

The Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories 2004 Paperback

what goes through the mind of a person while having sex acclaimed story teller robert olen butler turns his daring imagination to the intimate in his latest collection that both dazzles and probes he lays bare the most flagrant personal thoughts and feelings of fifty often surprising couples the author's meticulous research reveals that these famous people actually did get together and almost certainly he wasn't there consummated their relationship erotic provocative political and funny each story illuminates the inner workings of these well known people and also reveals the delights deviousness and distractions of intercourse butler is at his most entertaining and insightful in this wild and engaging new collection

ira is trying to come to terms with his life to do so he must examine his sexuality and its profound hold on him from the pulitzer prize winning author of *a good scent from a strange mountain*

from the pulitzer prize winning author comes this fascinating intense portrayal of the collapse of a marriage that delivers a surprising charge *jane smiley* the washington post an o the oprah magazine summer reading list pick set in contemporary new orleans but working its way back in time a small hotel chronicles the relationship between michael and kelly hays who have decided to separate after twenty four years of marriage the book begins on the day that the hays are to finalize their divorce kelly is due to be in court but instead she drives from her home in pensacola florida across the panhandle to new orleans there she checks into room 303 at the olivier house in the city's french quarter the hotel where she and michael fell in love some twenty five years earlier she now finds herself about to make a decision that will forever affect her michael and their nineteen year old daughter samantha from each spouse's point of view we witness the feelings that didn't break the surface at the time but never went away the new york times intelligent deeply moving a small hotel is a masterful story that will remind readers once again why robert olen butler has been called the best living american writer fort worth star telegram

robert olen butler winner of the pulitzer prize in fiction for his short story collection a good scent from a strange mountain has been praised as the best living american writer period fort worth star telegram during his prestigious career he has been guiding inspiring and awakening graduate fiction students at florida state university his version of literary boot camp now janet burroway author of the classic text writing fiction introduces her edited transcripts of his thought provoking lectures

a wrenching love story about the relationship between a vietnam veteran and a woman who was orphaned when saigon fell by a pulitzer prize winning author chicago tribune this is an incandescent tale of modern love between a vietnamese woman orphaned in 1975 when saigon fell to the communists and a vietnam war veteran returning from america to seek closure for decades old emotional wounds the more they nurture the love between them the more they learn about each other the more complex and dangerous their relationship becomes and what follows conjures classical tragedy infused with intense eroticism and with butler s reverence for vietnamese mythology and history the deep green sea is a landmark work in the literature of love and war from the acclaimed author of a good scent from a strange mountain a slim erotic and fable like book that picks up on many of butler s abiding themes the legacy of the vietnam war the clash of vietnam s folklore and mysticism with american manners butler is a writer working to cast a spell the new york times book review in a deceptively understated manner pulitzer prize winning novelist robert olen butler introduces us to a pair of improbable modern lovers he plants the seeds of a tragedy that will haunt his readers long after they finish this lyrical love story people

the human head is believed to remain in a state of consciousness for one and one half minutes after decapitation in a heightened state of emotion people speak at the rate of 160 words per minute inspired by the intersection of these two seemingly unrelated concepts pulitzer prize winning

author robert olen butler wrote sixty two stories each exactly 240 words in length capturing the flow of thoughts and feelings that go through a person s mind after their head has been severed the characters are both real and imagined medusa beheaded by perseus 2000 bc anne boleyn beheaded at the behest of henry viii 1536 a chicken beheaded for sunday dinner alabama 1958 and the author decapitated on the job 2008 told with the intensity of a poet and the wit of a great storyteller these final thoughts illuminate and crystallize more about the characters own lives and the worlds they inhabit than many writers manage to convey in full length biographies or novels the stories which have appeared in literary magazines across the country are a delightful and intriguing creative feat from one of today s most inventive writers

a cracking good spy thriller with a cast of memorable characters and a terrifically suspenseful plot butler s elegant writing elevates the book tampa bay times in the first two books of his acclaimed christopher marlowe cobb series the hot country and the star of istanbul pulitzer prize winner robert olen butler captured the hearts of historical crime fiction fans with the artfulness of his world war i settings and his charismatic leading man a chicago journalist recruited by american intelligence in the empire of night it is 1915 and president woodrow wilson is still assessing the war s threat to the united states after proving himself during the lusitania mission kit is now a full blown spy working undercover in a castle on the kentish coast owned by a suspected british government mole named sir albert stockman and kit is again thrown together with a female spy his own mother the beautiful and mercurial isabel cobb who also happens to be a world famous stage actress starring in a touring production of hamlet isabel s offstage role is to keep tabs on the supposed mole an ardent fan of hers while kit tries to figure out stockman s secret agenda following his mother and her escort from the relative safety of britain into the lion s den of berlin kit must remain in character even under the very nose of the kaiser a thrilling historical series there s something almost magical about the way the author re creates this 1915

milieu the wall street journal

amy dickerson a star employee of a renowned auction house falls in love with alain bouchard a cultured french business mogul but their seemingly perfect relationship slowly begins to crumble forcing amy to make a startling discovery

sun dogs the haunting second novel by pulitzer winner robert olen butler probes a man s search for viable meaning in his life for personal salvation

an intrepid reporter boards the lusitania in a vivid ripping good spy thriller from the pulitzer prize winning author the wall street journal it s 1915 world war i is in full swing and foreign correspondent christopher kit marlowe cobb is tasked with following a german intellectual and possible secret service agent who s just boarded the british ocean liner lusitania but cobb is soon distracted from his mission by the sultry selene bourgani a world renowned silent film star who also appears to be working with german intelligence the secrets selene harbors have the potential to set the whole international conflict further aflame and they re about to be ignited by a german u boat attack off the irish coast from the perilous waters of the atlantic cobb tails selene into london s darkest alleyways then on to the powder keg that is istanbul across the war torn stages of europe and the middle east cobb must venture deep behind enemy lines knowing full well he may not return the second book in the christopher marlowe cobb thrillers the star of istanbul has it all history galore exotic foreign settings a world weary yet engaging protagonist villains in abundance and a romance worthy of bogart and bergman bookpage an outstanding work of historical fiction the huntington news butler holds the reader transfixed like a kid at a saturday matinee booklist starred review an exciting thriller with plenty of action romance and danger a fast paced

journey through a world at war library journal

butler's pulitzer prize winning collection of stories about the aftermath of the vietnam war and its impact on the vietnamese is reissued includes two subsequently published stories that complete the collection's narrative journey returning to the jungles of vietnam

gloriously imaginative and utterly hypnotizing short stories inspired by vintage twentieth century postcards from a pulitzer prize winning author booklist starred review for many years author robert olen butler has collected picture postcards from the early twentieth century not so much for the pictures on the fronts but for the messages written on the backs little bits of the captured souls of people long since passed away using these brief messages of real people from another age butler here creates fully imagined stories that speak to the universal human condition in up by heart a tennessee miner is called upon to become a preacher and then asked to complete an altogether more sinister task in the ironworkers hayride a young man named milton embarks on a romantic adventure with a girl with a wooden leg from the deeply moving carl and i in which a young wife writes a postcard in reply to a card from her husband who is dying of tuberculosis to the eerily familiar the one in white in which a newspaper reporter covers an incident of american military adventurism in a foreign land these short stories are intimate and fascinating glimpses into the lives of ordinary people in an extraordinary age a wonderful collection the atlantic monthly

there are three things about this planet which are too wonderful for me make that four things the way of dreams in the mind the way of tears in the eye the way of words in the mouth and the way of my wife edna bradshaw when she acts like a cat and love nibbles me into her arms this is the voice of desi the hero of robert olen butler's novel mr spaceman who has kept a quiet vigil above the earth for decades while studying the

confusing fascinating and frustrating primary species of our planet occasionally venturing to the planet s surface to hear their thoughts and experience their memories using his empathic powers now on december 31 2000 he prepares for the final phase of his mysterious mission which begins when he beams a tour bus bound for a louisiana casino aboard his ship the twelve passengers will be the last humans whose lives he will experience before he positions his spaceship in full and irrefutable view of the people of earth and descend to the planet s surface to proclaim his presence to all of humanity at the turn of the millennium poignant funny and charming mr spaceman is filled with unexpected twists and turns a tribute to the powers of love and understanding and the essence of what it means to be human

a powerful novel of a family haunted by the aftershocks of the vietnam war from the pulitzer prize winning author of a a good scent from a strange mountain you share a war in one way you pass it on in another passionate student activism brought robert quinlan together with his future wife during the tumultuous years of the vietnam war but since then the long married florida university professors have grown apart their crumbling relationship is mirrored by robert s estrangement from his brother alienated by the same controversial war now with their father a world war ii veteran lying close to death the rift in the family is sorely tested when robert s brother refuses to put the past aside and return to say goodbye and when robert mistakes a homeless stranger for a fellow vietnam veteran his unstable presence in their lives will further stir the emotional scars that shattered the quinlan men and take its toll on those they love most butler s faulknerian shuttling back and forth across the decades has less to do with literary pyrotechnics than with cutting to the chase perfume river hits its marks with a high stakes intensity butler s prose is fluid and his handling of his many time shifts as lucid as it is urgent his descriptive gifts don t extend just to his characters traits or their florida and new orleans settings but to the history he s addressing michael upchurch new york times book review butler moves easily among his

characters to create a composite portrait of a family that has been wrecked by choices made during the vietnam war beth nguyen san francisco chronicle the story builds its force with great care its power is that we want to keep reading the entire journey is masterfully rendered butler lighting a path back into the cave completely unafraid benjamin busch washington post butler greatly enlarges our sense of what the vietnam war cost to a generation perfume river tells a human story that sums up an entire era of american life miami herald butler s assured elegant novel speaks eloquently of the way the past bleeds into the present history reverberates through individual lives and mortality challenges our perceptions of ourselves and others publishers weekly a heartbreaking story of fathers and sons and their expectations and disappointments perfume river is a powerful work that asks profound questions about betrayal and loyalty bookpage

there are a dozen ways the american dream can go awry in this unrepeatable tour de force of short fiction from the pulitzer prize winning author the washington post book world with touches of italo calvino roald dahl and gabriel garcía márquez the pulitzer prize and national magazine award winning author dazzles with his mastery of the short story and his ability to find humor and humanity in the extremes of the american way san francisco chronicle using tabloid headlines for inspiration among them boy born with tattoo of elvis woman struck by car turns into nymphomaniac and titanic victim speaks through waterbed butler moves from the fantastic to the realistic and from the lurid to the transcendent as he explores exile loss aspiration and the search for self along the way we meet a wife who uses her glass eye to spy on her cheating husband a widow who sets herself on fire after losing a baking competition a nine year old hit man a woman who dates an extraterrestrial she met at walmart and a furtive and mournful jfk who survived the assassination butler peels back the sleazy veneer of the sensational to expose characters who long for love and the healing comfort of human compassion usa today read all about it if you re frustrated by the way nothing much seems

to happen in modern short fiction you'll find tabloid dreams a whole different story the new york times book review these stories are masterpieces south florida sun sentinel tabloid dreams is full blown american magical realism boston review

includes an excerpt from the star of istanbul

the pulitzer prize winning author's strange and finally beautiful tale about obsession and modern love beth kephart the baltimore sun fair warning is acclaimed novelist robert olen butler's enthralling glimpse into a manhattan auction house that caters to the shopping pheromones of the rich and powerful at age forty the company's charismatic star employee amy dickerson is capable of selling a renoir painting of a pudgy nude for twice its value her customers are intoxicated by the objects they covet and sometimes such as when the dark and mysterious trevor locks eyes with amy as she closes an auction with fair warning that object is amy herself selected as a book sense 76 title and as a new york times summer reading title fair warning is as frank and sassy as its heroine amanda heller the boston globe fair warning deserves our praise but its author also deserves our gratitude for his continued risk taking and stubbornly singular sensibility todd kliman the washington post

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