The Art of Memoir

By Mary Karr
Genre: Literary Criticism

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The Art of Memoir by Mary Karr is Literary Criticism credited with sparking the current memoir explosion. Mary Karr’s The Liars’ Club spent more than a year at the top of the New York Times list. She followed with two other smash bestsellers: Cherry and Lit, which were critical hits as well. For thirty years Karr has also taught the form, winning teaching prizes at Syracuse. (The writing program there produced such acclaimed authors as Cheryl Strayed, Keith Gessen, and Koren Zailckas.) In The Art of Memoir, she synthesizes her expertise as professor and therapy patient, writer and spiritual seeker, recovered alcoholic and “black belt sinner,” providing a unique window into the mechanics and art of the form that is as irreverent, insightful, and entertaining as her own work in the genre. Anchored by excerpts from her favorite memoirs and anecdotes from fellow writers’ experience, The Art of Memoir lays bare Karr’s own process. (Plus all those inside stories about how she dealt with family and friends get told— and the dark spaces in her own skull probed in depth.) As she breaks down the key elements of great literary memoir, she breaks open our concepts of memory and identity, and illuminates the cathartic power of reflecting on the past; anybody with an inner life or complicated history, whether writer or reader, will relate. Joining such classics as Stephen King’s On Writing and Anne Lamott’s Bird by Bird, The Art of Memoir is an elegant and accessible exploration of one of today’s most popular literary forms—a tour de force from an accomplished master pulling back the curtain on her craft.

More Recommended Books

Come stare soli

By: Jonathan Franzen
Il lettore che si addentra nel variegato insieme di generi e argomenti affrontati in questo volume non si sente mai solo: l’autore, con il suo stile inconfondibile e il suo appassionato spirito critico, è infatti una presenza viva e costante. Il linguaggio brillante e raffinato di Franzen ritorna nelle sue molteplici sfaccettature, adattandosi docilmente alle esigenze del saggio letterario, del racconto autobiografico, del «pezzo di costume», del giornalismo di indagine. Alla base dei tredici saggi, come afferma lo stesso autore, c’è «il problema di preservare individualità e complessità in mezzo al frastuono e alle distrazioni della cultura di massa: la questione di come stare soli», ovvero il coraggio di coltivare una solitudine che fa paura ma che può diventare la chiave per la nostra sopravvivenza spirituale.
Le roman de la conscience malheureuse : Svevo, Gorki, Proust, Mann, Musil, Martin du Gard, Broch, Roth, Aragon

By : Philippe Chardin

Ce livre réunit une dizaine de romans appartenant aux littératures française, allemande, russe et "austro-hongroise", en particulier À la recherche du temps perdu, L'homme sans qualités, La montagne magique et La conscience de Zeno, qui mettent en scène, avec souvent la même lucidité, la même angoisse et le même humour, l'Europe de l'avant-guerre de 1914. C'est la notion hégélienne de conscience malheureuse qui permet de poser les problématiques communes à ces œuvres : Historique, du rapport à une époque révolue ; sociologique, du statut ambigu de l'intellectuel, "aimant dans un champ de forces", ni maître ni esclave ; politique, du refus de la "citoyenneté" hégélienne ; religieuse, du mysticisme sans Dieu ; psychologique, du subjectivisme et du dédoublement tragiques. Cette conscience malheureuse semble s'incarner, d'un roman à l'autre, dans plusieurs formes et techniques littéraires privilégiées : temporalité de l'éternelle attente ; recours constant à l'exégèse analytique et grossissante, ainsi qu'aux équivalences paradoxales ; formes originales d'intégration de l'essai à une trame narrative ; cheminement plus ou moins initiatique du récit vers un dépassement de la conscience malheureuse, ce moment coïncidant, de manière paradoxalement, avec les bouleversements apportés par la guerre.

Introducing Semiotics

By : Paul Cobley

"Introducing Semiotics" outlines the development of sign study from its classical precursors to contemporary post-structuralism. Through Paul Cobley's incisive text and Litza Jansz's brilliant illustrations, it identifies the key semioticians and their work and explains the simple concepts behind difficult terms. For anybody who wishes to know why signs are crucial to human existence and how we can begin to study systems of signification, this book is the place to start.

Hesiod

By : Hesiod & Apostolos N. Athanassakis

Hesiod belongs to the transitional period in Greek civilization between the oral tradition and the introduction of a written alphabet. His two major surviving works, the Theogony and the Works and Days, address the divine and the mundane, respectively. The Theogony traces the origins of the Greek gods and recounts the events surrounding the crowning of Zeus as their king. A manual of moral instruction in verse, the Works and Days was addressed to farmers and peasants. Introducing his celebrated translations of these two poems and of the Shield, a very ancient poem of disputed authorship, Apostolos Athanassakis positions Hesiod simultaneously as a philosopher-poet, a bard with deep roots in the culture of his native Boeotia, and the heir to a long tradition of Hellenic poetry. For this eagerly anticipated revised edition, Athanassakis has provided an expanded introduction on Hesiod and his work, subtly amended his faithful translations, significantly augmented the notes and index, and updated the bibliography. Already a classic, Hesiod: Theogony, Works and Days, Shield is now more valuable than ever for students of Greek mythology and literature.
Orphan of Asia

By: Zhuoliu Wu & Ioannis Mentzas

Born in Japanese-occupied Taiwan, raised in the scholarly traditions of ancient China by his grandfather but forced into the Japanese educational system, Hu Taiming, the protagonist of Orphan of Asia, ultimately finds himself estranged from all three cultures. Wu's autobiographical novel, completed in 1945, is widely regarded as a classic of modern Asian literature and a groundbreaking expression of the postwar Taiwanese national consciousness. Originally written in Japanese and now translated into English for the first time, Orphan of Asia offers a powerful depiction of the political, cultural, and psychological impact of colonialism. Orphan of Asia begins during Taiming's childhood in Taiwan, which has been annexed to Japan only recently. Taiming eventually makes his mark in the colonial Japanese educational system and graduates from a prestigious college. However, he finds that his Japanese education and his adoption of modern ways have alienated him from his family and native village. He becomes a teacher in the Japanese colonial system but soon realizes that there is something seriously wrong with the status quo. He quits his post but finds that, having repudiated his roots, he doesn't seem to belong anywhere. Thus begins Taiming's long journey for his rightful place. But neither in Japan, where he goes to study physics in the belief that technology represents the future, nor in mainland China, where he marries and has a daughter, does he ever come to feel at home or find his calling. Although he assiduously avoids politics, Taiming can't help being caught up in the conflicts that shaped modern East Asian history. He is accused of spying for both China and Japan after hostilities breakout between the two countries, and he witnesses the effects of Japanese imperial expansion, the horrors of war, and the sense of anger and powerlessness felt by those living under colonial rule.

Die neue Märchentheorie bei E.T.A. Hoffmann. Das Märchen 'Der goldene Topf'

By: Julia Lukjanova


Een huis voor meneer Biswas

By: V.S. Naipaul

In V.S. Naipauls ‘Een huis voor meneer Biswas’ wordt Mohun Biswas na de verdrinkingsdood van zijn vader van de ene naar de andere verblijfplaats gestuurd, totdat hij in de familie Tulsi trouwt. Maar daarmee is nog steeds geen einde gekomen aan zijn afhankelijkheid van anderen. Hij komt in opstand en door middel van verschillende carrières probeert hij zich uit de greep van zijn schoonfamilie te worstelen en eindelijk een huis voor zichzelf te verwerven. Losjes gebaseerd op het leven van V.S. Naipauls vader op Trinidad vormt deze roman een hartverscheurende, tragikomische beschrijving van een man op zoek naar autonomie tegen de achtergrond van de dekolonisatie. Het
oeuvre van V.S. Naipaul werd in 2001 met de Nobelprijs voor de Literatuur bekroond.

**A Study Guide for Annie Dillard's "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek"**

By: **The Gale Group**
A study guide for Annie Dillard's "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek", excerpted from The Gale Group's acclaimed Nonfiction Classics for Students series. Designed with busy students in mind, this concise study guide includes: plot summary; character analysis; author biographies; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Nonfiction Classics for Students to help you finish your research in record time.

**Biographia Literaria**

By: **Samuel Taylor Coleridge**
He wrote the poems The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan, as well as the major prose work Biographia Literaria. His critical work, especially on Shakespeare, was highly influential, and he helped introduce German idealist philosophy to English-speaking culture. He coined many familiar words and phrases, including the celebrated suspension of disbelief. He was a major influence on Emerson, and American transcendentalism.