

joyce maynard at home in the world

Joyce Maynard at Home in the World: Exploring the Life and Work of a Remarkable Author

joyce maynard at home in the world – these words evoke not only a sense of place but also a profound connection between the author and the broader human experience she so eloquently captures in her writing. Joyce Maynard is an American novelist and journalist whose works have resonated with readers thanks to their emotional depth, candid storytelling, and keen observations about life's complexities. In this article, we'll delve into the essence of Joyce Maynard at home in the world, exploring her literary journey, themes, and the lasting influence she has on contemporary literature.

The Literary Journey of Joyce Maynard at Home in the World

Joyce Maynard's career is a testament to the power of authenticity and resilience. Emerging as a young writer in the 1970s, she quickly gained attention for her memoirs and fiction that often drew from personal experiences. The phrase "at home in the world" aptly describes her unique ability to navigate different emotional and geographical landscapes, making readers feel as if they too belong within her narratives.

Early Life and Influences

Born in 1953 in New Hampshire, Maynard's early years were shaped by the quiet New England environment and a close-knit family. These formative experiences provided rich material for her writing. Her first book, a memoir titled **At Home in the World** (1998), candidly recounts her life as a young woman, including her highly publicized relationship with the iconic novelist J.D. Salinger. This memoir not only chronicles her personal growth but also reflects broader themes of identity, vulnerability, and finding one's place amid the chaos of youth.

Transition to Fiction and Journalism

While memoirs established her voice, Maynard's work spans genres including novels and journalism. She has contributed to major publications such as **The New York Times**, where her essays often explore themes like family dynamics, motherhood, and the challenges of modern life. This versatility is part of what makes Joyce Maynard at home in the world – she writes with a genuine curiosity and empathy that transcends any single genre.

Thematic Exploration: What Joyce Maynard at Home in

the World Reveals

At the heart of Maynard's work lies a deep exploration of human relationships and self-discovery. Her narratives frequently confront the tensions between independence and connection, the trials of growing up, and the search for belonging.

Identity and Self-Discovery

Maynard's stories are often journeys of self-discovery. In **At Home in the World**, she reflects on the awkwardness and uncertainty that define adolescence and early adulthood. This theme resonates universally, reminding readers that finding "home" is as much about internal acceptance as it is about physical space.

Family and Emotional Complexity

One of the LSI keywords relevant here is "family dynamics in Joyce Maynard's writing." Her portrayal of family is nuanced and often raw, capturing both love and conflict. Readers appreciate the honesty she brings, making her characters relatable and her stories compelling.

Place and Environment

Another significant aspect of Maynard's writing is her attention to setting. Whether it's the rural landscapes of New England or the urban bustle of New York, these environments influence the mood and development of her characters. This connection to place enhances the feeling that Joyce Maynard is truly at home in the world she describes.

Joyce Maynard's Writing Style: A Blend of Intimacy and Clarity

What sets Joyce Maynard apart as a writer is her conversational tone paired with precise, evocative language. She writes as if she's speaking directly to the reader, inviting them into her world without pretense.

Engaging and Relatable Prose

Maynard's prose is often described as warm and accessible. She avoids overly complex language, instead opting for clarity that enhances emotional impact. This approach allows readers from diverse backgrounds to connect with her stories easily.

Use of Personal Narrative

Her skillful use of personal narrative techniques draws readers into intimate experiences, blurring the lines between memoir and fiction. This style not only informs her storytelling but also enriches the emotional resonance of her work.

Joyce Maynard at Home in the World: Impact and Legacy

Over the decades, Joyce Maynard has influenced both readers and fellow writers. Her candid exploration of personal and societal issues has opened doors for more honest conversations in literature about topics like vulnerability, mental health, and female empowerment.

Inspiring New Generations of Writers

By sharing her own story with courage and transparency, Maynard has inspired aspiring authors to embrace their unique voices. Her success highlights the importance of authenticity in storytelling.

Contribution to Contemporary American Literature

Maynard's blend of memoir, fiction, and journalism enriches American literature by offering diverse perspectives on everyday life. Her work captures the complexities of human experience in a way that is both intimate and universally relevant.

Tips for Aspiring Writers Inspired by Joyce Maynard at Home in the World

For those looking to follow in Maynard's footsteps, there are valuable lessons to be learned from her approach to writing and life.

- **Write Honestly:** Embrace vulnerability and truthfulness in your storytelling to forge genuine connections with readers.
- **Draw from Experience:** Use your own life as a wellspring of inspiration, but don't be afraid to fictionalize or reimagine events for narrative effect.
- **Focus on Emotion:** Prioritize emotional depth over plot mechanics to create compelling, relatable stories.
- **Be Versatile:** Experiment with different genres and forms to find your unique voice and reach

wider audiences.

- **Connect with Place:** Use setting as a character in your stories to deepen atmosphere and meaning.

Exploring More of Joyce Maynard's Work and Influence

For readers eager to dive deeper, exploring Maynard's novels such as *Labor Day* and collections of essays reveals the breadth of her talent. Her stories continue to resonate because they speak to the universal human condition, making Joyce Maynard at home in the world not just a phrase, but a lived reality through her words.

As you explore her writing, you may find yourself reflecting on your own journey toward feeling at home in the world—an invitation that Joyce Maynard extends with warmth, honesty, and literary grace.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Joyce Maynard, the author of 'At Home in the World'?

Joyce Maynard is an American author and journalist known for her memoir 'At Home in the World,' which details her experiences as a young writer and her relationship with J.D. Salinger.

What is the main theme of Joyce Maynard's 'At Home in the World'?

'At Home in the World' primarily explores themes of coming of age, vulnerability, the complexities of relationships, and the challenges of growing up under the influence of a famous mentor.

When was 'At Home in the World' by Joyce Maynard published?

'At Home in the World' was published in 1998.

What personal experiences does Joyce Maynard share in 'At Home in the World'?

In the memoir, Maynard shares her experiences as a teenager who left home to live with J.D. Salinger, her struggles with identity, and her journey toward independence.

How did the relationship between Joyce Maynard and J.D. Salinger influence 'At Home in the World'?

Their relationship is a central focus of the memoir, highlighting the power dynamics and emotional challenges Maynard faced, which shaped her personal and professional life.

What impact did 'At Home in the World' have on Joyce Maynard's career?

The memoir brought significant attention to Maynard, establishing her as a candid and insightful writer, and sparked discussions about the ethical boundaries in relationships between young writers and mentors.

Is 'At Home in the World' considered a controversial book?

Yes, the book was controversial due to its candid portrayal of Maynard's relationship with Salinger and the ethical questions it raised about their age difference and power imbalance.

What writing style does Joyce Maynard use in 'At Home in the World'?

Maynard uses a reflective and intimate narrative style, combining memoir with literary analysis to provide insight into her life and experiences.

Has 'At Home in the World' been adapted into other media?

As of now, 'At Home in the World' has not been adapted into films or television, but it remains a significant literary memoir.

Where can readers find 'At Home in the World' by Joyce Maynard?

'At Home in the World' is available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries in both physical and digital formats.

Additional Resources

Joyce Maynard at Home in the World: A Deep Dive into the Memoir and Its Resonance

joyce maynard at home in the world is not just a phrase but the title of a poignant memoir that captures the intricacies of adolescence, the complexities of family dynamics, and the profound search for identity. Published in 1998, Maynard's memoir stands as an evocative exploration of coming-of-age in the turbulent era of the late 1960s and early 1970s. In this article, we undertake a comprehensive review of "At Home in the World," examining its themes, literary style, cultural impact, and the nuanced ways it reflects both personal and societal challenges.

Understanding Joyce Maynard at Home in the World

"Joyce Maynard at home in the world" refers to her memoir that chronicles her teenage years, focusing on her life from the age of 16 when she left New Hampshire for the bustling world of New York City. The narrative is a candid account of a young woman's journey through love, ambition, and vulnerability, detailing her relationship with the famed author J.D. Salinger. The memoir offers insight into the emotional landscape of adolescence, the complexities of mentorship, and the blurred boundaries between admiration and exploitation.

The book's title itself suggests a duality—the quest to find a place of comfort within the external world while reconciling internal conflicts. Maynard's portrayal of this tension is a defining feature of the memoir, resonating with readers who grapple with similar feelings of displacement and belonging.

Thematic Exploration

At its core, "At Home in the World" delves into several significant themes:

- **Coming-of-Age and Identity:** Maynard's narrative captures the turbulence of adolescence—the confusion, excitement, and fear that accompany the transition from childhood to adulthood.
- **Power Dynamics in Relationships:** The memoir provides an intimate depiction of Maynard's relationship with Salinger, highlighting the complexities of age, power, and influence.
- **Family and Emotional Trauma:** Beyond her relationship with Salinger, Maynard reveals the strained dynamics within her own family, including experiences of abuse and neglect.
- **Search for Independence:** The memoir is ultimately about Maynard's struggle to carve out her own identity in a world that often marginalizes young women.

These themes intertwine seamlessly, creating a compelling narrative that offers both personal revelations and broader cultural commentary.

Literary Style and Narrative Technique

Joyce Maynard's writing in "At Home in the World" is characterized by its raw honesty and lyrical clarity. The memoir employs a reflective, almost confessional tone, which invites readers to engage with Maynard's vulnerabilities without judgment. Through evocative descriptions and a nonlinear narrative structure, Maynard reconstructs memories in a way that feels both intimate and universal.

Comparisons to other memoirists such as Mary Karr or Jeannette Walls are inevitable, though Maynard's voice is distinct in its blend of youthful naivety and mature introspection. The memoir

avoids sensationalism, opting instead for a measured, thoughtful approach to sensitive subjects. This restraint enhances the emotional impact of the memoir, reinforcing its authenticity.

Impact and Reception

Upon its release, "At Home in the World" sparked considerable discussion, particularly due to Maynard's candid revelations about her relationship with J.D. Salinger. Critics praised the memoir for its bravery and literary merit, though some questioned the ethical implications of publicly dissecting a relationship with a private literary icon.

From an SEO perspective, "joyce maynard at home in the world" remains a frequently searched phrase, fueled by ongoing interest in memoirs that tackle themes of power imbalance and coming-of-age trauma. The memoir's enduring relevance is reflected in academic discussions, book clubs, and online forums, where readers continue to analyze its impact.

Contextualizing the Memoir in Contemporary Literature

The late 1990s saw a surge in memoirs that explored personal trauma and complex family histories. "At Home in the World" fits within this trend but stands out due to its focus on literary celebrity and the intersection of personal and public narratives.

Comparative Analysis

When compared to other memoirs of the era, such as Tobias Wolff's "This Boy's Life" or Mary Karr's "The Liars' Club," Maynard's work offers a uniquely female perspective on vulnerability and resilience. Unlike some memoirs that emphasize triumph over adversity, Maynard's story is more nuanced, capturing moments of ambivalence and uncertainty.

This complexity is one of the memoir's strengths but also a potential source of discomfort for readers expecting a clear narrative of empowerment. Instead, Maynard presents life as it often is: messy, unresolved, and deeply human.

Joyce Maynard's Influence and Legacy

Beyond the memoir itself, Joyce Maynard's career as a novelist, journalist, and essayist has been shaped by the themes introduced in "At Home in the World." Her continued exploration of female experience, trauma, and identity in her later works underscores the memoir's foundational role in her oeuvre.

The Broader Cultural Conversation

Maynard's willingness to confront difficult subjects has contributed to broader conversations about consent, power, and adolescence. In the context of #MeToo and evolving discussions around relationships between younger individuals and older mentors or celebrities, "At Home in the World" remains a relevant and important text.

- **Pros:** Honest portrayal of complex issues; lyrical prose; contributes to important cultural dialogues.
- **Cons:** Some readers may find the memoir's tone subdued or ambiguous; ethical questions regarding privacy and consent.

These aspects make the memoir a valuable subject for ongoing analysis and discussion.

Final Reflections on Joyce Maynard at Home in the World

"Joyce Maynard at home in the world" is more than a memoir—it is a profound exploration of the personal and societal forces that shape a young woman's life. The book's enduring appeal lies in its unflinching honesty and its ability to capture the complexities of growth, trauma, and healing.

In a literary landscape where memoirs often aim to inspire or entertain, Maynard's work stands out for its authenticity and its refusal to offer easy answers. For readers seeking a thoughtful and nuanced examination of adolescence and identity, "At Home in the World" remains a compelling and necessary read.

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joyce maynard at home in the world: At Home in the World Joyce Maynard, 1998-08-15
The author describes her love affair with reclusive author J.D. Salinger, which began at the age of eighteen, discussing her relationship with Salinger and her troubled but creative youth.

joyce maynard at home in the world: At Home In The World Joyce Maynard, 2014-11-28
In 1972, Joyce Maynard, an undergraduate at Yale, wrote an article for the New York Times Magazine called 'An Eighteen Year Old Looks Back on Life'. Among the hundreds of letters she received as a result, one expressed deep affection for her writing, and concern at the exploitation that she might be subjected to. The writer was J.D. Salinger, author of *Catcher in the Rye* and famous recluse. Their correspondence led first to friendship, and then to love, and after a few months she dropped out of college to live with him. In spite of the thirty-five year difference in their ages, she believed they would be together always - but after a year, he sent her away. Courageous, beautifully written and affecting, this book is destined to become a classic memoir of a modern woman's life.

joyce maynard at home in the world: At Home in the World Joyce Maynard, 1998 Journalist

and novelist Joyce Maynard writes about her extraordinary life, including the story of her year-long love affair with the author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger. At the time of their relationship, she was 18, Salinger was 53.

joyce maynard at home in the world: Looking Back Joyce Maynard, 2012-04-17 A memoir of what it was like to be a teenager in a tumultuous era, from the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Best of Us*. Joyce Maynard was eighteen years old when her 1972 New York Times Magazine cover story catapulted her to national prominence. Published one year later, *Looking Back* is her remarkable follow-up—part memoir, part cultural history, and part social critique. She wrote about diving under her desk for air-raid practice during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Beatles’ first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, and catching the first glimpse (on the cover of *Life* magazine) of a human fetus in utero. Extraordinarily frank, sincere, and opinionated, Maynard seemed unafraid to take on any subject—including herself. But as she reveals in a poignant and candid new foreword, she carefully kept her inner life off the page. She didn’t write about her difficult relationship with her mother, or her father’s alcoholism, or the fact that her best friend at college had struggled with the knowledge that he was gay. And she did not mention the most important part of her life at the time she was writing this book: her relationship with reclusive author J. D. Salinger, who read and corrected every page, even as he condemned her for writing it. In this special anniversary edition, Maynard’s candid introductory reflections on the girl behind the girl who wrote *Looking Back* lend a new dimension to this iconic analysis of a generation. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Joyce Maynard including rare photos from the author’s personal collection.

joyce maynard at home in the world: The Known Citizen Sarah E. Igo, 2020-03-10 A Washington Post Book of the Year Winner of the Merle Curti Award Winner of the Jacques Barzun Prize Winner of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award “A masterful study of privacy.” —Sue Halpern, New York Review of Books “Masterful (and timely)...[A] marathon trek from Victorian propriety to social media exhibitionism...Utterly original.” —Washington Post Every day, we make decisions about what to share and when, how much to expose and to whom. Securing the boundary between one’s private affairs and public identity has become an urgent task of modern life. How did privacy come to loom so large in public consciousness? Sarah Igo tracks the quest for privacy from the invention of the telegraph onward, revealing enduring debates over how Americans would—and should—be known. *The Known Citizen* is a penetrating historical investigation with powerful lessons for our own times, when corporations, government agencies, and data miners are tracking our every move. “A mighty effort to tell the story of modern America as a story of anxieties about privacy...Shows us that although we may feel that the threat to privacy today is unprecedented, every generation has felt that way since the introduction of the postcard.” —Louis Menand, New Yorker “Engaging and wide-ranging...Igo’s analysis of state surveillance from the New Deal through Watergate is remarkably thorough and insightful.” —The Nation

joyce maynard at home in the world: Domestic Affairs Joyce Maynard, 2012-04-17 DIVDIVAn unforgettable collection of essays on the everyday thrills and challenges of marriage and motherhood, from one of America’s best-loved memoirists/divDIV /divDIVWitty and insightful, *Domestic Affairs* is an extension of Joyce Maynard’s celebrated, widely syndicated newspaper column of the same name that ran from 1984 to 1990. Each essay gives an unfiltered look at the ups and downs of family life and a remarkable window into the challenges of modern motherhood. Topics range from babysitter woes to family visits to coping with a child’s burgeoning independence. These collected writings represent nine years’ worth of stories about the greatest adventure of Maynard’s life, or, as she writes, “the difficult, exhausting, humbling, and endlessly gratifying business of raising children, of ensuring the health of both body and soul.”/divDIV /divDIVThis ebook features an illustrated biography of Joyce Maynard including rare photos from the author’s personal collection./div/div

joyce maynard at home in the world: Salinger Paul Alexander, 2013-08-27 J.D. Salinger was one of the twentieth century’s greatest writers. He was also one of its most elusive. After making his mark on the American literary scene, Salinger retreated to a small town in New Hampshire where he

hoped to hide his life away from the world. With dogged determination, however, journalist and biographer Paul Alexander captured Salinger's story in this, the only complete biography of Holden Caulfield's creator published to date. Using the archives at Princeton, Yale, Harvard, Columbia, NYU and the New York Public Library as well as research in New York and New Hampshire, Alexander has created a great biography of Salinger that's further enriched by interviews with some of the greatest literary figures of our time: George Plimpton, Gay Talese, Ian Hamilton, Harold Bloom, Roger Angell, A. Scott Berg, Robert Giroux, Ved Mehta, Gordon Lish and Tom Wolfe.

joyce maynard at home in the world: Happily Ever After Divorce Jessica Bram, 2009-02-20
Radio commentator Bram gives a seldom touched-on view of divorce--a positive view of life on the other side--From publisher description.

joyce maynard at home in the world: Salinger's Soul Stephen B. Shepard, 2024-09-10 J.D.
Salinger remains one of America's best known but least understood writers. His 1951 book, *The Catcher in the Rye*, lives on as one of the most iconic American novels of all time. Yet after his commercial and literary success, Salinger soon retreated to a rural town in New Hampshire and lived in seclusion for the rest of his life. He wrote nearly every day but didn't publish any of his work after 1965. He became famous for not wanting to be famous. His story, however, is not over. His son, Matt, has been sorting through the unpublished writing Salinger left behind after his death in 2010. Most of these stories will be released soon, and are heavily influenced by his years in seclusion. *Salinger's Soul* tells of his traumatic experience in World War II, as well as his transition from the Judaism of his youth to his embrace of a mystical form of Hinduism known as Vedanta. It was Vedanta that influenced his post *Catcher* fiction, from *Nine Stories* to *Franny and Zooey*. Yet Salinger veered from Vedanta in one crucial way: he didn't heed its dictum to lead a life of celibacy. Instead, Salinger was obsessed with young women, those "in the last minutes of their girlhood." In all, his wartime experience, his religious beliefs, and his romantic relationships defined his life in seclusion and influenced his writing. *Salinger's Soul* looks at his little-known personal voyage of discovery.

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joyce maynard at home in the world: *On Finding Your Voice* K. Ibura, 2021-07-05 We are all hardwired with a unique voice and vision—it is written in our DNA, however most of us find it difficult to identify and honor that voice. We question our validity, reject our attempts, rule ourselves unworthy, and erect countless obstacles to our self expression and creativity. *On Finding Your Voice* looks at the mindset and thought patterns that stops us, the obstacles we build to negate ourselves and hold back our progress—and provides perspectives to help you dismantle those blockages, one by one.

joyce maynard at home in the world: *The Wounds that Heal* Judith A. Schwartz, Richard B. Schwartz, 2010-09-23 Theories of human development characteristically include a series of stages through which individuals are expected to pass if they are to achieve wholeness and happiness. Whether explicitly or not, such theories privilege normalcy. Heroes, on the other hand, are commonly wounded individuals whose developmental disabilities are ultimately the source of their personal success and heroism. *The Wounds that Heal* examines developmental theory in the light of the heroic narrative and argues that such theory should be adjusted to accommodate the experience

of those who are, in many ways, our principal role models. Four individuals are examined in depth: Jane Austen, T. E. Lawrence, Winston Churchill, and George S. Patton, Jr. The study draws on the experience of a host of other individuals, both historic and fictional, and includes materials designed to aid readers in defining their own views of the heroic as well as to become heroes or heroines in their own lives.

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joyce maynard at home in the world: *Feminist Literary and Cultural Criticism* Java Singh, 2022-06-19 Feminist Literary and Cultural Criticism explores inter-disciplinary connections across Cultural Anthropology, Geography, Psychology, and feminist literary criticism to develop a theoretical framework for spatial criticism. Using the spatial gynocritics framework developed in the book, it analyzes selected texts from five different genres—short-story, novel, film, cartoons, and OTT series, created by women. The creators discussed in the book constitute a transnational collectivity of women that shares common concerns about gender, environment, technology, and social hierarchies. They comprise a geographically and linguistically diverse group from India, Uruguay, Spain, Argentina, and the USA. The book offers immense potential for a comparative study on numerous aspects, among which the present work concentrates on the treatment of Space, demonstrating that spatial logic and grammar are essential elements of the feminist praxis. The book reveals the unexamined potential in the women creators' praxis of destabilizing, decentring, and destroying the ascribed centres around which social arrangements are structured. Moreover, the book offers valuable analytic tools that add to scholarship in literary theory, comparative cultural studies, comparative literature, gender studies, feminist criticism, and interdisciplinary humanities. It is an indispensable aid to students and faculty in these areas of study, enabling them to critique texts from a fresh perspective.

joyce maynard at home in the world: *J.D. Salinger* Raychel Haugrud Reiff, 2008 A biography of writer J.D. Salinger that describes his era, his major works—especially *The catcher in the rye*, his life, and the legacy of his writing.

joyce maynard at home in the world: *Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting* Ann Hood, 2013-11-11 A collection of essays about the transformative power of knitting from 27 contemporary authors, including Ann Patchett, Barbara Kingsolver, John Dufresne, and Joyce Maynard.

joyce maynard at home in the world: *New York*, 1998

joyce maynard at home in the world: *Scars of the Spirit* Geoffrey Hartman, 2015-11-17 In this fascinating collection of essays, noted cultural critic Geoffrey Hartman raises the essential question of where we can find the real or authentic in today's world, and how this affects the way we can understand our human predicament. Hartman explores such issues as the fantasy of total and perfect information available on the Internet, the biographical excesses of tell-all daytime talk shows, and how we can understand what is true in biographical and testimonial writing. And, what, he asks, is the ethical point of all this personal testimony? What has it really taught us? Underlying the entire book is a question of how the Holocaust has shaped the possibilities for truth and for the writing of an authentic life story in today's world, and how we can approach the world in a meaningful way. Hartman produces a meditation on how an appreciation of the aesthetic qualities of art and writing may help us to answer these questions of meaning.

joyce maynard at home in the world: *Beyond Crazy* Julia Nunes, Scott Simmie, 2011-06-22 In any given year, one in five Canadians will experience symptoms of mental disorder. So why do we still have such a long way to go towards true understanding and acceptance? Because people are afraid to talk. *Beyond Crazy* takes us beyond the barriers of fear and stigma to meet real Canadians from all walks of life who have encountered mental illness. They tell stories of what it is like to

journey to the edge of the abyss and back again, of what it is like to suffer deep psychosis or depression, a misdiagnosis, a life-threatening eating disorder, the suicide of a loved one. And they tell stories of hope recovered, of finding the road back to wellness, of families made stronger than ever. Using the most honest and compelling language – and often a good dose of humour – brave celebrities and unsung heroes tell it like it is. By doing so, they make it easier for those who follow, easier to get past the fear, to move beyond crazy.

joyce maynard at home in the world: Second Reading Jonathan Yardley, 2011-06-28 The Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic shares recollections and reviews from his career at the Washington Post. In this book, Jonathan Yardley considers lesser-known works from renowned authors and underappreciated talents, and offers fresh takes on old favorites. Yardley's reviews of sixty titles include fiction by Gabriel García Márquez, John Cheever, and Henry Fielding; the autobiography of Louis Armstrong; essays by Nora Ephron; and Margaret Leech's history of Washington during the Civil War. Second Reading is also the memoir of a passionate and lifelong reader told through the books that have meant the most to him. Playing the part of both reviewer and bibliophile, Yardley takes on Steinbeck and Salinger, explores the southern fiction of Shirley Ann Grau and Eudora Welty, looks into a darker side of Roald Dahl, and praises the pulp fiction of William Bradford Huie and the crime novels of John D. MacDonald. Collected from a popular Washington Post column of the same name, Second Reading is an incisive and entertaining look at the career and times of an esteemed critic and the venerable books that shaped him. This delightful consideration reminds readers that thoughtful criticism and a lively sense of fun can exist side by side.

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