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The Mezzanine ***Nicholson Baker***

As Lyon is consumed by protests, a darkly comic exploration of the push to be employed and the pull

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to write.

Baker muses on the creative process via his obsession with John Updike.

Paul Chowder is a poet, but he's fallen out of

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love with writing poems.
He hasn't fallen out of
love with his ex-
girlfriend Roz, though. In
fact he misses her
desperately. As he
struggles to come to terms

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with Roz's new relationship with a doctor, Paul turns to his acoustic guitar for comfort and inspiration, and fills his days writing protest songs, going to

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Quaker meetings,
struggling through Planet
Fitness workouts,
wondering if he could
become a techno DJ, and
experimenting with
becoming a cigar smoker.

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Written in Baker's
beautifully unconventional
prose, and scored with
musical influences from
Debussy to Tracy Chapman
to Paul himself,
Travelling Sprinkler is an

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enchanting, hilarious, and
deeply necessary novel. 'I
think the job of the
novelist is to write about
interesting things,
including things that
might not seem all that

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interesting at first
glance, and to offer
evidence that life is
worth living' Nicholson
Baker

The Opening of the Third
Eye: The human brain is a

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priceless computer lying perfectly maintained but almost silent! None of us uses the full potential of this amazing instrument, yet we all possess a secret 'trigger' for

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activating its mechanism.
Called 'the Third Eye' in
occult language, this
'trigger' can release a
vortex of psychic energy
for the extension of
awareness in new

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dimensions, for speeding up or slowing down time as experienced on our planet, and achieving one hundred per cent personality integration. Dr. Baker reveals that the Third Eye

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derives its power from the pineal, pituitary and carotid glands, allied to 'whirlwinds' of energy known as 'chakras' or force centres. There are seven of these centres in

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the human body, their physical location being the base of the spine, the solar plexus, the spleen, the heart, the throat, the brow, and the top of the head. Five safe techniques

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for arousing the Third Eye
are provided. They have
been practised by the
author 'without hazard and
with many rewards for over
forty years.' In our
present condition we can

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only observe the outer surface of the planet, manifesting in gaseous, liquid and solid form. We are completely unaware of the subtler states of matter beneath these

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outward appearances. But the Third Eye reveals all underlying structures.

'This means that one could observe the termites in apparently solid wooden paneling; or, more

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constructively, man's
inner organs could be
observed and all traces of
disease in them
immediately recognised,
with consequent enormous
benefits to medical

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progress.'

Reviews and Essays

Poetics of Work

Baseless

Molly Fox's Birthday

B & Me

A landmark book,

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“brilliant, thoughtful”
(The Atlantic) and “raw
and gorgeous” (LA Times),
that fast-forwards the
discussion of the central
artistic issues of our
time, from the bestselling

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author of *The Thing About Life Is That One Day You'll Be Dead*. Who owns ideas? How clear is the distinction between fiction and nonfiction? Has the velocity of

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digital culture rendered
traditional modes
obsolete? Exploring these
and related questions,
Shields orchestrates a
chorus of voices, past and
present, to reframe

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debates about the veracity of memoir and the relevance of the novel. He argues that our culture is obsessed with “reality,” precisely because we experience hardly any, and

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urgently calls for new forms that embody and convey the fractured nature of contemporary experience.

The seemingly mundane events that occur to a

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young clerk on his lunch hour are magnified in his mind into complex statements on the modern condition.

Lauded by Vanity Fair as "the best writer of our

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generation," Nicholson Baker has earned a complex and controversial reputation among contemporary American authors. In addition to being celebrated as a

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prose miniaturist for such works as *The Mezzanine* and *Room Temperature*, Baker is known for highly erotic works such as *Vox* and *The Fermata*. In *Understanding Nicholson Baker*, Arthur

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Saltzman engages these provocative fictions as well as Baker's nonfiction to show how his seemingly disparate works derive from and demonstrate an unremitting zeal for

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explicit detail, along
with descriptive
obsessiveness and
linguistic virtuosity.
A study of the decades
leading up to World War II
profiles the world

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leaders, politicians,
business people, and
others whose personal
politics and ideologies
provided an inevitable
barrier to the peace
process and whose actions

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led to the outbreak of
war.

Understanding Nicholson
Baker

Understanding Nicholson
Baker's "The Mezzanine"
Through William James

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A True Story

The Way the World Works

Been Down So Long It Looks

Like Up to Me

***National Bestseller* "This is a
funny and beautiful book. What a
little bastard." --Russell Brand**

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"Every paragraph is like doing a shot with a friend. A double."

--Caitlin Moran Joel Golby's writing for Vice and The Guardian, with its wry observation and naked self-reflection, has brought him a

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**wide and devoted following.
Now, in his first book, he
presents a blistering collection
of new and newly expanded
essays--including the achingly
funny viral hit "Things You Only
Know When Both Your Parents**

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Are Dead." In these pages, he travels to Saudi Arabia, where he acts as a perplexed bystander at a camel pageant; offers a survival guide for the modern dinner party (i.e. how to tactfully escape at the first sign of an

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adult board game); and gets pitted head-to-head, again and again, with an unpredictable, unpitied subspecies of Londoner: the landlord. Through it all, he shows that no matter how cruel the misfortune, how

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**absurd the circumstance, there's
always the soft punch of a
lesson tucked within. This is a
book for anyone who
overshares, overthinks, has ever
felt lost or confused--and who
wants to have a good laugh**

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about it.

**The Mezzanine A Novel Open
Road + Grove/Atlantic**

GENERAL & LITERARY FICTION.

**The Mezzanine is the story of
one man's lunch hour. It
addresses the big questions of**

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corporate life, like: Why does one shoelace always wear out before the other? Whose genius lies behind the folding spout on the milk carton? Whatever happened to the paper drinking-straw? Nicholson Baker's

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hilarious debut novel documents the thoughts of an office worker as he day-dreams on the escalator, on his way to buy shoe-laces. Sparklingly original, intelligent and digressive, it paved the way for authors such

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**as David Foster Wallace and
Joshua Ferris and introduced
one of the most controversial
and acclaimed authors in
America today.**

**An electrifying and hilarious
novel about the mundanity of**

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**office life, reissued for Granta
Editions.**

The Anthologist

Travelling Sprinkler

The Size of Thoughts

**The Beginnings of World War II,
the End of Civilization**

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House of Holes

The ostensible purpose of a library is to preserve the printed word. But for fifty years our country's libraries—including the

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**Library of Congress—have
been doing just the
opposite, destroying
hundreds of thousands of
historic newspapers and
replacing them with
microfilm copies that**

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**are difficult to read,
lack all the color and
quality of the original
paper and illustrations,
and deteriorate with
age. With meticulous
detective work and**

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**Baker's well-known
explanatory power,
Double Fold reveals a
secret history of
microfilm lobbyists,
former CIA agents, and
warehouses where**

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**priceless archives are
destroyed with a machine
called a guillotine.**

**Baker argues
passionately for
preservation, even
cashing in his own**

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retirement account to
save one important
archive—all twenty tons
of it. Written the
brilliant narrative
style that Nicholson
Baker fans have come to

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expect, Double Fold is a persuasive and often devastating book that may turn out to be The Jungle of the American library system.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER Vox

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**is a novel that remaps
the territory of sex—sex
solitary and telephonic,
lyrical and profane,
comfortable and
dangerous. It is an
erotic classic that**

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**places Nicholson Baker
firmly in the first rank
of major American
writers.**

**Having turned phone sex
into the subject of an
astonishing national**

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bestseller in Vox, Baker now outdoes himself with an outrageously arousing, acrobatically stylish "X-rated sci-fi fantasy that leaves Vox seeming more like mere

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Nicholson Baker

fiber-optic foreplay"
(Seattle Times).

"Sparkling." - - San

Francisco Chronicle.

Winner of the National

Book Critics Circle

Award, Nicholson Baker

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**has established himself
as one of our most
brilliant observers of
everyday experience.
With his keen
perception, flawless
prose, and endless wit,**

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he has composed both fiction and nonfiction that has become an essential part of our literature. Vintage Baker contains generous selections from the

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**novels Vox, The Fermata,
The Mezzanine, and A Box
of Matches; essays from
The Size of Thoughts;
and portions of the NBCC
award winner Doublefold.
Vintage Readers are a**

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**perfect introduction to
some of the great modern
writers, presented in
attractive, affordable
paperback editions.
The Anthologist and
Traveling Sprinkler, Two**

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Nicholson Baker**

Novels

Checkpoint

**The Opening of the Third
Eye**

**On Creativity,
Potential, and the
Imperfect Art of**

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**Adulthood
Going to School with a
Thousand Kids**

With a New Introduction by George
Saunders A New York Times Book
Review Notable Book of the Year It is
early spring, and Tom has called

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together his fellow psychologists at the Krakower Institute for their biannual pancake supper—a chance for likeminded analysts to talk shop and casually unburden themselves over flapjacks. But, as Tom knows (at least subconsciously), his brainy colleagues

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are a little on edge—simmering with romantic tension and professional grievance, their stew of conflicting ego and id just might boil to the surface before the pretty waitress brings their next coffee refill. When Tom tries to provoke a food fight, a rival colleague

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locks him in a therapeutic hold, triggering a transcendent if totally bizarre transformation that will free Tom to confront his greatest pleasures and fears. Darkly funny and beautifully written, *The Verificationist* confirms Donald Antrim as one of America's

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best and most original authors.

This comic and surreal novel about the beastliness and pain in the world focuses on the stories of assorted young American misfits, reactionaries and revolutionaries, young lovers, and raging old tyrants

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For fans of Ducks, Newburyport and Rivka Galchen's Atmospheric Disturbances, a day-in-the-life of a plumber whose troubles are all coming to a head. In an addictive, interior-monologue lyric novel, we meet Joseph. Back on the job after a long leave, he's

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not at all sure he'll make it through the day. Bad thoughts keep creeping in. He believes that his son, suffering from a condition in which he believes someone close to him has been replaced by an imposter, has tried to kill his wife. And that he'll try again. And that his wife is

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planning to leave him. Meanwhile, he's fixing a sink for his wife's friend. Insignificance unfurls over the course of a single day. Placing the reader inside the head of the struggling Joseph, it works double time, as a portrait of the uncertainty and awkwardness of one

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vulnerable man and his relationship with the world, and also as a tense, emotional, and gripping drama. In this deeply human and highly inventive story, we have a novel that portrays the thoughts of one working man on his own terms, without artifice or

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condescension. James Clammer pries open the head of a plumber to reveal the portrait of a fracturing mind taking us closer and closer to the edge. "Hands down the best novel about a plumber changing a water tank – and, incidentally, dealing with matters of

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grave and threatening existential weight – I have ever read." —Stephen Sparks, Point Reyes Books "In this short and powerful novel author James Clammer places readers inside the mind of Joe Forbes, a delightfully perceptive, middle-aged plumber who is trying to

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recover from a mental breakdown precipitated by his son's criminal conviction. Joe is very much an 'everyman,' yet his way of looking at the world and his circumstances is far from ordinary. With writing full of wit and sensitivity, Clammer's blue-collar

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hero goes back to work, longing to once again be strong, healthy, and confident – fully engaged within a society that stigmatizes weakness and mental illness. Insignificance is an absolute marvel, and one of the best books that I've read in quite some time." —Lori

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Feathers, Interabang Books “A brilliant look at family, mental health, and mid-life, Insignificance is a marvel. Tender, moving, and written with subtle humour, Clammer's novel takes the reader through a single day in the life of Joe Forbes, reluctant plumber and

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anguished father. A superb novel that hits all the right notes. I couldn't put it down.” —Mark Haber, bookseller at Brazos Bookstore and author of Reinhardt's Garden

“Staggeringly good.” —Counterpunch
A major new work, a hybrid of history,

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journalism, and memoir, about the modern Freedom of Information Act—FOIA—and the horrifying, decades-old government misdeeds that it is unable to demystify, from one of America's most celebrated writers Eight years ago, while investigating the

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possibility that the United States had used biological weapons in the Korean War, Nicholson Baker requested a series of Air Force documents from the early 1950s under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Years went by, and he got no response. Rather

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than wait forever, Baker set out to keep a personal journal of what it feels like to try to write about major historical events in a world of pervasive redactions, withheld records, and glacially slow governmental responses. The result is one of the most original

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and daring works of nonfiction in recent memory, a singular and mesmerizing narrative that tunnels into the history of some of the darkest and most shameful plans and projects of the CIA, the Air Force, and the presidencies of Harry Truman and

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Dwight Eisenhower. In his lucid and unassuming style, Baker assembles what he learns, piece by piece, about Project Baseless, a crash Pentagon program begun in the early fifties that aimed to achieve "an Air Force-wide combat capability in biological and

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chemical warfare at the earliest possible date." Along the way, he unearths stories of balloons carrying crop disease, leaflet bombs filled with feathers, suicidal scientists, leaky centrifuges, paranoid political-warfare tacticians, insane experiments on

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animals and humans, weaponized ticks, ferocious propaganda battles with China, and cover and deception plans meant to trick the Kremlin into ramping up its germ-warfare program. At the same time, Baker tells the stories of the heroic journalists and lawyers

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who have devoted their energies to wresting documentary evidence from government repositories, and he shares anecdotes from his daily life in Maine feeding his dogs and watching the morning light gather on the horizon. The result is an astonishing and utterly

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disarming story about waiting, bureaucracy, the horrors of war, and, above all, the cruel secrets that the United States government seems determined to keep forever from its citizens.

Vox

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The Mezzanine

A Box of Matches

The Verificationist

Brilliant, Brilliant, Brilliant Brilliant

Brilliant

***A National Book Critics Circle
Award-winner elevates the***

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ordinary events that occur to a man on his lunch hour into “a constant delight” of a novel (The Boston Globe). In this startling, witty, and inexhaustibly inventive novel, New York Times–bestselling

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author Nicholson Baker uses a one-story escalator ride as the occasion for a dazzling reappraisal of everyday objects and rituals. From the humble milk carton to the act of tying one's shoes, The

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Mezzanine at once defamiliarizes the familiar world and endows it with loopy and euphoric poetry. Baker's accounts of the ordinary become extraordinary through his sharp storytelling

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and his unconventional, conversational style. At first glance, The Mezzanine appears to be a book about nothing. In reality, it is a brilliant celebration of things, simultaneously demonstrating

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the value of reflection and the importance of everyday human experiences. "A very funny book . . . Its 135 pages probably contain more insight into life as we live it today than anything currently on the best-

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seller list.” —The New York Times “Captures the spirit of American corporate life and invests it with a passion and sympathy that is entirely unexpected.” —The Seattle Times “Among the year’s

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best.” —The Boston Globe
“Baker writes with appealing charm . . . [He] clowns and shows off . . . rambles and pounces hard; he says acute things, extravagant things, terribly funny things.” —Los

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Angeles Times Book Review
“Wonderfully readable, in fact
gripping, with surprising
bursts of recognition, humor
and wonder.” —The
Washington Post Book World
While writing an introduction

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to a new poetry anthology, Paul Chowder struggles with the end of a relationship, his own stunted career, and the suffering of poets as varied as Tennyson and Roethke.

“A love letter to the book as a

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physical object, a source of intellectual ardor, and a form of emotional salvation” (Salon)—and a nod to U and I, Nicholson Baker’s classic memoir about John Updike—from an award-winning

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author called “wonderfully bright” by The New York Times Book Review. Nearly twenty-five years ago, Nicholson Baker wrote U and I, the fretful and handwringing—but also

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groundbreaking—tale of his literary relationship with John Updike. U and I inspired a whole sub-genre of engaging writing about reading, but what no story of this type has ever done is tell its tale from

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***the moment of conception,
that moment when you realize
that there is writer out there in
the world that you must read.
B & Me is that story, the story
of J.C. Hallman discovering
and reading Nicholson***

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***Baker...and discovering himself
in the process. Our
relationship to books in the
digital age, the role of art in an
increasingly commodified
world, the power great writing
has to change us, these are at***

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the core of Hallman's investigation of Baker—questions he's grappled with, values he's come to doubt. But in reading Baker's work, Hallman discovers the key to

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***overcoming the malaise that
had been plaguing him,
through the books themselves
and what he finds and
contemplates in his attempts
to understand them and their
enigmatic author. B & Me is***

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literary self-archaeology: an irreverent, incisive story of one reader's desperate quest to restore passion to literature, and all the things he learns along the way. "A wide-ranging and idiosyncratic

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career survey for Nicholson Baker's work, a love letter to the act of reading, and a commentary on the modern novel, this is a book that readers will absolutely adore" (Publishers Weekly, starred

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review).

A collection of reviews and essays on the 20th century's most important innovative fiction writers.

The Fermata

Double Fold

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My Search for Secrets in the Ruins of the Freedom of Information Act Human Smoke Insignificance

Why does Skippy, a fourteen-year-old boy at Dublin's

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venerable Seabrook College, end up dead on the floor of the local doughnut shop? Could it have something to do with his friend Ruprecht Van Doren, an overweight genius who is determined to open a portal

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into a parallel universe using ten-dimensional string theory? Could it involve Carl, the teenage drug dealer and borderline psychotic who is Skippy's rival in love? Or could "the Automator"—the ruthless,

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smooth-talking headmaster intent on modernizing the school—have something to hide? Why Skippy dies and what happens next is the subject of this dazzling and uproarious novel, unraveling a

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mystery that links the boys of Seabrook College to their parents and teachers in ways nobody could have imagined. With a cast of characters that ranges from hip-hop-loving fourteen-year-old Eoin "MC

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Sexecutioner" Flynn to
basketballplaying midget Philip
Kilfether, packed with
questions and answers on
everything from Ritalin, to M-
theory, to bungee jumping, to
the hidden meaning of the

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poetry of Robert Frost, Skippy Dies is a heartfelt, hilarious portrait of the pain, joy, and occasional beauty of adolescence, and a tragic depiction of a world always happy to sacrifice its weakest

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members. As the twenty-first century enters its teenage years, this is a breathtaking novel from a young writer who will come to define his generation.

TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST

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TIME, BOTH OF NICHOLSON
BAKER'S BRILLIANT NOVELS
FEATURING BELOVED HERO
AND POET PAUL CHOWDER A
New York Times notable book
and a national bestseller,
Nicholson Baker's The

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Anthologist introduces his quirkiest and most unforgettable protagonist yet, the “erudite, unpretentious, and often hilarious” (The New Yorker) Paul Chowder. Chowder really needs to write an

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introduction to his new anthology of verse, *Only Rhyme*—it's the first work his editor has sent him in months—but he's having a hard time getting started. Not only is his career floundering,

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but his girlfriend, Roz, just moved out. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Chowder can't keep his mind from drifting to the sufferings of the great poets, from Tennyson and Yeats to Roethke, Merwin, to

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every poet who's been published in The New Yorker. As he ponders the strange power and musicality of language, and adjusts to his newly single life, Chowder's introduction slowly but surely

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begins to take shape. A wholly entertaining and beguiling love story, and the first novel in the chronicles of Paul Chowder—which is followed by *Traveling Sprinkler* in this same volume—*The Anthologist* is “a

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loving and superbly witty
homage to poetry and to life”
(The Boston Globe).

Nicholson Baker, who “writes
like no one else in America”
(Newsweek), here assembles
his best short pieces from the

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last fifteen years. The Way the World Works, Baker's second nonfiction collection, ranges over the map of life to examine what troubles us, what eases our pain, and what brings us joy. Baker moves from political

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controversy to the intimacy of his own life, from forgotten heroes of pacifism to airplane wings, telephones, paper mills, David Remnick, Joseph Pulitzer, the OED, and the manufacture of the Venetian gondola. He

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writes about kite string and about the moment he met his wife, and he surveys our fascination with video games while attempting to beat his teenage son at Modern Warfare 2. In a celebrated essay on

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Wikipedia, Baker describes his efforts to stem the tide of encyclopedic deletionism; in another, he charts the rise of e-readers; in a third he chronicles his Freedom of Information lawsuit against the

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San Francisco Public Library.
Through all these pieces, many
written for The New Yorker,
Harper's, and The American
Scholar, Baker shines the light
of an inexpugnable curiosity.
The Way the World Works is a

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keen-minded, generous-spirited compendium by a modern American master.

****A New York Times**

Bestseller** "May be the most revealing depiction of the American contemporary

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classroom that we have to date." —Garret Keizer, The New York Times Book Review
Bestselling author Nicholson Baker, in pursuit of the realities of American public education, signed up as a substitute

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teacher in a Maine public school district. In 2014, after a brief orientation course and a few fingerprinting sessions, Nicholson Baker became an on-call substitute teacher in a Maine public school district. He

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awoke to the dispatcher's five-forty a.m. phone call and headed to one of several nearby schools; when he got there, he did his best to follow lesson plans and help his students get something done.

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What emerges from Baker's experience is a complex, often touching deconstruction of public schooling in America: children swamped with overdue assignments, overwhelmed by the marvels and

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distractions of social media and educational technology, and staff who weary themselves trying to teach in step with an often outmoded or overly ambitious standard curriculum. In Baker's hands,

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the inner life of the classroom is examined anew—mundane worksheets, recess time-outs, surprise nosebleeds, rebellions, griefs, jealousies, minor triumphs, kindergarten show-and-tell, daily lessons on

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everything from geology to metal tech to the Holocaust—as he and his pupils struggle to find ways to get through the day. Baker is one of the most inventive and remarkable writers of our time,

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and Substitute, filled with humor, honesty, and empathy, may be his most impressive work of nonfiction yet.

Substitute

Finding Meaning in the
Everyday

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Room Temperature

You Bright and Risen Angels

A Novel

*One of Publishers Weekly's Best
Books of 2019 A journey through the
many ways to live an artistic
life—from the flashy and famous to
the quiet and steady—full of*

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unexpected insights about creativity and contentment, from the author of The Good Girl's Guide to Getting Lost. Rachel Friedman was a serious violist as a kid. She quit music in college but never stopped fantasizing about what her life might be like if she had never put down her bow.

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Years later, a freelance writer in New York, she again finds herself struggling with her fantasy of an artist's life versus its much more complicated reality. In search of answers, she decides to track down her childhood friends from Interlochen, a prestigious arts camp

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she attended, full of aspiring actors, artists, dancers, and musicians, to find out how their early creative ambitions have translated into adult careers, relationships, and identities. Rachel's conversations with these men and women spark nuanced revelations about creativity and

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being an artist: that it doesn't have to be all or nothing, that success isn't always linear, that sometimes it's okay to quit. And Then We Grew Up is for anyone who has given up a childhood dream and wondered "what-if?", for those who have aspired to do what they love and had

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doubts along the way, and for all whose careers fall somewhere between emerging and established. Warm, whip-smart, and insightful, it offers inspiration for finding creative fulfillment wherever we end up in life.

The Size of Thoughts, a collection of

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essays that have appeared in the New Yorker and other publications, includes one never-before-published piece on the world of electronics. The essays celebrate the joy--and exquisite details--of everything from library card catalogs and reading aloud to the significance of wine

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stains on a tablecloth. Baker turns any subject, from feeding a child to phone sex, into literature with a style that is sparkingly original, frequently beautiful, and always thought-provoking. The Size of Thoughts, through its varied forays into the realms of the overlooked, the

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now turns his attention on a 9-year-old American girl and produces a novel as enchantingly idiosyncratic as any he has written. Nory Winslow wants to be a dentist or a designer of pop-up books. She likes telling stories and inventing dolls. She has nightmares about teeth, which may

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explain her career choice. She is going to school in England, where she is mocked for her accent and her friendship with an unpopular girl, and she has made it through the year without crying. Nicholson Baker follows Nory as she interacts with her parents and peers, thinks about

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*God and death-watch beetles, and
dreams of cows with pointed teeth.
In this precocious child he gives us a
heroine as canny and as whimsical as
Lewis Carroll's Alice and evokes
childhood in all its luminous
weirdness.*

And Then We Grew Up

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Who Writes Science Fiction?
The Paul Chowder Chronicles
My Back Pages

From a New York
Times–bestselling and
National Book Critics
Award–winning author comes a

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"small masterpiece" of fatherhood, childhood, and bottle-feeding (Publishers Weekly). In a novel Entertainment Weekly called "intensely funny and moving," Nicholson Baker takes the reader on an

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intellectual odyssey over the course of the twenty minutes it takes a new father to give his baby daughter her bottle. Through inspired moments of mental flight, Mike's thoughts on his newfound parenthood lead

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him back to his own childhood and to reflections on the objects of his youth. From glass peanut butter jars to French horns, from typography to courtship, Baker reveals "some of the tenderest, most delicate

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interaction between husband
and wife, adult and infant,
in modern fiction" (Los
Angeles Times). "Sparkling .
. . . frequently hilarious . . .
. This is a big novel
unfolding . . . so subtly
that one is scarcely aware

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of its magnitude until the last page." —The Boston Globe "A delightful book . . . Every page provokes the shock, or at least the smile, of recognition." —The Washington Post "A major cosmic drama . . . It is a

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delightful book . . . a real charmer, a breath of fresh air, a show-stopping coloratura aria made of the quirks of memory and the quiddities of daily life."

—The Sacramento Union "[A] small masterpiece by an

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extraordinarily gifted . . .
writer." —Publishers Weekly
Shandee finds a friendly arm
at a granite quarry. Ned
drops down a hole in a golf
course. Luna meets a man
made of light bulbs at a
tanning parlor. So begins

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Nicholson Baker's fuse-blowing, sex-positive escapade, *House of Holes*. Baker, the bestselling author of *The Mezzanine*, *Vox*, and *The Fermata*, who 'writes like no one else in America' (*Newsweek*), returns

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to erotic territory with a gleefully over-the-top novel set in a pleasure resort, where normal rules don't apply. Visitors, pulled in via their drinking straws or the dryers in laundromats, can undergo crotchal

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transfers . . . make love to
trees . . . visit the
Groanrooms and the twelve-
screen Porndecahedron . . .
or pussy-surf the White
Lake. It's very expensive,
of course, but there are
work-study programs. In

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charge of day-to-day operations is Lila, a former hospital administrator whose breast milk has unusual regenerative properties. Brimful of good-nature, wit, and surreal sexual vocabulary, House of Holes

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is a modern-day Hieronymous Boschian bacchanal that is sure to surprise, amuse, and arouse.

From Nicholson Baker, best-selling author of *Vox* and the most original writer of his generation, his most

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controversial novel yet.
In September 1939, shortly
after war is declared,
Anthony Rhodes is sent to
France, serving with the
British Army. In the spring
of 1940, the men are ordered
to retreat to the coast and

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the beaches of Dunkirk,
where they face a desperate
and terrifying wait for
evacuation.

Reality Hunger

A True Story of Literary

Arousal

Essays and Other Lumber

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Vintage Baker

The Everlasting Story of
Nory

A Finalist for the Orange
Prize It is the height of
summer, and celebrated actor
Molly Fox has loaned her

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house in Dublin to a friend while she is away performing in New York. Alone among all of Molly's possessions, struggling to finish her latest play, she looks back on the many years and many phases

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of her friendship with Molly and their college friend Andrew, and comes to wonder whether they really knew each other at all. She revisits the intense closeness of their early days, the

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transformations they each made in the name of success and security, the lies they told each other, and betrayals they never acknowledged. Set over a single midsummer's day, Molly Fox's Birthday is a

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mischievous, insightful novel about a turning point--a moment when past and future suddenly appear in a new light.

Emmett has a wife and two children, a cat, and a duck,

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and he wants to know what life is about. Every day he gets up before dawn, makes a cup of coffee in the dark, lights a fire with one wooden match, and thinks. What Emmett thinks about is the

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subject of this wise and
closely observed novel, which
covers vast distances while
moving no further than
Emmett ' s hearth and home.
Nicholson Baker ' s
extraordinary ability to

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describe and celebrate life in all its rich ordinariness has never been so beautifully achieved.

Skippy Dies

U and I

Libraries and the Assault on

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Paper
Sword of Bone
Essays