
Whats Eating Gilbert Grape Peter Hedges

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What's Eating Gilbert Grape *Rosetta Books*

"Wonderfully entertaining . . . This distinctive first novel goes down like a chocolate milkshake but boasts the sharpness and finesse of a complex wine" (Publishers Weekly). Gilbert Grape is a twenty-four-year-old grocery store clerk stuck in Endora, Iowa, where the population is 1,091 and shrinking. After the suicide of Gilbert's father, his family never fully recovered. Once the town beauty queen, Gilbert's mother is now morbidly obese and planted eternally in front of the TV; his younger sister has recently turned both boy-crazy and God-fearing, while his older sister sacrifices everything for her family. And then there's Arnie, Gilbert's younger brother with special needs. With no one else to care for Arnie, Gilbert becomes his brother's main parent, and all

four siblings must tend to the needs of their helpless, grieving mother. So Gilbert is in a rut—until a mysterious new girl named Becky arrives in this small town. As his family gathers for Arnie's eighteenth birthday, Gilbert finds himself at a crossroads . . . This "completely original" portrait of a family (The New York Times), "charged with sardonic intelligence" (The Washington Post Book World), was the basis for a film starring Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio, and stands as one of the most memorable novels of recent decades. "Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and always engaging." —The Atlantic "By the book's exhilaratingly luminous ending . . . we have already been mesmerized." —The Philadelphia Inquirer "A funny, touching, caring first novel whose characters are familiar and moving in spite of (or perhaps because of) their peculiarities." —Booklist

Good as New *Dramatists Play Service Inc*

THE STORY: GOOD AS NEW follows the disintegration of an educated, affluent Chicago family--parents and teenage daughter--following Mom's face-lift. Devastated by what she views as a violation of who her mother is--an enlightened feminist--the daughter

Oregon and Other Short Plays *Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*

THE STORIES: In OREGON, Mike, a born-again Christian, wants to see the world, get to know people, so he hitchhikes to Bible college in Oregon. He's picked up by two punk rockers and in nine short scenes the three find a common language, which lea

Imagining Brad ; And, The Valerie of Now *Dramatists Play*

Service Inc

THE STORIES: IMAGINING BRAD. The action takes place in Nashville, where two women meet after church and strike up a conversation. One is Dana Sue Kaye, a brassy, voluble bleach-blonde, who chatters on about her wonderful, perfect husband--her high-s

The Heights *Penguin*

Tim Welch is a popular history teacher at the Montague Academy, an exclusive private school in Brooklyn Heights. As he says, "I was an odd-looking, gawky kid but I like to think my rocky start forced me to develop empathy, kindness, and a tendency to be enthusiastic. All of this, I'm now convinced, helped in my quest to be worthy of Kate Oliver." Now, Kate is not inherently ordinary. But she aspires to be. She stays home with their two young sons in a modest apartment trying desperately to become the parent she never had. They are seemingly the last middle-class family in the Heights, whose world is turned upside down by Anna Brody, the new neighbor who moves into the most expensive brownstone in Brooklyn, sending the local society into a tailspin. Anna is not only beautiful and wealthy; she's also mysterious. And for reasons Kate doesn't quite understand, even as all the Range Rover- driving moms jockey for invitations into Anna's circle, Anna sets her sights on Kate and Tim and brings them into her world. Like Tom Perrotta, Peter Hedges has a keen eye for the surprising truths of daily life. The Heights is at once light of touch and packed with emotion and depth of character. Watch a Video

What's Eating Gilbert Grape? *Insight Publications*

Insight Text Guide for Peter Hedges' What's Eating Gilbert Grape.

What's Eating Gilbert Grape

Just about everything in Endora, Iowa (pop. 1,091 and dwindling) is eating Gilbert Grape, a twenty-four-year-old grocery clerk who dreams only of leaving. His enormous mother, once the town sweetheart, has been eating nonstop ever since her husband's suicide, and the floor beneath her TV chair is threatening to cave in. Gilbert's long-suffering older sister, Amy, still mourns the death of Elvis, and his knockout younger sister has become hooked on makeup, boys, and Jesus -- in that order. But the biggest event on the horizon for all the Grapes is the eighteenth birthday of Gilbert's younger brother, Arnie, who is a living miracle just for having survived so long. As the Grapes gather in Endora, a mysterious beauty glides through town on a bicycle and rides circles around Gilbert, until he begins to see a new vision of his family and himself.... With this wry portrait of small-town Iowa -- and a young man's life at the crossroads -- Peter Hedges created a classic American novel "charged with sardonic intelligence" (Washington Post Book World).

Hideous Kinky *HarperCollins*

The debut novel from the author of Summer at Gaglow, called "a near-seamless meshing of family feeling, history and imagination" by the New York Times Book Review Escaping gray London in 1972, a beautiful, determined mother takes her daughters, aged 5 and 7, to Morocco in search of adventure, a better life, and maybe love. Hideous Kinky follows two little English girls -- the five-year-old narrator and Bea, her seven-year-

old sister -- as they struggle to establish some semblance of normal life on a trip to Morocco with their hippie mother, Julia. Once in Marrakech, Julia immerses herself in Sufism and her quest for personal fulfillment, while her daughters rebel -- the older by trying to recreate her English life, the younger by turning her hopes for a father on a most unlikely candidate. Shocking and wonderful, *Hideous Kinky* is at once melancholy and hopeful. A remarkable debut novel from one of England's finest young writers, *Hideous Kinky* was inspired by the author's own experiences as a child. Esther Freud, daughter of the artist Lucian Freud and great-granddaughter of Sigmund Freud, lived in Marrakech for one and a half years with her older sister Bella and her mother. *Hideous Kinky* is now a major motion picture starring Kate Winslet ("*Titanic*," "*Sense and Sensibility*").

Bee Movie: What's the Buzz? *HarperFestival*

When Barry, a bee, doesn't want to make honey and leaves his hive, he discovers that humans have been stealing honey from bees for years, so he decides to sue the honey industry and seek justice for bees everywhere.

I Am the Messenger *Knopf Books for Young Readers*

DON'T MISS BRIDGE OF CLAY, MARKUS ZUSAK'S FIRST NOVEL SINCE THE BOOK THIEF AND AN UNFORGETTABLE AND SWEEPING FAMILY SAGA. From the author of the extraordinary #1 New York Times bestseller *The Book Thief*, *I Am the Messenger* is an acclaimed novel filled with laughter, fists, and love. A MICHAEL L. PRINTZ HONOR BOOK FIVE STARRED REVIEWS Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at

playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?

The Profession of Violence *A&C Black*

The classic, bestselling account of the infamous Kray twins, now a major film, *LEGEND*, starring Tom Hardy. Reggie and Ronald Kray ruled London's gangland during the 1960s with a ruthlessness and viciousness that shocks even now. Building an empire of organised crime such as nobody has done before or since, the brothers swindled, intimidated, terrorised, extorted and brutally murdered. John Pearson explores the strange relationship that bound the twins together, and charts their gruesome career to their downfall and imprisonment for life in 1969. Now expanded to include further extraordinary revelations, including the unusual alliance between the Kray twins and Lord Boothby – the Tory peer who won £40,000 in a libel settlement when he denied allegation of his association with the Krays – *The Profession of Violence* is a truly classic work. John Pearson is also the author of *All the Money in the World* (previously titled *Painfully Rich*), now a major motion picture directed by Ridley Scott film and starring Michelle Williams, Mark Wahlberg and Christopher Plumber (nominated for the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor).

Matterhorn *Grove/Atlantic, Inc.*

Intense, powerful, and compelling, *Matterhorn* is an epic war novel in the tradition of Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* and James Jones's *The Thin Red Line*. It is the timeless story of a young Marine lieutenant, Waino Mellas, and his comrades in Bravo Company, who are dropped into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and forced to fight their way into manhood. Standing in their way are not merely the North Vietnamese but also monsoon rain and mud, leeches and tigers, disease and malnutrition. Almost as daunting, it turns out, are the obstacles they discover between each other: racial tension, competing ambitions, and duplicitous superior officers. But when the company finds itself surrounded and outnumbered by a massive enemy regiment, the Marines are thrust into the raw and all-consuming terror of combat. The experience will change them forever. Written by a highly decorated Marine veteran over the course of thirty years, *Matterhorn* is a spellbinding and unforgettable novel that brings to life an entire world—both its horrors and its thrills—and seems destined to become a classic of combat literature.

Baby Anger *Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*

THE STORY: Bringing up baby takes on new meaning for a successful young couple who start living their lives through their baby boy when he is cast in an award-winning commercial—as a girl! Their lives are turned upside down and the spoils of succ

Dan in Real Life *Newmarket Press*

It all begins with widowed father and family advice columnist Dan

Burns (Steve Carell), who is still reeling from the heartache of loss and takes refuge by trying to maintain order with his three rebellious young girls, while dodging anything unexpected or outside the box. But when Dan heads to Rhode Island, his miffed daughters in tow, for the annual Fall weekend thrown by the large and boisterous Burns family, everything changes. Soon after his arrival, he runs into an alluring woman named Marie (Juliette Binoche) in a bookshop. For the first time in a very, very long time, Dan experiences real live sparks—only to have to douse them liberally when he discovers Marie is, in fact, the brand-new girlfriend his brother Mitch (Dane Cook) is about to proudly introduce to the family. As the weekend gets under way in the close quarters of a crowded house filled with quirky, prying relatives, Dan and Marie try to squelch and cover up their growing mutual attraction at every turn, leading to one comical situation after another. Yet, no matter how hard they try to do the very opposite, Dan and Marie can't help but fall in love. Now Dan is about to realize that no matter how wise safety might seem, when it comes to real life, he's going to have to break all the rules.

The Ice Storm *Open Road Media*

The national bestseller and basis for the Ang Lee film is a “powerful” novel of two troubled families during a blizzard in 1970s suburban Connecticut (*Newsday*). A potentially devastating blizzard approaches New Canaan, Connecticut, while internal forces of desire, frustration, and ennui threaten to tear apart two quintessentially affluent, suburban families. Elena Hood rightfully suspects her husband, Benjamin, is having an affair with

neighbor Janey Williams, while Benjamin resents Elena and his mounting feelings of ineptitude. As the snow begins to fall, Benjamin and Elena, as well as Janey and her husband, attend a neighborhood “key party,” where they and other respectable suburbanites agree to go home with whomever’s keys they draw from a bowl. Meanwhile, the Hoods’ and Williams’s teenage children are caught up in their own experimentations with sex and drugs as they test the boundaries of their structured upbringing. With author Rick Moody’s sharp eye for the nuances of suburban life and allusions to 1970s America from Watergate to the Fantastic Four, the novel’s landscape is vivid and immersive. This timeless, unforgettable novel is a compassionate portrayal of flawed characters and reflects Rick Moody’s sharp eye for the contradictions of suburban life. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Rick Moody including rare images from the author’s personal collection.

Cocaine Vampires *Createspace Independent Publishing Platform*

What do a kleptomaniac, sex fiend and suicide risk have in common? They’re all vampires. Cocaine Vampires offers the gift of life through the kiss of death. Life Sucks.

A Complicated Kindness *Catapult*

Winner of the Governor General’s Literary Award In this stunning coming-of-age novel, the award-winning author of Women Talking balances grief and hope in the voice of a witty, beleaguered teenager whose family is shattered by fundamentalist Christianity “Half of our family, the better-looking half, is missing,” Nomi

Nickel tells us at the beginning of A Complicated Kindness. Left alone with her sad, peculiar father, her days are spent piecing together why her mother and sister have disappeared and contemplating her inevitable career at Happy Family Farms, a chicken slaughterhouse on the outskirts of East Village. Not the East Village in New York City where Nomi would prefer to live, but an oppressive town founded by Mennonites on the cold, flat plains of Manitoba, Canada. This darkly funny novel is the world according to the unforgettable Nomi, a bewildered and wry sixteen-year-old trapped in a town governed by fundamentalist religion and in the shattered remains of a family it destroyed. In Nomi’s droll, refreshing voice, we’re told the story of an eccentric, loving family that falls apart as each member lands on a collision course with the only community any of them have ever known. A work of fierce humor and tragedy by a writer who has taken the American market by storm, this searing, tender, comic testament to family love will break your heart. “Brilliant.” —New York Times Book Review “A darkly funny and provocative novel.” —O, the Oprah Magazine

The Wretched Stone *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

A strange glowing stone picked up on a sea voyage captivates a ship’s crew and has a terrible transforming effect on them.

Petals on the Wind *Simon and Schuster*

On the heels of the successful Lifetime TV version of Flowers in the Attic comes the TV movie tie-in edition of Petals On the Wind, the second book in the captivating Dollanganger saga. Forbidden love comes into full bloom. For three years they were kept hidden

in the eaves of Foxworth Hall, their existence all but denied by a mother who schemed to inherit a fortune. For three years their fate was in the hands of their righteous, merciless grandmother. They had to stay strong...but in their hopeless world, Cathy and her brother Christopher discovered blossoming desires that tumbled into a powerful obsession. Now, with their frail sister Carrie, they have broken free and scraped enough together for three bus tickets and a chance at a new life. The horrors of the attic are behind them...but they will carry its legacy of dark secrets forever.

Flowers in the Attic *Simon and Schuster*

Chris, Cathy, and the twins are to be kept hidden until their grandfather dies so that their mother will receive a sizeable inheritance, however, years pass and terrifying things occur as the four children grow up in their one room prison.

The Big Free *Morgan James Publishing*

A young female doctor faces the violence, debauchery, and larger-than-life characters of a New Orleans surgery in this funny and gritty medical novel. New Orleans, 1982. Voodoo spells, prostitutes, prisoners, and veterans who are adamant about the size of their manhood—it's all just another day at Charity Hospital, also known as The Big Free. It's a medical free-for-all with the toughest trauma surgery in America, and Elizabeth—fresh from medical school in Charleston, wearing pearls and pink plaid socks—is one of the first women to work there. Half of the doctors who start the surgery program never finish. Nothing in her proper Southern upbringing prepared

Elizabeth for the gritty and gruesome world she now experiences on a daily basis. And even if she's tougher than anyone first expected, the question remains . . . will she make the cut? Full of drama, humor, and New Orleans flavor, The Big Free is a young doctor's coming of age story as only a true medical insider can tell it.

The Modulor and Modulor 2 *Birkhäuser*

In the years 1942 to 1948, Le Corbusier developed a system of measurements which became known as "Modulor". Based on the Golden Section and Fibonacci numbers and also using the physical dimensions of the average human, Modulor is a sequence of measurements which Le Corbusier used to achieve harmony in his architectural compositions. Le Modulor was published in 1950 and after meeting with success, Le Corbusier went on to publish Modulor 2 in 1955. In many of Le Corbusier's most notable buildings, including the Chapel at Ronchamp and the Unité d'habitation, evidence of his Modulor system can be seen. These two volumes form an important and integral part of Le Corbusier's theoretical writings.

The Basketball Diaries *Penguin*

The urban classic coming-of-age story about sex, drugs, and basketball Jim Carroll grew up to become a renowned poet and punk rocker. But in this memoir of the mid-1960s, set during his coming-of-age from 12 to 15, he was a rebellious teenager making a place and a name for himself on the unforgiving streets of New York City. During these years, he chronicled his experiences, and the result is a diary of unparalleled candor that

conveys his alternately hilarious and terrifying teenage existence. Here is Carroll prowling New York City--playing basketball, hustling, stealing, getting high, getting hooked, and searching for something pure. The Basketball Diaries was the basis for the film of the same name starring Leonardo DiCaprio. "I met him in 1970, and already he was pretty much universally recognized as the best poet of his generation. . . . The work was sophisticated and elegant. He had beauty." -- Patti Smith

I Still Know what You Did Last Summer *Simon and Schuster*

Presents the screenplay for the sequel to the popular horror film "I know what you did last summer," in which Julie, the survivor of the previous film, and her new friends face the return of an old danger while on vacation in the Caribbean.

Belinda's Rings *Newest Press*

When her mother Belinda abruptly runs out on her family and flies across the Atlantic in order to study crop circles in the English countryside, Grace is left alone to puzzle out her life, the world, and her unique place within it.

Howard Hughes: The Secret Life *St. Martin's Griffin*

His wealth was legendary. His passions were bizarre. Now, the truth about the money, the madness, and the man behind the enigma. Howard Hughes is one of the best known and least understood men of our times--famed for his wealth, his daring, and his descent into madness. Bestselling biographer Charles Higham goes beyond the enigma to reveal the incredible private life of Howard Hughes: * his romances with the great stars of

Hollywood--Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Cary Grant, Tyrone Power, and numerous others * his forays into sadomasochism * his involvement with Richard Nixon and Watergate * his bizarre final years This is a compelling portrait of a unique American figure--in a story as revealing as it is unforgettable.

Spiritual Literacy *Simon and Schuster*

A treasury of inspirational readings, accompanied by personal reflections and meditations, features works by Helen Keller, Barbara Kingsolver, Thomas Aquinas, and others on such themes as nature, relationships, creativity, and work

The Book of Ruth *HMH*

PEN/Hemingway Award Winner: An "enthralling" novel of a woman trapped within a tragically dysfunctional family (Entertainment Weekly). From the New York Times--bestselling author of The Excellent Lombards and A Map of the World, this is "an extraordinary story of a family's disintegration [that] will be compared to Jane Smiley's A Thousand Acres" (People). It follows Ruth Grey, a young woman in a tiny Illinois farm town, who has lost her father to World War II, and constantly faces her unhappy mother's wrath—when she isn't being ignored in favor of her math-prodigy brother. As Ruth navigates her lonely life, she strives to find happiness and pleasure where she can, but the world may conspire to defeat her. "A sly and wistful, if harrowing, human comedy . . . [An] original voice in fiction and one well worth listening to." —The Boston Sunday Globe "Unforgettably, beat by beat, Hamilton maps the best and worst of the human heart and all the mysterious, uncharted country in between."

—Kirkus Reviews “Hamilton’s story builds to a shocking crescendo. Her small-town characters are as appealingly offbeat and brushed with grace as any found in Alice Hoffman’s or Anne Tyler’s novels.” —Glamour

Half Broke Horses *Simon and Schuster*

The author offers a novel based on the life of her grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, who learned to break horses in childhood, journeyed 500 miles on a pony as a teen to become a teacher, and ran a vast ranch in Arizona with her husband while raising two children, including Rosemary Smith Walls, portrayed in the author's acclaimed *The Glass Castle*. Includes reading-group guide. Reprint. A New York Times Best Book of the Year.

Baking Cakes in Kigali *Delacorte Press*

“All the sun and magic of Africa are baked into Gaile Parkin’s debut novel. . . . We peek into a warm and practical community as colorful as [the heroine’s] dazzling confections.”—The Christian Science Monitor This soaring novel introduces us to Angel Tungaraza: mother, cake baker, pillar of her community, keeper of secrets big and small. Angel’s kitchen is an oasis in the heart of Rwanda, where visitors stop to order cakes but end up sharing their stories, transforming their lives, leaving with new hope. In this vibrant, powerful setting, unexpected things are beginning to happen: A most unusual wedding is planned, a heartbreaking mystery involving Angel’s own family unravels, and extraordinary connections are made—as a chain of events unfolds that will change Angel’s life and the lives of those around her in the most astonishing ways. BONUS: This edition contains a

Baking Cakes in Kigali discussion guide. Praise for Baking Cakes in Kigali “Everyone needs a neighbor like Angel Tungaraza . . . whose warmth and coolheaded cleverness might remind some readers of Precious Ramotswe from the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series.”—Entertainment Weekly “Remarkable . . . a powerful, thought-provoking work . . . filled with heartbreak but also with hope.”—Fort Worth Star-Telegram “Sweet and satisfying . . . gently draws readers into the daily rhythms of African life . . . Compassion and wisdom light up each page.”—Ventura County Star “Will leave you feeling well satisfied.”—O: The Oprah Magazine (South Africa)

Northern Borders *HMH*

A New York Times Notable Book: A novel about growing up in a remote corner of Vermont, from the author Richard Russo calls “one of our very best writers.” When six-year-old Austen Kittredge was sent up north to live on his grandparents’ farm in 1948, he didn’t know that he would spend the next twelve years of his life there—or that his remarkable stay would never leave him, no matter how far he traveled. The farm in Lost Nation Hollow would become a magical place for Austen, full of eccentric people—like his stubborn but loving grandparents, whose marriage was known as the Forty Years War—wild adventures, and festering family secrets. An enchanting, startling coming-of-age novel, *Northern Borders* evokes a world of county fairs, heirloom quilts, and timber forests, in “a touching and unforgettable portrait of a people and time that are past” (Fannie Flagg, *The New York Times Book Review*). “A contemporary classic . . . A complex, yet idyllic, story of childhood in Vermont.”

—Los Angeles Times

Ode to Billy Joe *W H Allen*

Everybody Jam *Clipper Audio*

Danny Dawson lives in the middle of the Australian outback. His older brother Jonny died in an accident last year but no-one ever talks about it. Now it's time for the annual muster, the biggest event of the year on the cattle station, and this year things are different. Jonny's gone, and Danny's determined to prove he can fill his brother's shoes, but the cracks are beginning to show...

The First Wives Club *Simon and Schuster*

Three faithful, middle-age wives, who have been abandoned for "trophy wives"--younger, blonder, and sexier models--by their successful husbands, decide to get even and seek public revenge before New York society

A Thousand Acres *Anchor*

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A "powerful and poignant" twentieth-century reimagining of Shakespeare's King Lear (The New York Times Book Review) that takes on themes of truth, justice, love, and pride—and centers on a wealthy Iowa farmer who decides to divide his farm between his three daughters. When the youngest daughter objects, she is cut out of his will. This sets off a chain of events that brings dark truths to light and explodes long-suppressed emotions. Ambitiously conceived and stunningly written, A Thousand Acres reveals the beautiful yet treacherous topography of humanity. "A

family portrait that is also a near-epic investigation into the broad landscape, the thousand dark acres of the human heart.... The book has all the stark brutality of a Shakespearean tragedy." —The Washington Post Book World

E-Motion Picture Magic *Glenbridge Publishing Ltd.*

Like no other medium before it, the popular movie presents the potential of a new power for illuminating the depth of human experience. E-Motion Picture Magic employs that power as a tool to increase consciousness. Cinema therapy offers more perspective on life, prompting the viewer to step back from his or her problems in order to feel less insecure, worried, or discontented. Using films for self-improvement allows a shift in perspective when viewed with conscious awareness. The use of movies for personal growth and healing carries forward a long-standing connection between storytelling and self-reflection that may date back to the beginnings of spoken language. The movie experience used in very specific ways can have significant benefits for those who are willing to apply themselves using E-Motion Picture Magic that can be both beneficial as well as enjoyable.

The Cinema of Kathryn Bigelow *Wallflower Press*

Kathryn Bigelow has undoubtedly been one of Hollywood's most significant female players, well known in popular terms for films such as Point Break and Blue Steel, yet relatively unexplored in academia. This collection explores how Bigelow can be seen to provide a point of intersection to a whole range of issues at the forefront of contemporary film studies and of the transformation

of Hollywood into a post-classical cinema machine, with a particular emphasis on her most ambitious and controversial picture, *Strange Days*.

Thrones, Dominations *Macmillan*

Newlyweds Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane explore a mysterious turn of events during the short-lived reign of Edward VIII, in a novel left unfinished and unpublished for almost sixty years

An Ocean in Iowa *RosettaBooks*

A “funny and supremely moving” novel about a seven-year-old navigating a world of turmoil by the author of *What’s Eating Gilbert Grape* (Harper’s Bazaar). Seven-year-old Scotty Ocean decides that seven is going to be “his year.” But soon after his birthday, his artist-turned-alcoholic mother abandons the family—leaving Scotty and his two older sisters alone with their father. As his perfect year falls apart, Scotty begins to act out during school and takes a series of increasingly wild actions to try to win his mother back—and, when that doesn’t work, to replace her. Funny and deeply affecting, *An Ocean in Iowa* traces Scotty’s desperate attempt to hold on to his childhood while the foundation of his family disintegrates. As Scotty’s year as a seven-year-old flies by—and the dreaded eight approaches—Peter Hedges explores how Scotty sheds his childhood in a one-eighty of the year he hoped would be so perfect. Beautifully written, and with careful attention to period detail, this compelling coming-of-age novel sets the private turmoil of a disintegrating family against the backdrop of the

Vietnam War and the turbulent 1960s. “A delightful romp through the age of seven with an endearing character who revels in life’s smallest details.” —The Christian Science Monitor

Means of Ascent *Vintage*

In *Means of Ascent*, Book Two of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, Robert A. Caro brings alive Lyndon Johnson in his wilderness years. Here, Johnson’s almost mythic personality—part genius, part behemoth, at once hotly emotional and icily calculating—is seen at its most nakedly ambitious. This multifaceted book carries the President-to-be from the aftermath of his devastating defeat in his 1941 campaign for the Senate—the despair it engendered in him, and the grueling test of his spirit that followed as political doors slammed shut—through his service in World War II (and his artful embellishment of his record) to the foundation of his fortune (and the actual facts behind the myth he created about it). The culminating drama—the explosive heart of the book—is Caro’s illumination, based on extraordinarily detailed investigation, of one of the great political mysteries of the century. Having immersed himself in Johnson’s life and world, Caro is able to reveal the true story of the fiercely contested 1948 senatorial election, for years shrouded in rumor, which Johnson was not believed capable of winning, which he “had to” win or face certain political death, and which he did win—by 87 votes, the “87 votes that changed history.” Telling that epic story “in riveting and eye-opening detail,” Caro returns to the American consciousness a magnificent lost hero. He focuses closely not only on Johnson, whom we see harnessing every last particle of his strategic brilliance and energy, but on Johnson’s

“unbeatable” opponent, the beloved former Texas Governor Coke Stevenson, who embodied in his own life the myth of the cowboy knight and was himself a legend for his unfaltering integrity. And ultimately, as the political duel between the two men quickens—carrying with it all the confrontational and moral

drama of the perfect Western—Caro makes us witness to a momentous turning point in American politics: the tragic last stand of the old politics versus the new—the politics of issue versus the politics of image, mass manipulation, money and electronic dazzle.