
Modern Baptists James Wilcox

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Soft Patriarchs, New Men Soho Press

With the recent publication of *Plain and Normal*, James Wilcox's first book in five years ... with *Back Bay*'s fall 1998 release of a new trade paperback edition of Wilcox's comic masterpiece, *Modern Baptists* (which Anne Tyler hailed on the front page of the *New York Times Book Review*, which Toni Morrison counts as one of her favorite books by unsung writers, which Harold Bloom has elected to the canon of enduring twentieth-century American literature) ... and now with this new trade paperback edition of Wilcox's highly acclaimed *Polite Sex*, the story of two young women from Tula Springs, Louisiana, who seek fame and

fortune in New York City ... readers everywhere are discovering the special pleasures of Wilcox's tender and hilarious comic fiction.

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[God's Own Party](#) Penguin

Fiction. *HOW THINGS BREAK* by Kerala Goodkin is the winner of the Elixir Press Inaugural Fiction Award. It tells the story of Nat, a young woman who can't sit still. As the world she knows begins to crumble, mimicking the slow disintegration of the house she illegally occupies, she explores the limitations of her personal relationships, her ambition, and the small town she calls home. Kerala Goodkin began writing *HOW THINGS BREAK* at age 21, during her senior year at Brown University. While in college, she cofounded The Glimpse Foundation and currently serves as Editor-In-Chief of *Glimpse Magazine*, as well as contributing editor to *National Geographic Traveler on Campus*. Kerala also volunteers as the Translator and PR Coordinator for the Committee of Immigrants in Action.

Welcome to Higby Modern Baptists
A hilarious and charming novel by the author of *Ella Minnow Pea* follows the lives of the colorful

residents of Higby, Mississippi, as they search for love, happiness, and salvation over the course of the Labor Day weekend of 1993. Reprint. 60,000 first printing.

Hold the Dark: A Novel Vintage

In his critically acclaimed epic first novel, Jay Cantor, author of *Krazy Kat* and *Great Neck*, draws on history, myth, and his own prodigious imagination to take on the life and death of revolutionary icon Che Guevara. In his now famous progress through modern times, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the scion of a liberal Argentine family, abandoned a medical career to become a revolutionary. A fiery comrade of Fidel Castro's who joined him in overthrowing the Cuban government of Batista, Che later broke with Castro to lead a guerrilla movement in Bolivia. As the novel charts Che's bold evolution, it also offers an incisive look at Latin America's revolutionary struggles, an exploration of the nature of truth and storytelling, and a brilliant exegesis of the psychology of radical activism.

Plain and Normal HarperCollins UK

An astute and comical dissection of the culture wars—by the author of the much-loved *Modern Baptists For More Than Twenty Years*, James Wilcox has been cherished by reviewers and readers alike as one of the most talented American humorists. Since his classic *Modern Baptists* (picked by Harold Bloom as one of the few contemporary novels in his *Western Canon*), Wilcox has been charting the intricate spiritual topography of the South with inimitable wit and empathy. His "real comic genius" (*Anne Tyler, The New York Times Book Review*) has never been so brilliantly deployed as in this hilarious look at the peculiarly American cultural divisions of our times.

The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind

SAGE Publications

Some people have to learn the hard way—don't mess with a geek. Miranda Bloom, girl genius, is totally psyched to

start her junior year at Geek High. Too bad her boyfriend, lacrosse player Dex McConnell, is off to boarding school in Maine. Miranda thought she could count on her best friends, Finn and Charlie, to cheer her up, but they're caught up in their own issues... So Miranda decides to make friends with the shy new student Nora Lee. At first things with Nora are great, but soon it seems like Nora thinks that anything Miranda can do, she can do better. Surviving at Geek High is hard enough without a copycat on your tail, and Miranda's not about to let some imitation artist take her place.

Hunk City Simon and Schuster

Forty-year-old Gretchen Dambar leaves Manhattan with her new husband to settle in Tula Springs, Louisiana, where the comic mishaps of trying to adjust to his eclectic household take a tragic turn. By the author of *Modern Baptists*. Reprint.

Miss Undine's Living Room LSU Press

Most Sociology of Religion texts are decidedly staid and uninteresting, covering "contemporary" developments which are only contemporary only from a disciplinary perspective. They are not contemporary if viewed from the perspective of the religion's practitioners (in religious and non-religious settings). The textbooks that attempt to be interesting to undergraduate students often fall short because they either try to cover too much in an encyclopedic format, or sacrifice a sociological perspective for a personal one. Many use real-life examples only superficially to illustrate concepts. Lundskow's approach is the opposite—students will learn the facts of religion in its great

diversity, all the most interesting and compelling beliefs and practices, and then learn relevant concepts that can be used to explain empirical observations. The book thus follows the logic of actual research—investigate and then analyze—rather than approaching concepts with no real bearing on how religion is experienced in society. This approach, using provocative examples and with an eye toward the historical and theoretical, not to mention global experience of religion, will make this book a success in the classroom. The author envisions a substantive approach that examines religion as it actually exists in all its forms, including belief, ritual, daily living, identity, institutions, social movements, social control, and social change. Within these broad categories, the book will devote particular chapters to important historical moments and movements, leaders, and various individual religions that have shaped the contemporary form and effect of religion in the world today.

Care To Make Love In That Gross Little Space Between Cars? W. W. Norton & Company

"It is 22 cats that drive the dazzlingly handsome Eric Thorsen to distraction and into the apartment -- if not immediately the arms -- of Wanda Skopinski, the rather mousy woman he meets at church when she thrusts a lesbian romance novel upon him. The stench from downstairs drives him from both his rent-controlled apartment and his complacency as a not-quite-successful piano teacher. In his sixth novel, James Wilcox moves beyond the modern South he has etched so vividly and amusingly in the past to take on Manhattan. But somehow he manages to bring the city down to size.... The book is filled with as eccentric an array of characters and as much gentle kinkiness as any small-town chronicle.... A winning and consistently entertaining story."

-- Vogue

The Levee Penguin

A candidate for the office of Superintendent of Streets, Parks, and Garbage, middle-aged matron Olive Mackie of Tula Springs, Louisiana, finds her political aspirations thwarted when her ninety-one-year-old Great Uncle L.D. comes under suspicion for murder. Police don't believe that L.D.'s home-care attendant would commit suicide by jumping from a second-floor window -- but Olive, who has heard her uncle demonstrate his excellent memory by reciting important dates in history over and over, thinks he would. Before justice can be done, half the staff of City Hall, a home ec teacher, an uninspired dentist, the principal of a disreputable private school, and several adulterous housewives are implicated in James Wilcox's spectacular plot. His third Tula Springs novel, *Miss Undine's Living Room* is not only a masterful comedy, exuberant and irreverent, but also a deeply felt examination of the education of the mind and the spirit.

Miss Undine's Living Room HarperCollins UK

A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month"

Selection Horse and Ahab share the kind of contempt and love for one another that only true friends can. Months after graduating high school, Horse is getting married to his longtime girlfriend, Melissa, and moving into her apartment in Manhattan, and Ahab has enlisted in the Marines. They've found ways to escape the neighborhood, just not together. From the extraordinary fiction debut, *Slapboxing with Jesus*, that launched Victor LaValle to literary stardom—a raw, gritty, and unremittingly truthful look into the lives of two friends who go to say goodbye to each other and their neighborhood on the shores of Rockaway Beach. An ebook short.

How Things Break University of Chicago Press

"A collection of stories that follow a young woman from delayed adolescence to (delayed) adulthood"--P. [4] of cover.

Skinnybones Penguin

Advance Praise for *The Rose Variations*: "The *Rose Variations* is an elegant symphony of a novel, shaped by a lovely complexity, informed by humor and grace. Congratulations to Marisha Chamberlain for her fine debut."—Roxana Robinson, author of *Cost*

"In this richly absorbing novel Chamberlain creates a heroine so vivid, so complex, so passionate that she walks right off the page and into the reader's mind and heart. I loved following Rose through her various vicissitudes, romantic and musical, and through her many relationships with friends, colleagues, students and lovers. *The Rose Variations* is one of those rare novels that captures the complexity of a life lived over time, and does so in beautiful, eloquent prose. A brilliant debut."—Margot Livesey, author of *The House on Fortune Street*

"Rose MacGregor is my kind of heroine—funny and serious, dreamy but brutally practical when it's called for; someone blissfully inconsistent—like the rest of us. What more can one ask than that a novel presents us with a unique personality such as Rose's?"—Judith Guest, author of *Ordinary People*

"Who'd have thought it possible? There's news about love and work in Marisha Chamberlain's *The Rose Variations*! It'd be hard to find a more contemporary view of the sexual dilemma, but I couldn't help thinking how much Shakespeare, Mozart, and Jane Austen would have savored this novel."—David Huddle, author of *The Story of a Million Years* and *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl*

In 1975, twenty-five-year-old Rose MacGregor moves to St. Paul, Minnesota, with nothing but a few books, her cello, and a temporary professorship at a Midwestern college. The only woman in the music department, the other professors refer to her derisively as "the Girl Composer," but she believes that a brilliant career writing music lies ahead. Passionately focused on her

art, she also longs to find love, but her fierce independence always seems to get in the way of romantic relationships. Struggling with loneliness and ambition, she gets tangled up with a gay colleague, a self-made stonemason, a lesbian cellist, and the troubles of her wayward younger sister, before finally finding happiness. Marisha Chamberlain is a playwright, poet, fiction writer, essayist, and screenwriter. Her book of poems, *Powers*, won a Minnesota Voices Award. She lives in Hastings, Minnesota. This is her first novel. From the Hardcover edition.

Guest of a Sinner Perennial

Nine-year-old Meena can't wait to grow up and break free from her parents. But, as the daughter of the only Punjabi family in the mining village of Tollington, her struggle for independence is different from most.

LSU Press

Universally and repeatedly praised ever since it first appeared in 1983, *Modern Baptists* is the book that launched novelist James Wilcox's career and debuted the endearingly daft community of Tula Springs, Louisiana. It's the tale of Bobby Pickens, assistant manager of Sonny Boy Bargain Store, who gains a new lease on life, though he almost comes to regret it. Bobby's handsome half brother F.X. -- ex-con, ex-actor, and ex-husband three times over -- moves in, and things go awry all over town. Mistaken identities; entangled romances with Burma, Toinette, and Donna Lee; assault and battery; charges of degeneracy; a nervous breakdown -- it all comes to a head at a Christmas Eve party in a cabin on a poisoned swamp. This is sly, madcap romp that offers readers the gift of abundant laughter. *Modern Baptists* was included in Harold Bloom's *The Western Canon*, in *GQ* magazine's forty-fifth anniversary issue as one of the best works of fiction in the past forty-five years, and among Toni Morrison's "favorite works by unsung writers" in *U.S. News and World Report*.

History of Windham County, Connecticut: 1600-1760 LSU Press

In God's Own Party, Daniel K. Williams presents the first comprehensive history of

the Christian Right, uncovering how evangelicals came to see the Republican Party as the vehicle through which they could reclaim America as a Christian nation.

The Rose Variations Yearling

A brilliantly observed, hilarious and poignant social satire. Wilcox's Tula Springs novels (there are six and characters overlap) have the narrative liveness of an Armistead Maupin and the piercing tragi-comic insights of Edith Wharton.

Modern Baptists Back Bay Books

Now a Netflix original film starring Alexander Skarsgard, Riley Keough, and Jeffrey Wright At the edge of civilization, nature and evil collide in what “stands out as one of the decade’s best books of its kind” (Alan Cheuse, Boston Globe). Written with “force and precision and grace” (John Wilwol, New York Times Book Review) *Hold the Dark* is a “taut and unforgettable journey into the heart of darkness” (Dennis Lehane). At the start of another pitiless winter, wolves have taken three children from the remote Alaskan village of Keelut, including the six-year-old son of Medora and Vernon Slone. Wolf expert Russell Core is called in to investigate these killings and discovers an unholy truth harbored by Medora before she disappears. When her husband returns home to discover his boy dead and his wife missing, he begins a maniacal pursuit that cuts a bloody swath across the frozen landscape. With the help of a local police detective, Core attempts to find Medora before her husband does, setting in motion a deadly chain of events in this “chilling, mysterious, and completely engaging novel” (Tim

O'Brien) that marks the arrival of a major American writer.

Heavenly Days Amazon.Com Publishing

From the editorial head of MTV International and the author of the acclaimed first novel *A&R* comes a hugely entertaining black comedy about a big time NYC network television exec whose sudden firing forces him into a season in the wilderness as the head of a sorry family-run New England cable TV empire in the fictional town of New Bedlam, RI. Both wicked and big-hearted and often spit-take-level laugh-out-loud funny, *New Bedlam* is a wonderfully sharp, fun entertainment with real bite. Bobby Kahn fired people. It was the only bad part of a job he loved. If you asked him about it he would say the same five words each of the other 24 network vice presidents said when you asked any of them: “It comes with the turf.” That’s how they talked. They were proudly unoriginal. It’s why they made good television executives. But then one day 36-year-old network golden boy Bobby Kahn of Massapequa Long Island gets the ax himself, the scapegoat for a programming scandal. As he falls from his perch, he grasps for any branch to cling to, but the only lifeline within reach is the once-unthinkably-ignominious opportunity to relocate to the Rhode Island seaside town of New Bedlam and assume the reins of a family-run cable business with a local pipeline monopoly and three small vanity stations.

Remember How I Told You I Loved You? Simon and Schuster

A true-crime writer returns home to solve the mystery that haunted his boyhood After witnessing an execution, true-crime writer Colin Douglas starts having nightmares of himself as a boy, alone by the levee, trapped in the mud

of the Mississippi River. Each night, the dreams grow worse, becoming horrid recreations of the day his childhood died. In 1959, Colin and three friends went camping on the levee, across from the tumbledown old Windsong plantation. When one of the boys disappeared, Colin went searching for him, and was approaching the old estate when he saw what appeared to be a ghost. The next day, he learned a woman had been murdered in the area—an unsolved crime that has haunted him ever since. Decades later, he attempts to solve this forgotten cold case, raking up something even dirtier than the muddy bottom of the Mississippi.