

Waterland By Graham Swift

Here We AreEngland and Other StoriesReading Graham SwiftMaking An ElephantWaterland and Last OrdersHere We AreOut Of This WorldThe Sweet Shop OwnerEver AfterWish You Were HereTomorrowShuttlecockMothering SundayThe Light of DayConversations with Graham SwiftLearning to SwimWar MemoriesGraham SwiftLast OrdersThe sweet shop owner, Graham Swift Graham Swift Tomasz Dobrogoszcz Graham Swift Donald P. Kaczvinsky Graham Swift Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger Peter Widdowson Graham Swift Graham Swift

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it is brighton 1959 and the theatre at the end of the pier is having its best summer season in years ronnie a brilliant young magician and evie his dazzling assistant are top of the bill drawing audiences each night meanwhile jack jack robinson as in before you can say is everyone s favourite compère a born entertainer holding the whole show together as the summer progresses the off stage drama between the three begins to overshadow their theatrical success and events unfold which will have lasting consequences for all their futures rich comic alive and subtly devastating here we are is a masterly piece of literary magicianship which pulls back the curtain on the human condition one to watch for 2020 according to the sunday times the times the daily telegraph the guardian financial times evening standard the scotsman the irish times he tells simple truthful stories about what feel like real people here we are is a welcome addition to a proud legacy the big issue the variety of voices and its historical and emotional reach are so finely entwined it is as perfect and smooth as an egg passages leap out all the time demanding to be reread or committed to memory it is perhaps too simple to say that swift creates a form of fictional magic but what he can do with a page is out of the ordinary far beyond most mortals ken rosemary goring the herald here we are is a subtle portrait of a vanished world with moving passages about the problems of wartime evacuees returning to impoverished london life after the wonders of the countryside the independent in here we are swift does not just dwell on the pivotal moments of our lives but traces their shockwaves both forward and back moving seamlessly from pre war to post from the events of one illusory youthful summer to the present we are given candid access to the innermost reflections of three people who loved and betrayed each other the end result is the stuff of life an enduring mystery that ronnie evie jack that we all must live with i thought it was wonderful joseph knox author of sirens as with all his books it s the moments of quiet undramatic poignancy that stay with you sunday

express a quietly devastating magical novel telegraph with a wizardry of his own swift conjures up an about to disappear little world and turns it into something of wider resonance sunday times praise for mothering sunday bathed in light and even when tragedy strikes it blazes irresistibly swift s small fiction feels like a masterpiece guardian alive with sensuousness and sensuality wonderfully accomplished it is an achievement sunday times from start to finish swift s is a novel of stylish brilliance and quiet narrative verve the archly modulated precise prose a hybrid of henry green and kazuo ishiguro is a glory to read now 66 swift is a writer at the very top of his game evening standard mothering sunday is a powerful philosophical and exquisitely observed novel about the lives we lead and the parallel lives the parallel stories we can never know it may just be swift s best novel yet observer

from the booker prize winning author of last orders and wish you were here his first new book of short fiction in nearly thirty years beautifully crafted piercingly observant stories that unite into a richly peopled vision of a country that is both a crucible of history and a maze of contemporary confusions meet dr shah who has never been to india and mrs kaminski on her way to poland meet holly and polly who have come to their own anglo irish understanding and charlie and don who have seen the docks turn into docklands daisy baker who is terrified of yorkshire and johnny dewhurst stranded on exmoor graham swift steers us effortlessly from the seventeenth century to the present day from world shaking events to the secret dramas lived out in rooms workplaces homes with these open eyed eloquent and often comic stories swift charts a human geography that moves us profoundly

this collection of essays on graham swift s fiction brings together the perspectives of renowned swift scholars from around the world authors look at the swift s oeuvre from different interpretative angles combining a variety of critical and theoretical approaches this book covers all of swift s fiction including his novels and short stories special emphasis however is on his most recent books by approaching swift s work from a number of perspectives the volume offers a synthetic overview of his literary output in particular it searches for thematic and formal continuities between his early and more recent fiction and attempts to emphasize its new developments and interests

from the bestselling author of last orders and mothering sunday and reissued for the first time in scribner a brilliant collection of essays as well as brand new material that will delight and intrigue readers in making an elephant graham swift brings together a richly varied selection of essays portraits poetry and reflections on his life in writing full of insights into his passions and motivations and wise about the friends family and other writers who have mattered to him over the years this is a revealing and intimate collection kazuo ishiguro advises on how to choose a guitar salman rushdie arrives for christmas under guard and ted hughes shares the secrets of a devon river there are private moments too with long dead writers as well as musings on history and memory that readers of swift s novels will recognize and love praise for mothering sunday bathed in light and even when tragedy strikes it blazes irresistibly swift s small fiction feels like a masterpiece guardian alive with sensuousness and sensuality wonderfully accomplished it is an achievement sunday times from start to finish swift s is a novel of stylish brilliance and quiet narrative verve the archly modulated precise prose a hybrid of henry green and kazuo ishiguro is a glory to read now 66 swift is a writer at the very top of his game evening standard mothering sunday is a powerful philosophical and exquisitely observed novel about the lives we lead and the parallel lives the parallel stories we can never know it may just be swift s best novel yet observer

in waterland tom crick a history teacher in the fenlands is driven by a marital crisis and the provocation of one of his pupils to forsake his teaching and relate the story of his family who have lived in the fens since the eighteenth century in last orders four men once close to jack dodds a london butcher meet to carry out his peculiar last wish to have his ashes scattered into the sea for reasons best known to herself jack s widow amy declines to join them on the surface the tale of a simple if increasingly bizarre day s outing last orders is graham swift s most poignant exploration of the complexity and courage of ordinary lives

this novel of love in the world of 1950s vaudeville is a masterpiece of literary magic from the booker prize winning author of last orders and mothering sunday it is 1959 in brighton england and the theater at the end of the famous pier is having its best summer season in years ronnie a brilliant young magician and evie his dazzling assistant are top of the bill drawing a full house every night and jack is everyone s favorite master of ceremonies holding the whole show together but as the summer progresses the drama among the three begins to overshadow their success onstage setting in motion events that will reshape their lives vividly realized tenderly comic and quietly shattering here we are is a masterly work of literary magic

from the bestselling author of last orders and mothering sunday reissued for the first time in scribner in 1972 robert beech first world war veteran and prominent figure in the arms industry is killed by a car bomb the event cuts short the career of his son harry a news photographer and comes close to destroying his granddaughter sophie ten years later harry now working in aerial photography and sophie visiting an analyst in new york remain scarred and divided by the event around their broken relationship and harry s memories of his truncated career and his father the novel builds a story that is acutely private yet sweepingly public at the heart of which lies harry s lifelong dedication of the camera out of this world spans many of the twentieth century s scenes of conflict but also contains some of graham swift s most achingly intimate scenes of personal confrontation scenes that powerful and haunting as photographs can be no photographs can capture deserves to be ranked in the forefront of contemporary literature new york times superb profound sunday times

from the bestselling author of last orders and mothering sunday reissued for the first time in scribner for forty years willy chapman has struck a strange but steadfast bargain between the two poles of his life his beautiful but emotionally damaged wife and the sweet shop he runs on a south london high street devoted to each he has maintained a delicate precarious balance now on a hot summer s day he attempts to settle his final accounts and reach an understanding with a third disruptive element in his reckoning his angry unforgiving daughter spanning five decades and intricately exploring a doomed family triangle graham swift s first novel already shows the historical scope combined with intense intimacy that will characterise his work a marvellous first novel new statesman brilliantly chronicled the spectator

dazzling in its structure and shattering in its emotional force graham swift s ever after spans two centuries and settings from the adulterous bedrooms of postwar paris to the contemporary entanglements in the groves of academe it is the story of bill unwin a man haunted by the death of his beautify wife and a survivor himself of a recent brush with mortality and although it touches on darwin and dinosaurs bees and bridge builders the true subject of ever after is nothing less than the eternal question why should things matter ever after is explicitly concerned with historical investigation love death family affairs it moves quickly and it vibrates with feeling and thought wall street journal

time out novel of the year astonishingly moving sunday express on an autumn day in 2006 on the isle of wight jack luxton former devon farmer now proprietor of a seaside caravan park receives the news that his brother tom not seen for years has been killed in iraq for jack and his wife ellie this will have a potentially catastrophic impact and compel jack to make a crucial journey to receive his brother s remains but also to return to the land of his past and confront his most secret troubling memories building to a fiercely suspenseful climax wish you were here is a hauntingly compassionate story that allows us to feel the stuff of headlines as heart wrenching personal truth profound and powerful an unputdownable read scotland on sunday a wonderful writer daily telegraph

from the author of the bestselling mothering sunday and last orders and reissued for the first time on the scribner list this is an intensely moving novel about a night that will change one family beyond recognition on a june night paula a successful art dealer lies awake mike her husband of twenty five years asleep beside her in nearby rooms their twin teenage children nick and kate sleep too the next day paula knows will define all their lives as dawn approaches paula recalls the years before and after her children were born her story is both a celebration of love possessed and a moving acknowledgement of the fear of loss of the fragilities on which even our most inward sense of who we are can rest graham swift s apparently most domestic book is that rare thing in fiction a novel about happiness though a happiness that is not all that it seems an intimate and tender tale of a marriage a family and a home it begins to embrace big themes nature and nurture the illusory and the real praise for mothering sunday bathed in light and even when tragedy strikes it blazes irresistibly swift s small fiction feels like a masterpiece guardian alive with sensuousness and sensuality wonderfully accomplished it is an achievement sunday times from start to finish swift s is a novel of stylish brilliance and quiet narrative verve the archly modulated precise prose a hybrid of henry green and kazuo ishiguro is a glory to read now 66 swift is a writer at the very top of his game evening standard mothering sunday is a powerful philosophical and exquisitely observed novel about the lives we lead and the parallel lives the parallel stories we can never know it may just be swift s best novel yet observer

from the bestselling author of last orders and mothering sunday reissued for the first time in scribner prentis employed in the police archives is becoming confused his obsession with the plight of his father a wartime hero now the mute inmate of a mental hospital is alienating him from his wife and children while at work he feels under scrutiny from his intimidating boss quinn gradually prentis suspects that his father s breakdown and quinn s menacing behaviour are related and that the connection is to be found in his father s memoir shuttlecock shuttlecock is an intense psychological thriller and much more with poignant force and sometimes dark comedy it links the seccuries and quirks of domestic life with the enigmas and violence of crime and war a small masterpiece the guardian excellent profound alan hollinghurst

soon to be a major film starring olivia coleman colin firth odessa young josh o connor the crown and alice birch normal people exquisite mothering sunday shows love lust and ordinary decency straining against the bars of an unjust english caste system kazuo ishiguro it is march 30th 1924 it is mothering sunday how will jane fairchild orphan and housemaid occupy her time when she has no mother to visit how shaped by the events of this never to be forgotten day will her future unfold beginning with an intimate assignation and opening to embrace decades mothering sunday has at its heart both the story of a life and the life that stories can magically contain constantly surprising joyously sensual and deeply moving it is graham swift at his thrilling best praise for mothering sunday mothering sunday is a powerful philosophical and exquisitely observed novel about the lives we lead and the parallel lives the parallel stories we can never know it may just be swift s best novel yet the

observer dazzling a vanished world is resurrected with superb immediacy wonderfully accomplished sunday times stunning it is about the most perfect novel you could wish to read the guardian from start to finish swift s is a novel of stylish brilliance and quiet narrative verve swift is a writer at the very top of his game evening standard from the booker winning author of last orders and waterland comes a long awaited new novel mothering sunday is bathed in light and even when tragedy strikes it blazes irresistibly swift s small fiction feels like a masterpiece the guardian mastery and resonance it s one of the novel s great strengths to be able to shift with such agility between focus scene and lifetime recollection the languid blissful minutes of march 30 1924 seem to contain all the succeeding decades times literary supplement a dazzling read sexy stylish subversive herald scotland a jewel of a book a subtle erotically charged novella suspended between past and future hermione lee a work of gold from the subtle pen of the great graham swift le monde with this novel he captures what it means to be alive der spiegel an exquisite novella of love and loss a short yet powerful and intricately layered work every sentence counting and not a word out of place the australian

on the anniversary of a life shattering event george webb a former policeman turned private detective revisits the catastrophes of his past and reaffirms the extraordinary direction of his future two years before an assignment to follow a strayed husband and his mistress appeared simple enough but this routine job left george a transformed man suspenseful moving and hailed by critics as a detective story unlike any other the light of day is a gripping tale of murder and redemption as well as a bold exploration of love and self discovery this powerful novel signals yet another groundbreaking achievement from graham swift the author of the booker prize winning novel last orders

conversations with graham swift is the first collection of interviews conducted with the author of the booker prize winning novel last orders beginning in 1985 with swift s arrival in new york to promote waterland and concluding with an interview from 2016 that appeared in the sydney morning herald the collection spans swift s more than thirty five year career as a writer the volume also includes interviews first printed in english as well as translated from the french or spanish and covers a wide range of formats from lengthier interviews published in standard academic journals to those for radio newspapers and more recently podcasts in these interviews graham swift b 1949 offers insights into his life and career including his friendships with other contemporary writers like ted hughes and the group of celebrated novelists who emerged in britain during the eighties with remarkable clarity swift discusses the themes of his novels and short stories death love history parent child relationships the power of the imagination the role of storytelling and the consequences of knowing he also notes the influences literary and personal that have helped shape his writing career while quite ordinary in his life and daily habits swift reveals his penetrating intellect and rich imagination an imagination that can craft some of the most engaging and formally complex stories in the language

from the bestselling author of last orders and mothering sunday reissued for the first time in scribner graham swift s first collection of short stories confirms his power to bring an edge of the extraordinary the dangerous or the subversive into otherwise familiar safe even comforting settings on a holiday beach a mismatched couple wage a sexually charged war for the devotion of their literally floundering son a family doctor oppressed by his own domestic insecurities intimidates an apparent time wasting patient a zookeeper becomes the keeper of a bizarre fixation while vividly evoking a recognisable english geography these startling stories have an eye for the foreign for the experience of refugees or for less definable zones of bewilderment and strangeness more than one has a touch of the ghostly highly located yet haunted

and haunting they penetrate a hidden world of human dislocation graham swift should be read by everyone with an interest in the art of the short story paul bailey evening standard a masterful collection of stories usa today

shaping individual and collective war memories through the art of commemoration

winner of the booker prize 1996 four men once close to jack dodds a london butcher meet to carry out his peculiar last wish to have his ashes scattered into the sea at margate for reasons best known to herself jack s widow amy declines to join them on the surface a simple tale of an increasingly bizarre day s outing this booker prize winning internationally acclaimed novel is a resonant and classic exploration of the complexity and courage of ordinary lives intensely local but overwhelmingly universal faithful to the fleeting rhythms and accidental eloquence of everyday speech but also to the timeless truths of life and death it succeeds in being comic and heartstopping affectionate and wise and in conferring on its stumbling disappointed characters an enduring decency dignity and depth a surpassing testament to swift s vibrant and powerful gifts the times a triumph a story about the most fundamental things of all evening standard

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