

Escape Velocity A Charles Portis Miscellany

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[The Dressmaker of Khair Khana](#) A&C Black

Lamar Jimmerson is the leader of the Gnomon Society, the international fraternal order dedicated to preserving the arcane wisdom of the lost city of Atlantis. Stationed in France in 1917, Jimmerson comes across a little book crammed with Atlantean puzzles, Egyptian riddles, and extended alchemical metaphors. It's the Codex Pappus - the sacred Gnomon text. Soon he is basking in the lore of lost Atlantis, convinced that his mission on earth is to administer to and extend the ranks of the noble brotherhood.

The Dog of the South Harvard University Press

Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Dedication -- Epigraphs -- Contents -- Introduction: American Niceness and the Democratic Personality -- 1. Indian Giving and the Dangers of Hospitality -- 2. Southern Niceness and the Slave's Smile -- 3. The Christology of Niceness -- 4. Feminine Niceness -- 5. The Likable Empire from Plymouth Rock to the Philippines -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index

Trampoline Abrams

Shane rides into the valley where Bob Starrett's family lives, and Bob, 15, tells about Shane's winning ways.

The Masters of Atlantis University of Arkansas Press

In a town deep in the Florida Everglades, where high school football is the only escape, a haunted quarterback, a returning hero, and a scholar struggle against terrible odds. The loamy black "muck" that surrounds Belle Glade, Florida once built an empire for Big Sugar and provided much of the nation's vegetables, often on the backs of roving, destitute migrants. Many of these were children who honed their skills along the field rows and started one of the most legendary football programs in America. Belle Glade's high school team, the Glades Central Raiders, has sent an extraordinary number of players to the National Football League - 27 since 1985, with five of those drafted in the first round. The industry that gave rise to the town and its team also spawned the chronic poverty, teeming migrant ghettos, and violence that cripples futures before they can ever begin. Muck City tells the story of quarterback Mario Rowley, whose dream is to win a championship for his deceased parents and quiet the ghosts that haunt him; head coach Jessie Hester, the town's first NFL star, who returns home to "win kids, not championships"; and Jonteria Williams, who must build her dream of becoming a doctor in one of the poorest high schools in the nation. For boys like Mario, being a Raider is a one-shot window for escape and a college education. Without football, Jonteria and the rest must make it on brains and fortitude alone. For the coach, good intentions must battle a town's obsession to win above all else. Beyond the Friday night lights, this book is an engrossing portrait of a community mired in a shameful past and uncertain future, but with the fierce will to survive, win, and escape to a better life.

The Little Friend Soho Press

Thirty daily readings to build up your confidence and cheerfulness as you homeschool. Homeschool days can be long and hard. It's easy to lose sight of what's actually happening in the midst of the day to day. Even when we lose our vision, God does not lose His. While we attempt to teach and disciple our children, we find that it is ourselves needing the instruction and discipleship. We also find that God provides both, using our decision to homeschool to draw us closer to Himself. To continue with love and perseverance, we need confidence not in our work but in God's. These thirty readings will lift up your eyes and spirit so you can focus on what truly matters while doing the daily work of educating your kids. "This volume is a wonderful resource of wisdom for moms everywhere who struggle and wonder if they are doing enough." --Cindy Rollins, author of *Mere Motherhood*

Tennis and the Meaning of Life Random House

The most famous novel by Charles Portis, *True Grit* is a rousing frontier adventure tale in which fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross seeks to avenge her father's murder by the coward Tom Chaney with the aid of the mean and one-eyed US marshal named Rooster Cogburn. A finely crafted novel brimming with mastery, humor, and epic sweep, it's no surprise it's a favorite of writers as wide ranging as Mary Roach and Anthony Bourdain to Jonathan Lethem and Bob Odenkirk. The book has inspired two award-winning films--the original version and the wildly acclaimed remake by Joel and Ethan Coen--and *Overlook's* movie tie-in edition to the Coen brothers' film went on to become a #1 New York Times bestseller. Now, to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of this true American classic, *Overlook* is releasing a glorious new edition of *True Grit* in a deluxe flapped paperback format featuring specially-commissioned cover artwork. With new critical essays on Portis and his seminal work by New York Times bestselling author Jacquelyn Mitchard and writer Jay Jennings, editor of the collection *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany*, also published by *Overlook*; an insightful introduction by Roy Blount, Jr.,

acclaimed author and friend to Charles Portis; and an afterword by Donna Tartt, this anniversary edition of *True Grit* is the ultimate celebration of an American classic.

[Carry the Rock](#) HarperCollins

Winner of the 2018 Nebraska Book Award for Fiction A rousing, suspenseful debut novel—True Grit meets *Catch Me If You Can*—based on the forgotten true story of a Robin Hood of the American frontier who pulls off the first successful kidnapping for ransom in U.S. history “A kidnapper with a social-justice mission” (Time), Pat Crowe was once the most wanted man in America. World, *Chase Me Down* resurrects him, telling the electrifying story of the first great crime of the last century: how in 1900 the out-of-work former butcher kidnapped the teenage son of Omaha's wealthiest meatpacking tycoon for a ransom of \$25,000 in gold, and then burgled, safe-cracked, and bond-jumped his way across the country and beyond, inciting a manhunt that was dubbed “the thrill of the nation” and a showdown in the court of public opinion between the haves and have-nots—all the while plotting a return to the woman he never stopped loving. As if channeling Mark Twain and Charles Portis, Andrew Hilleman has given us a character who is bawdy and soulful, grizzled, salty, and hard-drinking, and with a voice as unforgettable as that of Lucy Marsden in Alan Gurganus's *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*—an antihero you can't help rooting for.

The Convivial Homeschool Penguin

Soon to be a major motion picture. This ENHANCED DIGITAL EDITION features TONS of TOTALLY AWESOME '80s bonus materials—including Satanic Panic educational pamphlets, a do-it-yourself exorcism cheat sheet, a Spotify playlist of awesome '80s tunes, animated cover artwork, and much more! From the New York Times best-selling author of *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*, this unholy hybrid of *Beaches* and *The Exorcist* blends teen angst and unspeakable horrors into a pulse-pounding supernatural thriller. The year is 1988. High school sophomores Abby and Gretchen have been best friends since fourth grade. But after an evening of skinny-dipping goes disastrously wrong, Gretchen begins to act...different. She's moody. She's irritable. And bizarre incidents keep happening whenever she's nearby. Abby's investigation leads her to some startling discoveries—and by the time their story reaches its terrifying conclusion, the fate of Abby and Gretchen will be determined by a single question: Is their friendship powerful enough to beat the devil?

Sylvester, Or, The Wicked Uncle Abrams

A vibrant new novel from Penelope Lively—a wry, wise story about the surprising ways lives intersect Look out for Penelope Lively's new book, *The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories*. When Charlotte Rainsford, a retired schoolteacher, is accosted by a petty thief on a London street, the consequences ripple across the lives of acquaintances and strangers alike. A marriage unravels after an illicit love affair is revealed through an errant cell phone message; a posh yet financially strapped interior designer meets a business partner who might prove too good to be true; an old-guard historian tries to recapture his youthful vigor with an ill-conceived idea for a TV miniseries; and a middle-aged central European immigrant learns to speak English and reinvents his life with the assistance of some new friends. Through a richly conceived and colorful cast of characters, Penelope Lively explores the powerful role of chance in people's lives and deftly illustrates how our paths can be altered irrevocably by someone we will never even meet. Brought to life in her hallmark graceful prose and full of keen insights into human nature, *How It All Began* is an engaging, contemporary tale that is sure to strike a chord with her legion of loyal fans as well as new readers. A writer of rare wisdom, elegance, and humor, Lively is a consummate storyteller whose gifts are on full display in this masterful work.

Perfect Tunes Abrams

Sent on a mission to New York he gets involved in a wild journey that takes him in and out of stolen cars, freight trains, and buses. By the time he returns home to Texas, Norwood has met his true love, Rita Lee, on a bus; befriended the second shortest midget in show business and “the world's smallest perfect fat man†?; and helped Joann “the chicken with a college education,†? realize her true potential in life. As with all Portis' fiction, the tone is cool, sympathetic, and funny.

[Norwood](#) McClelland & Stewart

Who can you trust when nothing's as it seems?

Cotton Physiology Bloomsbury Academic

Collected here in *Escape Velocity*, edited by Jay Jennings, is his "miscellany" †“† journalism, short fiction, memoir, and even the play *Delray's New Moon*, published for the first time in this volume. A Portis covers topics as varied as the civil rights movement, road tripping in Baja, and Elvis' s visits to his aging mother for publications such as the *New York Herald Tribune* and *Saturday Evening Post*. A Fans of Portis's droll Southern humor and quirky characters will be thrilled at this new addition to his library, and those not yet familiar with his work will find a great introduction to him here. A Also included are tributes by accomplished authors including Donna Tartt and Ron Rosenbaum.

Escape Velocity Regency Romances

In his best and most ambitious novel yet, Mick Herron, “the le Carré of the future” (BBC), offers an unsparing look at the corrupt web of media, global finance, spycraft, and politics that power our modern world. “This is a darker, scarier Herron. The gags are still there but the satire's more biting. The privatization of a secret service op and the manipulation of news is relevant and horribly credible.”—Ann Cleeves, author of the Vera Stanhope series *At Slough House*—MI5's London depository for demoted

spies—Brexit has taken a toll. The “slow horses” have been pushed further into the cold, Slough House has been erased from official records, and its members are dying in unusual circumstances, at an unusual clip. No wonder Jackson Lamb’s crew is feeling paranoid. But are they actually targets? With a new populist movement taking hold of London’s streets and the old order ensuring that everything’s for sale to the highest bidder, the world’s a dangerous place for those deemed surplus. Jackson Lamb and the slow horses are in a fight for their lives as they navigate dizzying layers of lies, power, and death.

World, Chase Me Down DIANE Publishing

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Goldfinch* comes an utterly riveting novel set in Mississippi of childhood, innocence, and evil. • “Destined to become a special kind of classic.” —The New York Times Book Review The setting is Alexandria, Mississippi, where one Mother’s Day a little boy named Robin Cleve Dufresnes was found hanging from a tree in his parents’ yard. Twelve years later Robin’s murder is still unsolved and his family remains devastated. So it is that Robin’s sister Harriet—unnervingly bright, unsufferably determined, and unduly influenced by the fiction of Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson—sets out to unmask his killer. Aided only by her worshipful friend Hely, Harriet crosses her town’s rigid lines of race and caste and burrows deep into her family’s history of loss. Filled with hairpin turns of plot and “a bustling, ridiculous humanity worthy of Dickens” (The New York Times Book Review), *The Little Friend* is a work of myriad enchantments by a writer of prodigious talent.

Gringos Abrams

“An intoxicating blend of music, love, and family from one of the essential writers of the internet generation” (Stephanie Danler). Have you ever wondered what your mother was like before she became your mother, and what she gave up in order to have you? It’s the early days of the new millennium, and Laura has arrived in New York City’s East Village in the hopes of recording her first album. A songwriter with a one-of-a-kind talent, she’s just beginning to book gigs with her beautiful best friend when she falls hard for a troubled but magnetic musician whose star is on the rise. Their time together is stormy and short-lived—but will reverberate for the rest of Laura’s life. Fifteen years later, Laura’s teenage daughter, Marie, is asking questions about her father, questions that Laura does not want to answer. Laura has built a stable life in Brooklyn that bears little resemblance to the one she envisioned when she left Ohio all those years ago, and she’s taken pains to close the door on what was and what might have been. But neither her best friend, now a famous musician who relies on Laura’s songwriting skills, nor her depressed and searching daughter will let her give up on her dreams. “A zippy and profound story of love, loss, heredity, and parenthood (Emma Straub), *Perfect Tunes* explores the fault lines in our most important relationships, and asks whether dreams deferred can ever be reclaimed. It is a delightful and poignant tale of music and motherhood, ambition and compromise—of life, in all its dissonance and harmony.

Escape Velocity Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

In 1849 a twelve-year-old girl who calls herself Lucy is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a small California mining town. There Lucy helps run a boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to return “home.”

White Noise Vintage Crime/Black Lizard

“Orphaned young, Ming Tsu, the son of Chinese immigrants, is raised by the notorious leader of a California crime syndicate, who trains him to be his deadly enforcer. But when Ming falls in love with Ada, the daughter of a powerful railroad magnate, and the two elope, he seizes the opportunity to escape to a different life. Soon after, in a violent raid, the tycoon’s henchmen kidnap Ada and conscript Ming into service for the Central Pacific Railroad. Battered, heartbroken, and yet defiant, Ming partners with a blind clairvoyant known only as the prophet. Together the two set out to rescue his wife and to exact revenge on the men who destroyed Ming, aided by a troupe of magic-show performers, some with supernatural powers, whom they meet on the journey. Ming blazes his way across the West, settling old scores with a single-minded devotion that culminates in an explosive and unexpected finale. Written with the violent ardor of Cormac McCarthy and the otherworldly inventiveness of Ted Chiang, *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* is at once a thriller, a romance, and a story of one man’s quest for redemption in the face of a distinctly American brutality”--

Winter’s Bone Henry Holt and Company

In 2007, as the fiftieth anniversary of the fight to integrate Little Rock Central High School approached, veteran sportswriter and native son of Little Rock Jay Jennings returned to his hometown to take the pulse of the city and the school. He found a compelling story in Central High’s football team, where Black and white students toiled under longtime coach Bernie Cox, whose philosophy of discipline and responsibility and punishing brand of physical football had led the team to win seven state championships. *Carry the Rock* tells the story of the dramatic ups and downs of a high school football season and reveals a city struggling with its legacy of racial discrimination and the complex issues of contemporary segregation. In the season Jennings masterfully chronicles, Cox finds his ideas sorely tested in his attempts to unify the team, and the result is an account brimming with humor, compassion, frustration, and honesty. What *Friday Night Lights* did for small-town Texas, *Carry the Rock* does for the urban South and for any place like Little Rock where sports, race, and community intersect.

Norwood Crown

The brilliant #1 New York Times bestseller *Named* a best book of 2020 by The New York Times, The Washington Post, TIME, The Guardian, and many more *With The Mirror & the Light*, Hilary Mantel brings to a triumphant close the trilogy she began with her peerless, Booker Prize-winning novels, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*. She traces the final years of Thomas Cromwell, the boy from nowhere who climbs to the heights of power, offering a defining portrait of predator and prey, of a ferocious contest between present and past, between royal will and a common man’s vision: of a modern nation making itself through conflict, passion and courage. The story begins in May 1536: Anne Boleyn is dead, decapitated in the space of a heartbeat by a hired French executioner. As her remains are bundled into oblivion, Cromwell breakfasts with the victors. The blacksmith’s son from Putney emerges from the spring’s bloodbath to continue his climb to power and wealth, while his formidable master, Henry VIII, settles to short-lived happiness with his third queen, Jane Seymour. Cromwell, a man with only his wits to rely on, has no great family to back him, no private army. Despite rebellion at home, traitors plotting abroad and the threat of invasion testing Henry’s regime to the breaking point, Cromwell’s robust imagination sees a new country in the mirror of the future. All of England lies at his feet, ripe for innovation and religious reform. But as fortune’s wheel turns, Cromwell’s enemies are gathering in the shadows. The inevitable question remains: how long can anyone survive under Henry’s cruel and capricious gaze? Eagerly awaited and eight years in the making, *The Mirror & the Light* completes Cromwell’s journey from self-made man to one of the most feared, influential figures of his time. Portrayed by Mantel with pathos and terrific energy, Cromwell is as complex as he is unforgettable: a politician and a fixer, a husband and a father, a man who both defied and defined his age.

Warlock Soho Press

Collected here in *Escape Velocity* is Charles Portis’s ‘miscellany’ - journalism, short fiction, memoir and even the play *Delray’s New Moon*, published for the first time. Portis covers topics as varied as the civil rights movement, road tripping in Baja and

Elvis’s visits to his ageing mother. Fans of Portis’s droll humour and quirky characters from his bestselling novels, including *True Grit*, will be thrilled at this collection, and those not yet familiar with his work will find a great introduction to him here. Also included are tributes by authors including Donna Tartt and Ron Rosenbaum.