

George Perec A Void

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I Remember Georges Perec 2020-05-21 'Perec is serious fun' The Guardian Both an affectionate portrait of mid-century Paris and a daring memoir, Georges Perec's *I Remember* is now available in English to UK readers for the first time, with an introduction by David Bellos. In 480 numbered statements, all beginning identically with 'I remember', Perec records a stream of individual memories of a childhood in post-war France, while posing wider questions about memory and nostalgia. As playful and puzzling as the best of his novels, *I Remember* is an ode to life: the ordinary, the extraordinary, and the sometimes trivial, as seen through the eyes of the irreplaceable Georges Perec.

An Event, Perhaps Peter Salmon 2020-10-13 Philosopher, film star, father of "post truth"—the real story of Jacques Derrida Who is Jacques Derrida? For some, he is the originator of a relativist philosophy responsible for the contemporary crisis of truth. For the far right, he is one of the architects of Cultural Marxism. To his academic critics, he reduced French philosophy to "little more than an object of ridicule." For his fans, he is an intellectual rock star who ranged across literature, politics, and linguistics. In *An Event, Perhaps*, Peter Salmon presents this misunderstood and misappropriated figure as a deeply humane and urgent thinker for our times. Born in Algiers, the young Jackie was always an outsider. Despite his best efforts, he found it difficult to establish himself among the Paris intellectual milieu of the 1960s. However, in 1967, he changed the whole course of philosophy: outlining the central concepts of deconstruction. Immediately, his reputation as a complex and confounding thinker was established. Feted by some, abhorred by others, Derrida had an exhaustive breadth of interests but, as Salmon shows, was moved by a profound desire to understand how we engage with each other. It is a theme explored through Derrida's intimate relationships with writers such as Althusser, Genet, Lacan, Foucault, Cixous, and Kristeva. Accessible, provocative and beautifully written, *An Event, Perhaps* will introduce a new readership to the life and work of a philosopher whose influence over the way we think will continue long into the twenty-first century.

The Winter Journey Georges Perec 1995

Mirror Man Fiona McIntosh 2021-06-01 The highly anticipated new crime thriller in the DCI Jack Hawksworth series. 'There is a connection, Jack. Find it, or you'll never find him.' Police are baffled by several deaths, each unique and bizarre in their own way – and shockingly brutal. Scotland Yard sends in its crack DCI, the enigmatic Jack Hawksworth, who wastes no time in setting up Operation Mirror. His chief wants him to dismiss any plausibility of a serial killer before the media gets on the trail. With his best investigative team around him, Jack resorts to some unconventional methods to disprove or find a link between the gruesome deaths. One involves a notorious serial killer from his past, and the other, a smart and seductive young journalist who'll do anything to catch her big break. Discovering he's following the footsteps of a vigilante and in a race against time, Jack will do everything it takes to stop another killing – but at what personal cost for those he holds nearest and dearest? By the bestselling author of *Bye Bye Baby* and *Beautiful Death* comes this heart-stopping new thriller that questions whether one life is worth more than another. 'Mirror Man is a gritty, action-packed and heart-stopping thriller that will have you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end....a seriously addictive page-turner, and yet another standout read from the very talented Fiona McIntosh.' Better Reading

The New English Landscape Jason Orton 2013

Things Georges Perec 1990 Two trailblazing novels by Georges Perec, *Things: Jerome and Sylvie*, the young upwardly mobile couple, lust for the good life. They wanted life's enjoyment, but this equated to ownership. *A Man Asleep: A nameless student attempts to purify himself entirely of material desires and ambitions.*

Kapow! Adam Thirlwell 2012 Taking place in both London and Egypt, the author intertwines the stories of a group of interconnected characters in the middle of the Arab Spring trying to make sense of history and revolution in real time.

The Penguin Book of Oulipo Philip Terry 2020-11-05

53 Days Georges Perec 1999

Ellis Island Georges Perec 1995 Combining poetic and inquisitive text with a wide array of lavish images, a tour of Ellis Island shares the experiences of men and women who passed through its portals when immigrating to the United States. Original.

La Boutique Obscure Georges Perec 2013-02-19 The beguiling, never-before-translated dream diary of Georges Perec *In La Boutique Obscure* Perec once again revolutionized literary form, creating the world's first "nocturnal autobiography." From 1968 until 1972—the period when he wrote his most well-known works—the beloved French stylist recorded his dreams. But as you might expect, his approach was far from orthodox. Avoiding the hazy psychoanalysis of most dream journals, he challenged himself to translate his visions and subconscious churning directly into prose. In laying down the nonsensical leaps of the imagination, he finds new ways to express the texture and ambiguity of dreams—those qualities that prove so elusive. Beyond capturing a universal experience for the first time and being a fine document of literary invention, *La Boutique Obscure* contains the seeds of some of Perec's most famous books. It is also an intimate portrait of one of the great innovators of modern literature.

Discourse on the Method of Rightly... René Descartes 2004-09 Purchase one of 1st World Library's Classic Books and help support our free internet library of downloadable eBooks. Visit us online at www.1stWorldLibrary.ORG - - If this Discourse appear too long to be read at once, it may be divided into six Parts: and, in the first, will be found various considerations touching the Sciences; in the second, the principal rules of the Method which the Author has discovered, in the third, certain of the rules of Morals which he has deduced from this Method; in the fourth, the reasonings by which he establishes the existence of God and of the Human Soul, which are the foundations of his Metaphysic; in the fifth, the order of the Physical questions which he has investigated, and, in particular, the explication of the motion of the heart and of some other difficulties pertaining to Medicine, as also the difference between the soul of man and that of the brutes; and, in the last, what the Author believes to be required in order to greater advancement in the investigation of Nature than has yet been made, with the reasons that have induced him to write.

Brief Notes on the Art and Manner of Arranging One's Books Georges Perec 2021-06-08 A slim volume featuring Georges Perec's writings on the simple task of arranging books and what it can reveal about life. One of the most singular and extravagant imaginations of the twentieth century, the novelist and essayist Georges Perec was a true original who delighted in wordplay, puzzles, taxonomies and seeing the extraordinary in the everyday. In these virtuoso writings about books and language, he discusses different ways of reading, a list of the things he really must do before he dies and the power of words to overcome the chaos of the world. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives—and upheld them. Now Penguin brings you a new set of the acclaimed *Great Ideas*, a curated library of selections from the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

Portrait of a Man Known as Il Condottiere Georges Perec 2015-04-10 Puckish and playful, Georges Perec infused avant-garde and experimental fiction with a wit and wonder that belied the serious concerns and concepts that underpinned it. A prominent member of the Oulipo, and an abiding influence on fiction writers today, Perec used formal constraints to dazzling effect in such works as *A Void*—a murder mystery that contains nary an "e"—and *Life A User's Manual*, in which an apartment building, systematically canvassed, unfolds secrets and, ultimately offers a reflection on creation, destruction, and the devotion to art. Before embarking on these experiments, however, Perec tried his hand at a relatively straightforward novel, *Portrait of a Man*. His first book, it was rejected by publishers when he submitted it in 1960, after which he filed it away. Decades after Perec's death, David Bellos discovered the manuscript, and through his translation we have a chance to enjoy it in English for the first time. What fans will find here is a thriller that combines themes that would remain prominent in Perec's later work, such as art forgery, authenticity, and murder, as well as craftsman Gaspard Winckler, who whose namesakes play major roles in *Life A User's Manual* and *W or The Memory of Childhood*. Engaging and entertaining on its own merits, and gaining additional interest when set in the context of Perec's career, *Portrait of a Man* is sure to charm the many fans of this postmodern master.

An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris Georges Perec 2010 By Georges Perec.

A Fatal Crossing Tom Hindle 2022-01-20 'Dazzling' Crime Monthly 'My kind of book' Belfast Telegraph 'Captivating' My Weekly Magazine 'Suspenseful' Country Life Magazine _____ November 1924. The Endeavour sets sail to New York with 2,000 passengers - and a killer - on board . . . When an elderly gentleman is found dead at the foot of a staircase, ship's officer Timothy Birch is ready to declare it a tragic accident. But James Temple, a strong-minded Scotland Yard inspector, is certain there is more to this misfortune than meets the eye. Birch agrees to investigate, and the trail quickly leads to the theft of a priceless painting. Its very existence is known only to its owner . . . and the dead man. With just days remaining until they reach New York, and even Temple's purpose on board the Endeavour proving increasingly suspicious, Birch's search for the culprit is fraught with danger. And all the while, the passengers continue to roam the ship with a killer in their midst . . . _____ 'A very clever plot and a final twist which will delight Agatha Christie fans. You'll love it.' Ragnar Jónasson 'With

twist after gut-punching twist, A Fatal Crossing really is an ingenious thriller. Highly recommended.' M. W. Craven 'The action unfolds at a rip-roaring pace in this perfectly executed homage to the Golden Age of crime, which features a deviously devised plot boasting a final twist worthy of Christie herself. I loved it!' Anita Frank 'Twists and turns cartwheel to a blindsiding finish' Woman's Weekly

Species of Spaces and Other Pieces Georges Perec 1997 This selection of non-fictional work from the author of *Life, a User's Manual*, demonstrates Georges Perec's characteristic lightness of touch, wry humour and accessibility.

Dear Knausgaard Kim Adrian 2020-08-25 Literary Nonfiction. In a series of warm and often funny letters, essayist and memoirist Kim Adrian delivers a compelling feminist critique of the 6-volume autobiographical novel *My Struggle*, by Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgaard. Adrian's book of letters begins as a witty and entertaining response to a seminal work and transforms into a fierce and powerful interrogation of the darker social and cultural forces informing Knausgaard's project. Through an examination of the curious operations of intimacy demanded on both sides of the page by all great literature, DEAR KNAUSGAARD ultimately provides a heartfelt celebration of the act of reading itself. "Kim Adrian's DEAR KNAUSGAARD isn't just for everyone who reveled in or fought with *My Struggle*, it's for everyone who reads--period, everyone who struggles with the profoundly complicated act of engaging with another mind. It is both a love letter to Knausgaard and a feminist critique of his work, a celebration and deconstruction of the act of close reading, and a meta-commentary on the relationship between writer and reader. Smart, funny, intimate, and erudite, this marvelous book is a powerful argument for the potential of reading to change us, to alter the trajectory of our lives."--Peter Grandbois "DEAR KNAUSGAARD brings together two notions of what it means to be good, two kinds of writerly indulgence, two versions of the casualness and self-attentiveness of our era. In these imaginary letters, Kim Adrian faces down her hero and unwitting oppressor, a man whose novels have helped her see the world anew, but whose blind spots give pain and spark anger. Adrian's crushing honesty, her unusual forbearance: these make the book a moving and intimate one. Her long attachment to *My Struggle* makes the critique an essential read."--William Pierce

Life, a User's Manual Georges Perec 1987 Represents an exploration of the relationship between imagination and reality as seen through the eyes of the dying Serge Valene, an inhabitant of a large Parisian apartment block.

Torpor Chris Kraus 2017-05-04 The latest novel from the author of cult super-hit *I LOVE DICK* It's Summer, 1991, the dawning of the New World Order; a post-MTV, pre-AOL generation. Jerome Shafir and Sylvie Green, two former New Yorkers who can no longer afford an East Village apartment, set off on a journey across the entire former Soviet Bloc with the intention of adopting a Romanian orphan. Unflinchingly dark, hilarious and moving, *Torpor* is at once a satire and philosophy of cultural history, social identity and failing relationships. Dipping into the trajectory of a life at different moments, Kraus interrogates convention and emotion, creating characters that are flawed, witty, and altogether true to life. Part prequel, part sequel, *Torpor* continues a project of life-writing: personal, unsparing, and triumphant. If *I Love Dick* is the book of your 20s, *Torpor* is the book of your 30s.

A Void Georges Perec 2005 "...a daunting triumph of will pushing its way through imposing roadblocks to a magical country, an absurdist nirvana of humor, pathos, and loss."--Time magazine *A Void* is a metaphysical whodunit, a story chock-full of plots and subplots, of trails in pursuit of trails, all of which afford Perec occasion to display his virtuosity as a verbal magician. It is also an outrageous verbal stunt: a 300-page novel that never once employs the letter E. The year is 1968, and as France is torn apart by social and political anarchy, the noted eccentric and insomniac Anton Vowl goes missing. Ransacking his Paris flat, his best friends scour his diary for clues to his whereabouts. At first glance these pages reveal nothing but Vowl's penchant for word games, especially for "lipograms," compositions in which the use of a particular letter is suppressed. But as the friends work out Vowl's verbal puzzles, and as they investigate various leads discovered among the entries, they too disappear, one by one by one, and under the most mysterious circumstances . . .

Georges Perec's *Geographies* Charles Forsdick 2019-10-14 Georges Perec, novelist, filmmaker and essayist, was one of the most inventive and original writers of the twentieth century. A fascinating aspect of his work is its intrinsically geographical nature. With major projects on space and place, Perec's writing speaks to a variety of geographical, urban and architectural concerns, both in a substantive way, including a focus on cities, streets, homes and apartments, and in a methodological way, experimenting with methods of urban exploration and observation, classification, enumeration and taxonomy.

The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket Edgar Allan Poe 2022-06-02 "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket" is the only complete novel written by American writer Edgar Allan Poe. The story was inspired by a newspaper account of the shipwreck and subsequent rescue of the two men on board. Poe developed the story into a tale of the young Arthur Gordon Pym, who stows away aboard a whaling ship called the *Grampus*. Yet, it's not the mere adventures that make this book a literary masterpiece. Poe imbued his tale with allegorical richness, biblical imagery, and psychological insights. This novel has influenced numerous writers, including Melville, James, Verne, and Nabokov.

Ella Minnow Pea Mark Dunn 2010-05-22 An epistolary novel set on a fictional island off the South Carolina coastline, 'Ella Minnow Pea' brings readers to the hometown of Nevin Nollop, inventor of the pangram 'The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog'. Deified for his achievement in life, Nevin has been honored in death with a monument featuring his famous phrase. One day, however, the letter 'Z' falls from the monument, and some of the islanders interpret the missing tile as a message from beyond the grave. The letter 'Z' is banned from use. On an island where the residents pride themselves on their love of language, this is seen as a tragedy. They are still reeling from the shock when another tile falls. And then another... In his charming debut, first published in 2001, Mark Dunn took readers on a journey through the eyes of Ella Minnow Pea, a young woman forced to create another clever turn of phrase in order to save the islanders' beloved language.

Knotted Tongues Benson Bobrick 2011-01-11 A former stutterer, Benson Bobrick here offers his perspective on the condition as well as an interesting history of how physicians have treated it. Stuttering, or stammering (the terms are interchangeable clinically), occurs four times more frequently in males and ranges from mild hesitation in speech to severe disability. Hot irons were applied to stutterers' lips in the Middle Ages, and in the mid-19th century, risky tongue operations were performed in failed attempts to effect a cure. Bobrick discusses famous stutterers Charles Darwin, Henry James, Winston Churchill, and Jimmy Stewart, and he describes the adverse impact of their condition on their lives. In this century, psychological trauma has often been cited as the cause of stuttering, but recent evidence points to a genetic disorder involving a disturbed auditory function. Therapeutic practices differ, but the author credits a voice feedback system with bringing his condition under control.

Bluffs, The Kyle Perry 2021-07-02 At the bottom of the world, there is an island. It is a land of rugged wilderness, of ice and snow and blistering heat ... They say extinct tigers still roam there. They say other things roam, too. When a school group of teenage girls go missing in the remote wilderness of Tasmania's Great Western Tiers, the people of Limestone Creek are immediately on alert. Not long ago, six young girls went missing in the area of those dangerous bluffs, and the legends of 'the Hungry Man' still haunt locals to this day. Now, authorities can determine that the teacher, Eliza Ellis, was knocked unconscious, so someone on the mountain was up to foul play. Jordan Murphy, father of missing student Jasmine and the town's local dealer, instantly becomes prime suspect, but Detective Con Badenhorst knows that in a town this size - with corrupt cops, small-town politics, and a teenage YouTube sensation - anyone could be hiding something, and bluffing comes second nature. When a body is found, mauled, at the bottom of a cliff, suspicion turns to a wild animal - but that can't explain why she, like all victims past and present, was discovered barefoot, with her shoes found nearby, laces neatly tied. What happened up there on the bluffs? Somebody knows... unless the local legends are true...

Three Georges Perec 1996 Perec has rightfully assumed his position in the pantheon of truly original writers of the past century. Godine has issued all but one is his books in this country, including his masterpiece *Life A User's Manual*. Here, in one volume, are three easy pieces by the master of the verbal firecracker and Gallic wit. The novella *The Exeter Text* contains all those E's that were omitted from *A Void* (Perec hated waste) and no other vowel (honest). In *Which Moped with Chrome-Plated Handlebars at the Back of the Yard?* we are introduced to Sergeant Henri Pollak and his vehicle (the aforementioned moped) that carried him between Vincennes and Montparnasse; in *A Gallery Portrait*, the sensation of the 1913 exhibition in Pittsburgh depicts the artists' patron, beer baron Hermann Raffke, sitting in front of his huge art collection, which includes (of course) *A Gallery Portrait of the baron sitting before A Gallery Portrait*, etc.

Three by Perec Georges Perec 2004 "Here, in one volume, are three "easy pieces" by the master of the verbal firecracker and Gallic wit. The novella "The Exeter Text" contains all those e's that were omitted from *A Void* (Perec hated waste) and no other vowel (honest). In "Which Moped with Chrome-Plated Handlebars at the Back of the Yard?" we are introduced to Sergeant Henri Pollak and his vehicle (the aforementioned moped) that carried him between Vincennes and Montparnasse; in "A Gallery Portrait", the sensation of the 1913 exhibition in Pittsburgh depicts the artists' patron, beer baron Hermann Raffke, sitting in front of his huge art collection,

which includes (of course) "A Gallery Portrait" of the baron sitting before "A Gallery Portrait," etc." -- From publisher's website.

Many Subtle Channels Daniel Levin Becker 2012-05-08 Main description: What sort of society could bind together Jacques Roubaud, Italo Calvino, Marcel Duchamp, and Raymond Queneau-and Daniel Levin Becker, a young American obsessed with language play? Only the Oulipo, the Paris-based experimental collective founded in 1960 and fated to become one of literature's quirkiest movements. An international organization of writers, artists, and scientists who embrace formal and procedural constraints to achieve literature's possibilities, the Oulipo (the French acronym stands for 0orkshop for potential literature0) is perhaps best known as the cradle of Georges Perec's novel *A Void*, which does not contain the letter e. Drawn to the Oulipo's mystique, Levin Becker secured a Fulbright grant to study the organization and traveled to Paris. He was eventually offered membership, becoming only the second American to be admitted to the group. From the perspective of a young initiate, the Oulipians and their projects are at once bizarre and utterly compelling. Levin Becker's love for games, puzzles, and language play is infectious, calling to mind Elif Batuman's delight in Russian literature in *The Possessed*. In recent years, the Oulipo has inspired the creation of numerous other collectives: the OuMuPo (a collective of DJs), the OuMaPo (marionette players), the OuBaPo (comic strip artists), the OuFlarfPo (poets who generate poetry with the aid of search engines), and a menagerie of other Ou-X-Pos (workshops for potential something). Levin Becker discusses these and other intriguing developments in this history and personal appreciation of an iconic-and iconoclastic-group.

I Remember Joe Brainard 2001 Artwork by Joe Brainard. Edited by Ron Padgett.

A Void Georges Perec 2008 As much a masterpiece of translation as a novel, 'A Void' contains not one single letter e anywhere in the main body of the text. This clever and unusual novel is full of plots and sub-plots, of trails in pursuit of trails and linguistic conjuring tricks

Shadows in the City of Light Sara R. Horowitz 2021-05-01 Examines the place of Paris in French Jewish literary memory, a memory that, of necessity, grapples with the aftermath of the Holocaust. The essays in *Shadows in the City of Light* explore the significance of Paris in the writing of five influential French writers—Sarah Kofman, Patrick Modiano, George Perec, Henri Raczymow, and Irene Nemirovsky—whose novels and memoirs capture and probe the absences of deported Paris Jews. These writers move their readers through wartime and postwar cityscapes of Paris, walking them through streets and arrondissements where Jews once resided, looking for traces of the disappeared. The city functions as more than a backdrop or setting. Its streets and buildings and monuments remind us of the exhilarating promise of the French Revolution and what it meant for Jews dreaming of equality. But the dynamic space of Paris also reminds us of the Holocaust and its aftermath. The shadowed paths traced by these writers raise complicated questions about ambivalence, absence, memory, secularity, and citizenship. In their writing, the urban landscape itself bears witness to the absent Jews, and what happened to them. For the writers treated in this volume, neither their Frenchness nor their Jewishness is a fixed point. Focusing on Paris's dual role as both a cultural hub and a powerful symbol of hope and conflict in Jewish memory, the contributors address intersections and departures among these writers. Their complexity of thought, artistry, and depth of vision shape a new understanding of the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish and French identity, on literature and literary forms, and on the development of Jewish secular culture in Western Europe. Sara R. Horowitz is Professor of Humanities and Comparative Literature at York University and the author of *Voicing the Void: Muteness and Memory in Holocaust Fiction*, also published by SUNY Press. Amira Bojadzija-Dan is Research Associate at the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. Julia Creet is Professor of English at York University and the author of *The Genealogical Sublime*. Together, they are also coeditors of *H. G. Adler: Life, Literature, Legacy*.

Unremembered Ken Zurski 2018-08-09 Ken Zurski, author of *The Wreck of the Columbia* and *Peoria Stories*, provides a fascinating collection of once famous people and events that are now all but forgotten by time. Using a backdrop of schemes and discoveries, adventures and tragedies, Zurski weaves these figures and the events that shaped them into a narrative that reveals history's many coincidences, connections, and correlations. We tumble over Niagara Falls in a barrel, soar on the first transcontinental machine-powered flight, and founder aboard a burning steamboat. From an adventurous young woman circumnavigating the globe to a self-absorbed eccentric running for President of the United States, *Unremembered* brings back these lost stories and souls for a new generation to discover.

Original Copies in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol Priya Wadhwa 2016-12-08 In *Original Copies* in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol, Priya Wadhwa bridges the works of Perec and Warhol for the first time, illuminating a postmodern aesthetic where the original is devalued and the copy reigns supreme.

Eunoia Christian Bök 2008 A wonderful gift book for word freaks, scrabble nuts, and crossword fans everywhere...

Gadsby Ernest Vincent Wright 2018-04-05 Reproduction of the original: *Gadsby* by Ernest Vincent Wright

The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise Georges Perec 2017-01-17 Darkly funny account of the office worker's mindset by the celebrated French novelist A long-suffering employee in a big corporation has summoned up the courage to ask for a raise. But as he runs through the looming encounter in his mind, his neuroses come to the surface: What is the best day to see the boss? What if he doesn't offer you a seat when you go into his office? *The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise* is a hilarious account of an employee losing his identity—and possibly his sanity—as he tries to put on the most acceptable face for the corporate world, with its rigid hierarchies and hostility to new ideas. If he follows a certain course of action, so this logic goes, he will succeed—but, in accepting these conditions, are his attempts to challenge his world of work doomed from the outset? Neurotic and pessimistic, yet endearing, comic and never less than entertaining, Perec's Woody Allen-esque underling presents an acute and penetrating vision of the world of office work, as pertinent today as it was when it was written in 1968.

W, Or, The Memory of Childhood Georges Perec 2003 Combining fiction and autobiography in a quite unprecedented way, Georges Perec leads the reader inexorably towards the horror that lies at the origin of the post-World War Two world and at the crux of his own identity.

Escape Attempts Stanley Cohen 2003-08-29 From sexual fantasies to holidays this marvellous book charts our escape attempts. In a series of dazzling commentaries the authors reveal the ordinary and extraordinary ways in which we seek to defy the despair of the breakfast table and the office But the book is much more than a first-rate cartography of everyday life. It crackles with important theoretical insights about how 'normality' is managed. This fully revised edition contains a superb new introduction, 'Life After Postmodernism', which exposes the conceits of the postmodernist adventure and which should be required reading for anyone interested in making sense of everyday life.

Georges Perec: A Life in Words David Bellos 2010-11-30 "It's hard to see how anyone is ever going to better this User's Manual to the life of Georges Perec" - Gilbert Adair, Sunday Times Winner of the Prix Goncourt for Biography, 1994 George Perec (1936-82) was one of the most significant European writers of the twentieth century and undoubtedly the most versatile and innovative writer of his generation. David Bellos's comprehensive biography - which also provides the first full survey of Perec's irreverent, polymathic oeuvre - explores the life of an anguished, comical and endearingly modest man, who worked quietly as an archivist in a medical research library. The French son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, he remained haunted all of his life by his father's death in the war, fighting to defend France, and his mother's in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His acclaimed novel *A Void* (1969) - written without using the letter "e" - has been seen as an attempt to escape from the words "père", "mere", and even "George Perec". His career made an auspicious start with *Things: A Story of the Sixties* (1965), which won the Prix Renaudot. He then pursued an idiosyncratic and ambitious literary itinerary through the intellectual ferment of Paris in the 1960s and 1970s. He belonged to the Ouvrier de Littérature Potentielle (OuLiPo), a radically inventive group of writers whose members included Raymond Queneau and Italo Calvino. Perec achieved international celebrity with *Life A User's Manual* (1978), which won the Prix Médicis and was voted Novel of the Decade by the Salon du Livre. He died in his mid-forties after a short illness, leaving a truly puzzling detective novel, *53 Days*, incomplete. "Professor Bellos's book enables us at once to relish the most wilfully bizarre aspects of Perec's oeuvre and to understand the whys and wherefores of his protean nature" - Jonathan Romney, Literary Review