
About A Mountain John Dagata

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We Might As Well Call It
the Lyric Essay Samuel
French, Inc.

In Meander Belt M.
Randal O ' Wain offers a
reflection on how a
working-class boy from
Memphis, Tennessee,
came to fall in love with
language, reading,
writing, and the larger
world outside of the
American South. This
memoir examines what it
means for the son of a
carpenter to value mental
rather than physical labor
and what this does to his
relationship with his
family, whose livelihood
and sensibility are
decidedly blue collar.

Straining the father-son
bond further, O ' Wain
leaves home to find a life
outside Memphis, roaming
from place to place,
finding odd jobs, and
touring with his band.
From memory and
observation, O ' Wain
assembles a subtle and
spare portrait of his
roots, family, and
ultimately discovers that
his working-class
upbringing is not so
antithetical to the man he
has become.

Fear Icons Penguin
Melanie Thernstrom's senior
thesis was entitled Mistakes
of Metaphor, an account of
the mysterious
disappearance and murder
of her best friend, Bibi Lee.
That thesis, reworked as
The Dead Girl, was
published by Pocket Books
in 1990 to major critical
acclaim. Berkeley student
Roberta (Bibi) Lee went
running with her lover

Bradley Page on a Sunday in
1984. He came back alone.
When she failed to return
police mounted one of the
largest missing-person
searches in California
history. Five weeks later
Roberta's battered body was
found and within hours,
Page had confessed to
Roberta's murder—a
confession he was later to
recant. With its enduring
themes of innocence and
evil, truth and uncertainty,
human motives and
emotions, *The Dead Girl* is a
complex exploration of the
nature of reality and the frail,
shifting and suspect ways in
which we respond to it.

*They're Playing Our
Song* Bloomsbury
Publishing USA
In an eclectic
compilation of essays,
the author of *Other
Electricities* utilizes
unexpectedly
nonliterary forms to
explore such diverse
topics as the history

of mining in northern Michigan, disc golf, topology, car washes, snow, and more. Original.

Neck Deep and Other

Predicaments Simon and Schuster

A landmark book, “brilliant, thoughtful” (The Atlantic) and “raw and gorgeous” (LA Times), that fast-forwards the discussion of the central artistic issues of our time, from the bestselling author of *The Thing About Life Is That One Day You'll Be Dead*. Who owns ideas? How clear is the distinction between fiction and nonfiction? Has the velocity of digital culture rendered traditional modes obsolete? Exploring these and related questions, Shields orchestrates a chorus of voices, past and present, to reframe debates about the veracity of memoir and the relevance of the novel. He argues that our culture is obsessed with “reality,” precisely because we experience hardly any, and urgently calls for new forms that embody and convey the fractured nature of contemporary experience.

A Harp in the Stars Sasquatch Books

Barret Baumgart 's literary debut presents a haunting and deeply personal portrait of civilization poised at the precipice, a picture of humanity caught between its deepest past and darkest future. In the fall of 2013, during the height of California 's historic drought, Baumgart toured the remote military base, NAWS China Lake, near Death Valley, California. His mother, the survivor of a recent stroke, decided to come along for the ride. She hoped the alleged

healing power of the base 's ancient Native American hot springs might cure her crippling headaches.

Baumgart sought to debunk claims that the military was spraying the atmosphere with toxic chemicals to control the weather. What follows is a discovery that threatens to sever not only the bonds between mother and son but between planet Earth and life itself. Stalking the fringes of Internet conspiracy, speculative science, and contemporary archaeology, Baumgart weaves memoir, military history, and investigative journalism in a dizzying journey that carries him from the cornfields of Iowa to drought-riddled California, from the Vietnam jungle to the caves of prehistoric Europe and eventually the walls of the US Capitol, the sparkling white hallways of the Pentagon, and straight into the contradicted heart of a worldwide climate emergency.

Reality Hunger Simon and Schuster

Named One of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books Written by the New York Times Magazine, a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and a New York Times Editors' Choice. When John D'Agata helps his mother move to Las Vegas one summer, he begins to follow a story about the federal government's plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain; the result is a startling portrait that compels a reexamination of the future of human life.

Meander Belt Bloomsbury Publishing

Reading is a revolutionary act, an act of engagement in a culture that wants us to disengage. In *The Lost Art of*

Reading, David L. Ulin asks a number of timely questions - why is literature important? What does it offer, especially now? Blending commentary with memoir, Ulin addresses the importance of the simple act of reading in an increasingly digital culture. Reading a book, flipping through hard pages, or shuffling them on screen - it doesn't matter. The key is the act of reading, and it's seriousness and depth. Ulin emphasizes the importance of reflection and pause allowed by stopping to read a book, and the accompanying focus required to let the mind run free in a world that is not one's own. Are we willing to risk our collective interest in contemplation, nuanced thinking, and empathy? Far from preaching to the choir, *The Lost Art of Reading* is a call to arms, or rather, to pages.

The Lost Art of Reading
University of Iowa Press
About a Mountain W. W. Norton & Company
Beyond Measure Sarabande Books

Truth has always been a central preoccupation of philosophy in all its forms and traditions. Yet in the late twentieth century truth became suddenly rather unfashionable. The precedence given to assorted political and ideological agendas, along with

the rise of relativism, postmodernism and pseudoscience in academia, led to a decline both of truth as a serious subject, and an intellectual tradition that began with the Enlightenment. *Why Truth Matters* is a timely, incisive and entertaining look at how and why modern thought and culture lost sight of the importance of truth. It is also an eloquent and inspiring argument for restoring truth to its rightful place. Jeremy Stangroom and Ophelia Benson, editors of the successful *butterfliesandwheels* website— itself established to "fight fashionable nonsense"—identify and debunk such senselessness, and the spurious claims made for it, in all its forms. Their account ranges over religious fundamentalism, Holocaust denial, the challenges of postmodernism and deconstruction, the wilful misinterpretation of evolutionary biology, identity politics and wishful thinking. *Why Truth Matters* is both a rallying cry for the enlightened vision and an essential read for anyone who's ever been bored, frustrated, bewildered or plain enraged by the worst excesses of the fashionable intelligentsia. Halls of Fame U of Nebraska Press

The *Guardians* opens with a story from the July 24, 2008, edition of the *Riverdale Press* that begins, "An unidentified white man was struck and instantly killed by a Metro-

North train last night as it pulled into the station on West 254th Street." Sarah Manguso writes: "The train's engineer told the police that the man was alone and that he jumped. The police officers pulled the body from the track and found no identification. The train's 425 passengers were transferred to another train and delayed about twenty minutes." The *Guardians* is an elegy for Manguso's friend Harris, two years after he escaped from a psychiatric hospital and jumped under that train. The narrative contemplates with unrelenting clarity their crowded postcollege apartment, Manguso's fellowship year in Rome, Harris's death and the year that followed—the year of mourning and the year of Manguso's marriage. As Harris is revealed both to the reader and to the narrator, the book becomes a monument to their intimacy and inability to express their love to each other properly, and to the reverberating effects of Harris's presence in and absence from Manguso's life. There is grief in the book but also humor, as Manguso marvels at the unexpected details that constitute a friendship. The *Guardians* explores the insufficiency of explanation and the necessity

of the imagination in making sense of anything.

How We Speak to One Another W. W. Norton & Company

Beyond Measure is a fascinating exploration of the rituals, routines, metrics and expectations through which we attempt to quantify and ascribe value to our lives. With mordant humor and penetrating intellect, Arndt casts her gaze beyond event-driven narratives to the machinery underlying them: judo competitions measured in weigh-ins and wait times; the significance of the elliptical 's stationary churn; the rote scripts of dating apps; the stupefying sameness of the daily commute. Rachel Z. Arndt 's writing has appeared in *Popular Mechanics*, *Quartz*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. She received MFAs in nonfiction and poetry from the University of Iowa, where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow and nonfiction editor of *The Iowa Review*. After stints in Rhode Island and New York, she now lives in Chicago and works as a reporter at *Modern Healthcare*, covering healthcare technology.

The Art of Time in Memoir About a Mountain

"A highly anticipated debut novel from 5 Under 35 National Book Foundation honoree featuring a Korean War refugee who emigrates to Brazil to become a tailor's apprentice and confronts the wreckage of his past"--

The *Guardians* Graywolf Press

"Now, with 'The making of the American essay' the editor includes selections ranging from Anne

Bradstreet's secular prayers to Washington Irving's satires, Emily Dickinson's love letters to Kenneth Goldsmith's catalog's, Gertrude Stein's portraits to James Baldwin's and Norman Mailer's mediations on boxing. In this volume the editor uncovers new stories in the American essay's past and shows us that some of the most fiercely daring writers in the American literary canon have turned to the essay in order to produce some of our culture's most exhilarating art."-- book jacket.

China Lake Graywolf Press

Jane tells the spectral story of the life and death of Maggie Nelson's aunt Jane, who was murdered in 1969 while a first-year law student at the University of Michigan. Though officially unsolved, Jane's murder was apparently the third in a series of seven brutal rape-murders in the area between 1967 and 1969. Nelson was born a few years after Jane's death, and the narrative is suffused with the long shadow her murder cast over both the family and her psyche. Jane explores the nature of this haunting incident via a collage of poetry, prose, dream-accounts, and documentary sources, including local and national newspapers, related "true crime" books such as *The Michigan Murders* and *Killer Among Us*, and fragments from Jane's own diaries written when she was 13 and 21. Its eight sections cover Jane's childhood and early adulthood, her murder and its investigation, the direct and diffuse effect of her death on Nelson's girlhood and sisterhood, and a trip to Michigan Nelson took with her mother (Jane's sister) to retrace the path of Jane's final hours.

Acid West Pantheon Books

En 1980, un an après l'accident du réacteur de la centrale de Three Mile Island, le Comité américain de l'énergie atomique fait pression sur le Congrès pour que tous les déchets nucléaires du pays soient stockés sur un seul site. Ce sera Yucca Mountain, à 40 kilomètres de Las Vegas, Nevada. Ce livre révèle les moindres détails de ce projet d'enfouissement massif: les dizaines de milliards de dollars nécessaires pour aménager la montagne; le rôle des lobbyistes pro-nucléaires sur le vote des élus corrompus; l'échec des géologues à rendre la montagne imperméable; les 250 camions qui passeront chaque mois par le centre de Las Vegas, remplis de déchets radioactifs; les manuels scolaires financés par l'État pour convaincre les élèves que le "nucléaire est écologique"; le comité d'expert chargé d'inventer une enseigne indiquant la dangerosité du site et compréhensible dans 10 000 ans; la visite guidée des entrailles de la montagne... Mais la force du texte ne réside pas seulement dans les crises suscitées par la peur du nucléaire. Mêlant avec force détails enquête de

terrain et dialogues personnels - où s'invitent Noam Chomsky, Edward Abbey et Edward Munch -, John D'Agata scrute les néons d'une ville derrière lesquels les suicides se comptent en masse et où la dernière mesure ultime prend la forme d'un hôpital stratosphérique indestructible. Un récit sombre et éblouissant, servi par une écriture cinématographique, qui s'avale aussi vite qu'une pastille d'iode et dont la chute est vertigineuse.

Lord Fear Hobart & William Smith
College Press / Seneca Review
Books

In 1663 Oxford, a servant girl confesses to a murder. But four witnesses--a medical student, the son of a traitor, a cryptographer, and an archivist--each finger a different culprit...

AN Instance of the Fingerpost
National Geographic Books
Reflections on the myriad forms that fear takes and an examination of the ways that love and fear intensify each other.

Abandon Me Art of
Named One of the 100 Best
Nonfiction Books Written by
the New York Times Magazine,
a Publishers Weekly Best Book
of the Year, and a New York
Times Editors' Choice. When
John D'Agata helps his mother
move to Las Vegas one summer,
he begins to follow a story about
the federal government's plan to
store nuclear waste at Yucca
Mountain; the result is a startling

portrait that compels a reexamination of the future of human life. Snow Hunters Blue Rider Press NOW A BROADWAY PLAY STARRING DANIEL RADCLIFFE 'Provocative, maddening and compulsively readable' Maggie Nelson In 2003, American essayist John D'Agata wrote a piece for Harper's about Las Vegas's alarmingly high suicide rate, after a sixteen-year-old boy had thrown himself from the top of the Stratosphere Tower. The article he delivered, 'What Happens There', was rejected by the magazine for inaccuracies. But it was soon picked up by another, who assigned it a fact checker: their fresh-faced intern, and recent Harvard graduate, Jim Fingal. What resulted from that assignment, and beyond the essay's eventual publication in the magazine, was seven years of arguments, negotiations, and revisions as D'Agata and Fingal struggled to navigate the boundaries of literary nonfiction. This book includes an early draft of D'Agata's essay, along with D'Agata and Fingal's extensive discussion around the text. *The Lifespan of a Fact* is a brilliant and eye-opening meditation on the relationship between 'truth' and 'accuracy', and a penetrating conversation about whether it is appropriate for a writer to substitute one for the other. 'A fascinating and dramatic power struggle over the intriguing question of what

nonfiction should, or can, be' Lydia Davis
About a Mountain Macmillan
What is a lyric essay? An essay that has a lyrical style? An essay that plays with form in a way that resembles poetry more than prose? Both of these? Or something else entirely? The works in this anthology show lyric essays rely more on intuition than exposition, use image more than narration, and question more than answer. But despite all this looseness, the lyric essay still has responsibilities—to try to reveal something, to play with ideas, or to show a shift in thinking, however subtle. The whole of a lyric essay adds up to more than the sum of its parts. In *A Harp in the Stars*, Randon Billings Noble has collected lyric essays written in four different forms—flash, segmented, braided, and hermit crab—from a range of diverse writers. The collection also includes a section of craft essays—lyric essays about lyric essays. And because lyric essays can be so difficult to pin down, each contributor has supplemented their work with a short meditation on this boundary-breaking form.