

## The Closed Circle Jonathan Coe

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the characters of the rotters club jonathan coe's beloved novel of adolescent life in the 1970s have bartered their innocence for the vengeance of middle age in this incisive portrait of cool britannia at the millennium

in novels such as what a carve up and the rotters club jonathan coe has established himself as one of the great satirical writers of our time covering all of his major novels including his most recent book number 11 jonathan coe contemporary british satire includes chapters by leading and emerging scholars of contemporary british writing the book features a preface by coe himself and covers the ways in which his work grapples with such themes as class politics popular music sex gender and the media

the comic turn in contemporary english fiction explores the importance of comedy in contemporary literature and culture in an era largely defined by a mood of crisis bleakness cruelty melancholia environmental catastrophe and collapse huw marsh argues that contemporary fiction is as likely to treat these subjects comically as it is to treat them gravely and that the recognition and proper analysis of this humour opens up new ways to think about literature structured around readings of authors

including martin amis nicola barker julian barnes jonathan coe howard jacobson magnus mills and zadie smith this book suggests not only that much of the most interesting contemporary writing is funny and that there is a comic tendency in contemporary fiction but also that this humour this comic licence allows writers of contemporary fiction to do peculiar and interesting things things that are funny in the sense of odd or strange and that may in turn inspire a funny turn in readers marsh offers a series of original critical and theoretical frameworks for discussing questions of literary genre style affect and politics demonstrating that comedy is an often neglected mode that plays a generative role in much of the most interesting contemporary writing creating sites of rich political stylistic cognitive and ethical contestation whose analysis offers a new perspective on the present

changing the story gives an excellent and well informed account of the differences between the american canadian british and french attitudes towards feminism and feminist fiction and literary theory a very readable book which reminds us that literature can change us and that through it we can change ourselves margaret drabble a distinctive contribution clear elegant precise and well read to the feminist discussion of narrative of anglo canadian white north american novelists and to contemporary fiction greene tracks how feminist novelists draw upon and negotiate with traditional narrative patterns and how their critical approach implicates and provokes social change the book brings us to an intelligent post humanism which does not scant the social meanings of metafictional critique and in addition this book remembers hope rachel blau duplessis changing the story is an invaluable guide to the feminist classics of the last three decades this is cultural criticism at its best engaged re visionary and politically astute nancy k miller greene tells a very good tale about how feminist fiction emerged developed made changes in the world and now threatens to wane the women s review of books her probing analysis should captivate general readers as well as academics wlv journal changing the story is an important work of feminist criticism certain to spark controversy within the feminist community american literature the feminist fiction movement of the 1960s 1980s was and is as significant a movement as modernism gayle greene focuses on the works of doris lessing margaret drabble margaret atwood and margaret laurence to trace the roots of this feminist literary explosion she also speculates on the future of feminist fiction in the current regressive period of post feminism

enduring liberalism pursues two objectives one it explores the political thought of public intellectuals and the general public since the 1960s two it assesses contemporary and classic interpretations of american political thought in light of the study s findings book jacket

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