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## After Francine Prose

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*Comedy in a Minor Key* Harper Collins  
In this brilliant collection, the follow-up to her New York Times bestseller *Reading Like a Writer*, the distinguished novelist, literary critic, and essayist celebrates the pleasures of reading and pays homage to the works and writers she admires above all others, from Jane Austen and Charles Dickens to Jennifer Egan and Roberto Bolaño. In an age defined by hyper-connectivity and constant stimulation, Francine Prose makes a compelling case for the solitary act of reading and the great enjoyment it brings. Inspiring and illuminating, *What to Read and Why* includes selections culled from Prose's previous essays, reviews, and introductions,

combined with new, never-before-published pieces that focus on her favorite works of fiction and nonfiction, on works by masters of the short story, and even on books by photographers like Diane Arbus. Prose considers why the works of literary masters such as Mary Shelley, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Jane Austen have endured, and shares intriguing insights about modern authors whose words stimulate our minds and enlarge our lives, including Roberto Bolaño, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Jennifer Egan, and Mohsin Hamid. Prose implores us to read Mavis Gallant for her marvelously rich and compact sentences, and her meticulously rendered characters who

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reveal our flawed and complex human nature; Edward St. Aubyn for his elegance and sophisticated humor; and Mark Strand for his gift for depicting unlikely transformations. Here, too, are original pieces in which Prose explores the craft of writing: "On Clarity" and "What Makes a Short Story." Written with her sharp critical analysis, wit, and enthusiasm, *What to Read and Why* is a celebration of literature that will give readers a new appreciation for the power and beauty of the written word.

*The Depth of the Years* Harper Collins

An "irresistibly readable" pair of novellas skewering Americans abroad—by the New York Times–bestselling author and National Book Award finalist (The New York Times

Book Review). "In a style that is bold, witty, richly detailed, and suffused with a wry subtlety," Francine Prose offers penetrating portraits of Americans in Europe who have brought all their baggage—ego, ambition, sexual desire—with them (Elle). Guided Tours of Hell When the insecure (and rightfully so) playwright Landau travels from New York to Prague to read at the first annual Kafka conference, he's certain this is his chance to prove himself—and his work. But he quickly finds himself upstaged by Jiri Krakauer, a charismatic Holocaust survivor whose claim to fame is a long-ago death-camp love affair with Kafka's sister. On a group tour to the camp-turned-tourist-attraction, Landau sets out to prove that Krakauer is lying—with unexpected results.

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Three Pigs in Five Days Ambitious young journalist Nina has been stranded in Paris by her editor and sometimes boyfriend, Leo. When he finally shows up, playfully suggesting a romantic tour of the catacombs, prisons, and shadows of the City of Light, the bloom begins to come off the rose for the infatuated Nina—who must ask herself how much of herself she is willing to sacrifice for love.

Stories Yale University Press

A funny, fresh, and brilliantly insightful collection of stories from a beloved writer, with a new introduction by Francine Prose Johanna Kaplan's beautifully written stories first burst on the literary scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Today they have retained all of their depth, surprise, and humor—their

simultaneously scathing, hilarious, and compassionate insight into character and behavior. From Miriam, home from school with the measles, to Louise, the daughter of a family that fled Vienna for the Dominican Republic, to Naomi, a young psychiatrist, her heroines are fierce, tender, funny, and cuttngly smart. At once specific to a particular period, place, and milieu—mainly, Jewish New York in the decades after World War II—Kaplan's stories resonate with universal significance. In this new collection, which includes both early and later stories, unforgettably vivid characters are captured in all of their forceful presence and singularity, their foolishness and their wisdom, their venality and their nobility, while, hovering in the background, the inexorable passage of time and the unending pull of memory render silent judgment. In its pitch-perfect command of

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dialogue matched with interwoven subtleties of insight and feeling and a masterful control of language, *Loss of Memory Is Only Temporary* is itself a timeless collection of the finest work by one of the most extraordinary talents of our age.

A Novel

Harper Collins

DIV In her entertaining and edifying New York Times bestseller, acclaimed author Francine Prose invites you to sit by her side and take a guided tour of the tools and tricks of the masters to discover why their work has endured. Written with passion, humour and wisdom, *Reading Like a Writer* will inspire readers to return to

literature with a fresh eye and an eager heart - to take pleasure in the long and magnificent sentences of Philip Roth and the breathtaking paragraphs of Isaac Babel; to look to John le Carré for a lesson in how to advance plot through dialogue and to Flannery O'Connor for the cunning use of the telling detail; to be inspired by Emily Brontë's structural nuance and Charles Dickens's deceptively simple narrative techniques. Most importantly, Prose cautions readers to slow down and pay

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attention to words, the raw material out of which all literature is crafted, and reminds us that good writing comes out of good reading.

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Touch Harper Collins

School has become a prison. No one knows why. There's no way to stop it.

A BBC 2 Between the Covers Book Club Pick – Booker Prize Gems Open Road Media

“ Reading [this book] is like driving down the road with a companion who is so smart and funny and insightful that her conversation transforms the landscape ” (Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Prize – winning author of *A Thousand Acres*).

The twelve “ meticulously observed ” stories of *Women and Children* First showcase New York Times – bestselling author and National Book

Award finalist Francine Prose at her finest—offering a glimpse into the lives of men and women searching for connection and meaning in a world that often seems pre-programmed for absurdity (*The New York Times*). An adult daughter struggling to understand her father ’ s newfound Hasidic faith, an alcoholic trying to improve himself by fasting, a housewife enrolled in the New Consciousness Academy, a French literature professor who ’ s begun to fear *Madame Bovary*, and a young woman seeking direction from a Tibetan master in the company of neurotic, overeager followers—these are the achingly, hilariously real people who inhabit these “ wise and witty ” stories (*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*).

*The Seven Deadly Sins* Open Road Media Named one of the best books of 2021 by NPR, *The Washington Post*, and *Financial Times* "No

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one states problems more correctly, more astutely, more amusingly and more uncomfortably than Francine Prose . . . The gift of her work to a reader is to create for us what she creates for her protagonist: the subtle unfolding, the moment-by-moment process of discovery as we read and change, from not knowing and even not wanting to know or care, to seeing what we had not seen and finding our way to the light of the ending."--Amy Bloom, New York Times Book Review "Depending on the light, it's either a very funny serious story or a very serious funny story. But no matter how you turn it, *The Vixen* offers an illuminating reflection on the slippery nature of truth in America, then and now."--Washington Post Critically acclaimed, bestselling author Francine Prose returns with a dazzling new novel set in the glamorous world of 1950s New York publishing, the story of a young man tasked with editing a steamy bodice-ripper based on the recent trial and execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg--an assignment that will reveal the true cost of entering that seductive, dangerous new world. It's 1953, and Simon Putnam, a recent Harvard graduate newly hired by a distinguished New York publishing firm, has entered a glittering world of three-martini lunches, exclusive literary parties, and old-money aristocrats in exquisitely tailored suits, a far cry from his loving, middle-class Jewish family in Coney Island. But Simon's first assignment--editing *The Vixen*, *the Patriot* and *the Fanatic*, a lurid bodice-ripper improbably based on the recent trial and execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, a potboiler intended to shore up the firm's failing finances--makes him question the cost of admission. Because Simon has a secret that, at the height of the Red Scare and the McCarthy hearings, he cannot reveal: his

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beloved mother was a childhood friend of Ethel Rosenberg's. His parents mourn Ethel's death. Simon's dilemma grows thornier when he meets The Vixen's author, the startlingly beautiful, reckless, seductive Anya Partridge, ensconced in her opium-scented boudoir in a luxury Hudson River mental asylum. As mysteries deepen, as the confluence of sex, money, politics and power spirals out of Simon's control, he must face what he's lost by exchanging the loving safety of his middle-class Jewish parents' Coney Island apartment for the witty, whiskey-soaked orbit of his charismatic boss, the legendary Warren Landry. Gradually Simon realizes that the people around him are not what they seem, that everyone is keeping secrets, that ordinary events may conceal a diabolical plot--and that these crises may steer him toward a brighter future. At once domestic and political, contemporary and

historic, funny and heartbreaking, enlivened by surprising plot turns and passages from Anya's hilariously bad novel, *The Vixen* illuminates a period of history with eerily striking similarities to the current moment. Meanwhile it asks timeless questions: How do we balance ambition and conscience? What do social mobility and cultural assimilation require us to sacrifice? How do we develop an authentic self, discover a vocation, and learn to live with the mysteries of love, family, art, life and loss?

#### The Vixen Vintage

From the “ wonderfully quirky imagination ” of the New York Times – bestselling author: A tabloid reporter is surprised to find magic in a mundane world (*The New York Times*). Vera Pearl is a staff writer for *This Week*, a supermarket tabloid which trades in the bizarre and the absurd—though rarely, if ever, the true. No one is better than Vera at imagining these weird, wild stories, because more than anything,



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she wants them to be real. During one particularly slow week, Vera takes a photograph snapped by a colleague showing two children selling lemonade outside their Brooklyn home and drafts up a scoop to fit the snap, the story of two enterprising children who have discovered—and are profiting off of—the literal Fountain of Youth. By astonishing coincidence—or perhaps by magic—the details she concocts about the children (except for the properties of the tap water) turn out to be true, and hundreds of miracle-seekers descend upon this modern Lourdes-in-Flatbush. The resulting lawsuit sends this master of hoaxes into a very real tailspin: she is fired, her estranged husband flies in from Los Angeles to whisk away their precocious young daughter, and Vera takes off for Arizona to attend a meeting of the Cryptobiological Society, hoping for evidence of their furry quarry, Bigfoot. Just one glance, and Vera's longing to finally transcend the quotidian may come true . . .

A Novel Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Forty years after Tom Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson, and Gay Talese launched the New Journalism movement, Robert S. Boynton sits down with nineteen practitioners of what he calls the New New Journalism to discuss their methods, writings and careers. The New New Journalists are first and foremost brilliant reporters who immerse themselves completely in their subjects. Jon Krakauer accompanies a mountaineering expedition to Everest. Ted Conover works for nearly a year as a prison guard. Susan Orlean follows orchid fanciers to reveal an obsessive subculture few knew existed. Adrian Nicole LeBlanc spends nearly a decade reporting on a family in the South Bronx. And like their muckraking early twentieth-century precursors, they are drawn to the most pressing issues of the day: Alex Kotlowitz, Leon Dash, and William Finnegan

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to race and class; Ron Rosenbaum to the problem of evil; Michael Lewis to boom-and-bust economies; Richard Ben Cramer to the nitty gritty of politics. How do they do it? In these interviews, they reveal the techniques and inspirations behind their acclaimed works, from their felt-tip pens, tape recorders, long car rides, and assumed identities; to their intimate understanding of the way a truly great story unfolds. Interviews with: Gay Talese Jane Kramer Calvin Trillin Richard Ben Cramer Ted Conover Alex Kotlowitz Richard Preston William Langewiesche Eric Schlosser Leon Dash William Finnegan Jonathan Harr Jon Krakauer Adrian Nicole LeBlanc Michael Lewis Susan Orlean Ron Rosenbaum Lawrence Weschler Lawrence Wright Judah the Pious New York Review of Books

All loved, and were loved by, their artists, and inspired them with an intensity of emotion akin to Eros. In a brilliant, wry, and provocative book, National Book Award finalist Francine Prose explores the complex relationship between the artist and his muse. In so doing, she illuminates with great sensitivity and intelligence the elusive emotional wellsprings of the creative process.

Bigfoot Dreams Open Road Media

A blending of art and cultural criticism, travel writing, and personal narrative, Sicilian Odyssey is Francine Prose's imaginative consideration of the diverse cultural legacies found juxtaposed and entangled on the Mediterranean island of Sicily. She writes of the intensity of Sicily, the "commitment to the extreme," where the history is more colorful, the sun hotter, the cooking earthier, the violence more horrific, the carnival more raucous, the politics more Byzantine than other places on Earth, and how much the island can teach us about the triumph of beauty over violence and life over death. Prose examines

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architectural sites and objects and looks at the ways in which myth and actuality converge. Exploring the intact and beautiful Greek amphitheatres at Siracusa and Taormina, the cathedral at Monreale, the Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina, and some of the masterpieces of the Baroque scattered throughout the island, Prose focuses her keen insight to imagine them in their own time, to examine the evolution and decline of the cultures that produced them, and to deconstruct powerful responses each evokes in her. Illuminated by the author's own photographs, *Sicilian Odyssey* brings exotic and enigmatic Sicily to life through the prism of its past.

### Women and Children First Open Road Media

Written while Hans Keilson was in hiding during World War II, *The Death of the Adversary* is the self-portrait of a young man helplessly fascinated by an unnamed "adversary" whom he watches rise to power in

1930s Germany. It is a tale of horror, not only in its evocation of Hitler's gathering menace but also in its hero's desperate attempt to discover logic where none exists. A psychological fable as wry and haunting as *Badenheim 1939*, *The Death of the Adversary* is a lost classic of modern fiction.

### A Novel After

My father was killed on 9/11. When eighth grader Bart Rangely is granted a "mercy" scholarship to an elite private school after his father is killed in the North Tower, doors should have opened. Instead, he is terrorized and bullied by his own mentor. So begins the worst year of his life.

### A Novel Harper Collins

2000 Alex Award Winner. A fascinating story of life at sea. A record of a typical month-long swordfishing trip, the backbreaking work, the danger, the uncertainty of the weather, and

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the thrill of a gritty job that makes the sea a home.

The Peaceable Kingdom Open Road Media

This compilation of heretofore uncollected essays shows noted novelist and cultural critic Francine Prose at her most eloquent, incisive, and provocative. When Francine Prose's article, *Scent of a Woman's Ink*--which discussed how women writers are consistently underrepresented among the winners of major American literary awards--appeared in Harper's magazine three years ago, it touched off a storm of debate and counter-arguments, both in print and on the airwaves. In *SCENT OF A WOMAN'S INK: ESSAYS BY FRANCINE PROSE*, that article, along with Prose's equally pithy and incisive writings about the art and politics of writing and its at times jarring intersection with the culture it documents, confirms Prose's place as one of the

most readable and relevant cultural critics writing today. From *Learning from Chekhov*, her elegant and considered essay on the art and craft of writing to *A Wasteland of One's Own*, her controversial and much-discussed piece about the commercially created and dumbed-down women's culture for *The New York Times*, Prose's essays are at once instructive and revelatory, and always provocative.

After National Geographic Books

*The New York Times* – bestselling author takes on *New Ager* as one woman searches for meaning in this “brilliantly satiric but . . . sweet-natured” novel (*Publishers Weekly*). Thirty-year-old Martha is stagnating in a demeaning, woefully underpaid job as a fact-checker at frothy fashion magazine *Mode* and an unhappy relationship with an unrepentant jerk. But she stumbles upon an unlikely new circle of friends

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when she interrupts a goddess-worshipping ceremony on Fire Island and ends up rescuing its accident-prone leader, Isis Moonwagon, from the waves. From the steel skyscrapers of Manhattan to a sweat lodge in the Arizona desert, Martha chases fulfillment and self-actualization in the company of this group of opinionated, bumbling women, but the revelations she receives are not necessarily what she expected. “ Prose ’ s satiric vision could not be more sharply focused here, and her powers of observation and deadpan humor never falter ” as she sends up the New Age movement and its over-earnest adherents (The Miami Herald).

Stories HarperCollins

A BBC TWO BETWEEN THE COVERS  
BOOK CLUB PICK (BOOKER PRIZE GEMS)

'Molly Keane is a mistress of wicked comedy'  
Vogue 'I really wish I had written this book. It's a  
tragi-comedy set in Ireland after the First World

War. A real work of craftsmanship' Hilary Mantel  
I do know how to behave - believe me, because I  
know. I have always known . . . Behind the gates  
of Temple Alice, the aristocratic Anglo-Irish St  
Charles family sinks into a state of decaying grace.  
To Aroon St Charles, large and unlovely daughter  
of the house, the fierce forces of sex, money,  
jealousy and love seem locked out by the ritual  
patterns of good behaviour. But crumbling codes  
of conduct cannot hope to save the members of  
the St Charles family from their own unruly and  
inadmissible desires. This elegant and allusive  
novel established Molly Keane as the natural  
successor to Jean Rhys. 'I have read and re-read  
Molly Keane more, I think, than any other writer.  
Nobody else can touch her as a satirist, tragedian  
and dissector of human behaviour. I love all her  
books, but Good Behaviour and Loving and  
Giving are the ones I return to most' Maggie

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O'Farrell

The Lives of the Muses Harper Collins

A penetrating study of ordinary people resisting the Nazi occupation—and, true to its title, a dark comedy of wartime manners—Comedy in a Minor Key tells the story of Wim and Marie, a Dutch couple who first hide a Jew they know as Nico, then must dispose of his body when he dies of pneumonia. This novella, first published in 1947 and now translated into English for the first time, shows Hans Keilson at his best: deeply ironic, penetrating, sympathetic, and brilliantly modern, an heir to Joseph Roth and Franz Kafka. In 2008, when Keilson received Germany's prestigious Welt Literature Prize, the citation praised his work for exploring "the destructive impulse at work in the twentieth century, down to its deepest psychological and spiritual ramifications." Published to celebrate Keilson's hundredth birthday, Comedy in a Minor Key—and The Death of the Adversary, reissued in paperback—will introduce American readers to a forgotten classic author, a witness to

World War II and a sophisticated storyteller whose books remain as fresh as when they first came to light.

Reading Like a Writer Harper Collins

“ A definitive, deeply moving inquiry into the life of the young, imperiled artist, and a masterful exegesis of Diary of a Young Girl...Extraordinary testimony to the power of literature and compassion ” – Booklist (starred review) In Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, the Afterlife, Francine Prose, author of Reading Like a Writer, deftly parses the artistry, ambition, and enduring influence of Anne Frank ' s beloved classic, The Diary of a Young Girl. Approved by both the Anne Frank House Foundation in Amsterdam and the Anne Frank-Fonds in Basel, run by the Frank family, this work of literary criticism unravels the complex, fascinating story of the

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diary and effectively makes the case for it being a work of art from a precociously gifted writer. Acclaimed best-selling author Francine Prose offers a singular reading of Guggenheim ' s life that will enthrall enthusiasts of twentieth-century art, as well as anyone interested in American and European culture and the interrelationships between them. The lively and insightful narrative follows Guggenheim through virtually every aspect of her extraordinary life, from her unique collecting habits and paradigm-changing discoveries, to her celebrity friendships, failed marriages, and scandalous affairs, and Prose delivers a colorful portrait of a defiantly uncompromising woman who maintained a powerful upper hand in a male-dominated world. Prose also explores the ways in which Guggenheim ' s image was filtered through

Blue Angel Virago

One of twentieth-century America ' s most influential patrons of the arts, Peggy Guggenheim (1898 – 1979) brought to wide public attention the work of such modern masters as Jackson Pollock and Man Ray. In her time, there was no stronger advocate for the groundbreaking and the avant-garde. Her midtown gallery was the acknowledged center of the postwar New York art scene, and her museum on the Grand Canal in Venice remains one of the world ' s great collections of modern art. Yet as renowned as she was for the art and artists she so tirelessly championed, Guggenheim was equally famous for her unconventional personal life,

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the lens of insidious antisemitism.