Riders In The Chariot Patrick White

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New York Review of Books

The time for new approaches to White’s work is overdue. Central to the present study are Edward Said’s ideas about the role of the intellectual (and the writer) – of speaking “truth to power,” and also the importance of tracing the “affiliations” of a text and its embeddedness in the world. This approach is not incompatible with Jung’s theory of the ‘great’ artist and his capacity to answer the deep-seated psychic needs of his people. White’s work has contributed in many different ways to the writing of the nation. The spiritual needs of a young nation such as Australia must also comprehend its continual urge towards self-definition. Explored here is one important aspect of that challenge: white Australia’s dealings with the indigenous people of the land, tracing the significance of the Aboriginal presence in three texts selected from the oeuvre of Patrick White: Voss (1957), Riders in the Chariot (1961), and A Fringe of Leaves (1976). Each of these texts interrogates European culture’s denigration of the non-European Other as embedded in the discourse of orientalism. One central merit of White’s commanding perspective is the constant close attention he pays to European hubris and to the paramount autonomy of indigenous culture. There is evidence even of a project which can be articulated as a search for the possibility of white indigeneity, the potential for the white settler’s belonging within the land as does the indigene.

This is the story of two people living one life. Arthur and Waldo Brown were born twins and destined never to grow away from each other. They spent their childhood together. Their youth together. Middle-age together. Retirement together. They even shared the same girl. They shared everything – except their view of things. Waldo, with his intelligence, saw everything and understood little. Arthur was the fool who didn't bother to look. He understood.

This collection of speeches by the Australian Nobel prize-winning author have provoked extreme reactions in Australia. While members of the establishment and parts of the media have dismissed him as a bitter old man, the young and needy have responded to him with something close to adulation.

Patrick White’s brilliant 1961 novel, set in an Australian suburb, intertwines four deeply different lives. An Aborigine artist, a Holocaust survivor, a beatific washerwoman, and a childlike heiress are each blessed—and stricken—with visionary experiences that may or may not allow them to transcend the machinations of their fellow men. Tender and lacerating, pure and profane, subtle and sweeping, Riders in the Chariot is one of the Nobel Prize winner’s boldest books.

Arguably the best time travel tale dealing with the Holocaust every written, in our humble opinion. A rebellious group of time travelers attempt to prevent one of the greatest atrocities humanity ever devise—Auschwitz. Monitor and ace enforcement operative Gaspar James is sent to stop them. Gaspar knows that the horror must be
allowed to run its course in order to preserve the integrity of the time line. At least that’s what he has told himself throughout his service to the Moiety, the group charged with overseeing the continuity of time. But even Gaspar has his doubts and millions of lives hang in the balance. At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). "[Dunn’s fiction contains] ... action scenes ranking with the best in military SF." Publishers Weekly "Genuinely harrowing and impassioned, with wonderful characters and an unforgettable theme." Kirkus

Set in nineteenth-century Australia, a sweeping novel about a secret passion between the explorer Voss and the young orphan Laura. As Voss is tested by hardship, mutiny, and betrayal during his crossing of the brutal Australian desert, Laura awaits his return in Sydney, where she endures their months of separation as if her life were a dream and Voss the only reality.

In 1973 the Australian novelist Patrick White won the Nobel Prize for Literature, the year that his great novel of family ties and change, The Eye of the Storm, was published and became a bestseller in America and Europe. Yet White is still not widely known or read, and few writers of today have provoked so many contradictory judgments. Now Peter Wolfe has written the first book-length study of the work of this brilliant and haunting novelist. The study offers a subtle, penetrating examination of White’s style, his skill in building narrative tension, and also the depth and complexity reflected in his characterization, which, in his novels, always dominates action. Fittingly, for a writer whose novels bear the indelible stamp of Australia, the study also examines White’s psychological use of setting and the intense sense of place found in his work. No other critical study of White covers such a broad range of his writing. Peter Wolfe considers here the entire canon of the novels. The Tree of Man, Voss, The Vivisector, The Eye of the Storm, A Fringe of Leaves, and The Twyborn Affair (White’s most recent novel) are all discussed. White's themes and settings range from the power and immensity of the wilderness of the Australian outback to the dislocations wrought in traditional values by postwar industrialization and urban sprawl. Laden Choirs makes accessible to an American audience a writer of the first rank, whose work lies at the heart of modernist concerns. Literary students and scholars who wish to explore the world of Patrick White will find this book an essential key.

White set out to write what he believed to be the first Australian tragedy. Along the way he happily strayed into other genres. The result is the wild and curious tale of a hermit goatkeeper, gatekeeper to a lonely mountain top; a disaffected academic and his equally disaffected, alcoholic wife; and a lost soul retreating from her own life by attempting to fulfil the lives of others. The play is as irreverent and entertaining as it is intellectually challenging (3 acts, 5 men, 4 women).

April 2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the first Viking hardcover publication of Steinbeck’s crowning literary achievement First published in 1939, Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize–winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into haves and have-nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man’s
fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman’s stoical strength, the novel captures the
horrors of the Great Depression and probes the very nature of equality and justice in
America. As Don DeLillo has claimed, Steinbeck “shaped a geography of conscience”
with this novel where “there is something at stake in every sentence.” Beyond that—for
emotional urgency, evocative power, sustained impact, prophetic reach, and continued
controversy—The Grapes of Wrath is perhaps the most American of American classics.
To commemorate the book’s 75th anniversary, this volume is modeled on the first
edition, featuring the original cover illustration by Elmer Hader and specially designed
endpapers by Michael Schwab.

Eleven stories to which Patrick White brings his immense understanding of the
urges which lie just beneath the facade of ordinary human relationships,
especially those between men and women. A girl beset by her mother’s
influence, who marries her father’s friend. . . A young man strangely moved into
marriage with a girl like the mother who never understood him. . . A pretty market
researcher who learns the ultimate details of love with a difference. . . The
collector of bird-calls who unwittingly records the call of a very human nature.
Patrick White, the un-Australian writer who did more than any other writer in the
twentieth century to create an imaginative language that we can call Australian,
who unshackled us from the demand that we write as the English do, who
recognised, through his own alienation and also through his profound love for his
partner, that we were a migrant and mongrel nation forging our own culture and
our own language.’ Christos Tsiolkas spent a year of ‘discovery and
rediscovery’ reading Patrick White. In this passionate and original book, he
shows how the Nobel Prize winner’s work still speaks to us. In the Writers on
Writers series, leading writers reflect on another Australian writer who has
inspired and fascinated them. Provocative and crisp, these books start a fresh
conversation between past and present, shed new light on the craft of writing,
and introduce some intriguing and talented authors and their work. Also in the
Writers on Writers series Alice Pung on John Marsden Erik Jensen on Kate
Jennings Ceridwen Dovey on J. M. Coetzee (forthcoming) Nam Le on David
Malouf (forthcoming) Michelle de Kretser on Shirley Hazzard (forthcoming)
The appearance of this self-portrait by Patrick White is a literary event for which
his readers and admirers have long hoped. He explains how on the very rare
occasions when he re-reads a passage from one of his books, he recognizes
very little of the self he knows. This ‘unknown’ is the man who interviewers and
visiting students expect to find, but ‘unable to produce him’, he prefers to remain
private – or as private as anyone who has been awarded the Nobel Prize for
Literature can ever be. But in this book is the self Patrick White does recognize,
the one he sees reflected in the glass. It is a remarkable book. In a shifting
sequence we learn of youth in Australia; the ‘expensive prison’, his English
boarding school; Cambridge with holiday trips to Germany; London in the Blitz;
RAF wartime intelligence and compensations of life in Australia. There are
journeys to cities and landscapes round the world which take on more reality than
places one has actually visited. He tells us whom he has loved and hated and of his opinions – political and literary. He introduces us to a host of characters from Australian cousins to Stravinsky and Queen Elizabeth – and of course to Manoly Lascaris, who in 1942 ‘became the central mandala in my life’s hitherto messy design.’ He describes what he sees in the glass’s reflection with such power that it seems no artist can have attempted or executed a self-portrait so lifelike before.

The award-winning and bestselling biography of Australia’s only Nobel Prize-winner for Literature. ‘I think this book should be called The Monster of All Time. But I am a monster . . .’ Patrick White Patrick White, winner of the Nobel Prize and author of more than a dozen novels and plays - including Voss, The Vivisector and The Twyborn Affair - lived an extraordinary life. David Marr's brilliant biography draws not only on a wide range of original research but also on the single most difficult and important source of all: the man himself. In the weeks before his death, White read the final manuscript, which for richness of detail, authority and balance is stunning. Throughout his exciting narrative, Marr explores the roots of White's writing and unearths the raw material of his remarkable art. He makes plain the central fact of White's life as an artist: the homosexuality that formed his view of himself as an outcast and stranger able to penetrate the hearts of both men and women. Gracefully written and exhaustively researched, Patrick White is a biography of classic excellence - sympathetic, objective, penetrating and as blunt, when necessary, as White himself.

In this historical treasure, now restored to posterity, text and drawings by a Union cartographer record the daily life of Civil war soldiers, the firsthand observation of officers, and the battles he witnessed from Yorkville to Bull Run. 85 full-color illustrations.

Join J. M. Coetzee and Thomas Keneally in rediscovering Nobel Laureate Patrick White Hurtle Duffield, a painter, coldly dissects the weaknesses of any and all who enter his circle. His sister's deformity, a grocer's moonlight indiscretion, the passionate illusions of the women who love him—all are used as fodder for his art. It is only when Hurtle meets an egocentric adolescent whom he sees as his spiritual child does he experience a deeper, more treacherous emotion in this tour de force of sexual and psychological menace that sheds brutally honest light on the creative experience. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

From the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, a novel that satisfies as much as it challenges. Eddie Twyborn is bisexual and beautiful, the son of a Judge and a drunken mother. With this androgynous hero - Eudoxia/Eddie/Eadith Twyborn -
and through his search for identity, for self-affirmation and love in its many forms, Patrick White takes us on a journey into the ambiguous landscapes, sexual, psychological and spiritual, of the human condition.

In White’s 1973 classic, terrifying matriarch Elizabeth Hunter is facing death while her impatient children—Sir Basil, the celebrated actor, and Princess de Lascabane, an adoptive French aristocrat—wait. It is the dying mother who will command attention, and who in the midst of disaster will look into the eye of the storm. “An antipodean King Lear writ gentle and tragicomic, almost Chekhovian…The Eye of the Storm [is] an intensely dramatic masterpiece” (The Australian).

In this collection of short novels and stories, Patrick White explores the gulf - by turns funny and unbearably sad - between life’s expectations and its realities. With immense understanding and compassion, he captures the longings that underlie the relationships of men and women, and the tender pathos of the heart’s secrets.

Patrick White’s magnificent debut novel - first published 1939, long out of print and now a Text Classic. Based on Patrick White's own experiences in the early 1930s as a jackaroo at Bolaro, near Adaminaby in south-eastern New South Wales, Happy Valley paints a portrait of a community in a desolate landscape. It is a jagged and restless study of small-town and country life. White was twenty-seven when Happy Valley was published by George C. Harrop in London. This mesmerising first novel gives us a prolonged glimpse of literary genius in the making. It won the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal in 1941, but White did not allow the novel to be republished in English in his lifetime. Its appearance now in the Text Classics series is a major literary event. Happy Valley is the missing piece in the extraordinary jigsaw of White’s work. Patrick White was born in England in 1912 and taken to Australia, where his father owned a sheep farm, when he was six months old. He was educated in England and served in the RAF, before returning to Australia after the war. He was the first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1973. He died in 1990. Peter Craven is one of Australia’s best-known literary critics. He was founding editor of Scripsi, Quarterly Essay and the Best of anthologies. ‘[Patrick White] was a prophet, and from his sublime mountaintop, he sent down lightning bolts on our callow heads. Some of these bolts are vivid in Happy Valley, his first novel, published in 1939 and now reissued…The novel stands up well in the high company of its later brethren. It prefigures the greatness to come, and is a more adventurously wrought than many of our own age. White is a mesmerising narrator whose prose illuminates the most ordinary object and event in new and gripping ways.’ Thomas Keneally, Guardian ‘Happy Valley will be a joy for any fan. Here we see a sensibility not so much forming as finding, and owning, itself.’ Weekend Australian ‘This is a remarkable first novel, already discernible as the performance of a master whose apprentice work cannot be glimpsed. We are fortunate indeed that Text has reopened the front door in the house of Patrick White's fiction.’ Canberra Times ‘My favourite Australian novel was by a newcomer - well, a newcomer in 1939. A
sardonic, grotesque, oddly moving ensemble of piece about thwarted lives in a
dismal country town, Happy Valley presages the later Patrick White, but is also
refreshingly original and feels as contemporary as the latest bestseller.' Jane
Sullivan, Australian Book Review 'Happy Valley is a harsh and unsparing picture
of a prematurely exhausting, life-denying Australia. It's a world full of violence,
adultery and financial ruin, in which nothing will ever change. White's main focus,
as in his great later novels, is the thwarted spiritual yearning of his characters.
But this is also a superb anatomy of Australian society.' Metro (NZ)
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DAVID MALOUF Through the crumbling ruins of the
once splendid Xanadu, Miss Hare wanders, half-mad. In the wilderness she stumbles
upon an Aborigine artist and a Jewish refugee. They place themselves in the care of a
local washerwoman. In a world of pervasive evil, all four have been independently
damaged and discarded. Now in one shared vision they find themselves bound
together, understanding the possibility of redemption.
"Indisputably one of the century's greatest writers." —Annie Proulx "The Hanging
Garden is a novel for our time--a story about parentless children, mistreated by a world
that, by its lights, intends no harm but nonetheless does enduring damage." —The New
York Times Book Review (cover review, 05/26/13) From the Nobel Prize–winning
author of The Eye of the Storm comes a vivid, visceral tale of childhood friendship and
sexual awakening from beyond the echoes of World War II. Sydney, Australia, 1942.
Two children, on the cusp of adolescence, have been spirited away from the war in
Europe and given shelter in a house on Neutral Bay, taken in by the charity of an old
widow who wants little to do with them. The boy, Gilbert, has escaped the Blitz. The girl,
Eirene, lost her father in a Greek prison. Left to their own devices, the children forge a
friendship of startling honesty, forming a bond of uncommon complexity that they sense
will shape their destinies for years to come. Patrick White's posthumously discovered
novel, The Hanging Garden, which represents the first part of what was intended to be
his final masterpiece, is a breathtaking and important literary event. Seamlessly shifting
among points of view, and written in dazzling prose, Patrick White's mastery of style
and highly inventive storytelling will transport you as the work of few writers can.
An essential story collection from one of the foremost novelists of the twentieth century,
now a part of the Text Classics series
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