
Romanticism*

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and the life we feel...there  
is the invisible border,  
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boarding school in a remote  
area of the Habsburg Empire

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