

Birdy William Wharton

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Letters From Home

The author describes his three month adventure on the Columbia River.

The 13th Valley

James Patterson's worldwide Best-selling series gets a Marvel makeover. Follow the soaring adventures of Max and her extraordinary "flock"- Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel - as they try to escape their creators and defend themselves from the diabolical Erasers. Along the way Max discovers her purpose - saving the world - but can she? COLLECTING: Max Ride: First Flight 1-5

Flags in the Dust

When a 10-year-old boy befriends a carnival stuntman and his lion cub, he learns the true meaning of family, loyalty, love, and survival.

Birdy

I Wish This War Were Over, runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize, is a coming-of-age story of love and pain set against the tumultuous background of World War II "something rare and precious: a novel of genuine distinction" Jonathan Yardley, The Washington Post

The Victory Dogs

Monkey Beach meets Green Grass, Running Water meets The Beachcombers in this wise and funny novel by a debut Cree author Birdie is a darkly comic and moving first novel about the universal experience of recovering from wounds of the past, informed by the lore and knowledge of Cree traditions. Bernice Meetoos, a Cree woman, leaves her home in Northern Alberta following tragedy and travels to Gibsons, BC. She is on something of a vision quest, seeking to understand the messages from The Frugal Gourmet (one of the only television shows available on CBC North) that come to her in her dreams. She is also driven by the leftover teenaged desire to meet Pat Johns, who played Jesse on The Beachcombers, because he is, as she says, a working, healthy Indian man. Bernice heads for Molly's Reach to find answers but they are not the ones she expected. With the

arrival in Gibsons of her Auntie Val and her cousin Skinny Freda, Bernice finds the strength to face the past and draw the lessons from her dreams that she was never fully taught in life. Part road trip, dream quest and travelogue, the novel touches on the universality of women's experience, regardless of culture or race.

Tidings

John Tremont, a middle-aged man with a family, is summoned to his mother's bedside after she has suffered a heart attack. When he arrives, he finds her shaken but surviving; it is his father, left alone, who is unable to cope, who begins to fail, to slip away from life. Joined by his nineteen-year-old son, John suddenly becomes enmeshed in the frightening, consuming, endless minutiae of caring for a beloved, dying parent. He also finds himself inescapably confronting his own middle age, jammed between his son's feckless impatience to get on with his life and his father's heartbreaking willingness to let go. A story of the love that binds generations, Dad celebrates the universe of possibilities within every individual life.

Requiem for a Nun

Set in the Ardennes Forest on Christmas Eve 1944, Sergeant Will Knott and five other GIs are ordered close to the German lines to establish an observation post in an abandoned chateau. Here they play at being soldiers in what seems to be complete isolation. That is, until the Germans begin revealing their whereabouts and leaving signs of their presence: a scarecrow, equipment the squad had dropped on a retreat from a reconnaissance mission and, strangest of all, a small fir tree hung with fruit, candles, and cardboard stars. Suddenly, Knott and the others must unravel these mysteries, learning as they do about themselves, about one another, and about the "enemy," until A Midnight Clear reaches its unexpected climax, one of the most shattering in the literature of war.

Birdy

Fiction. Set in Brooklyn Heights, *THE EIGHTH DAY OF THE WEEK* is a novel of obsessive guilt and regret gnawing at the heart of a prominent doctor. The book is part mystery, part drama, a tale which unfolds to reveal such an immense depth of passion and fear within the doctor that one turns the pages with tremendous anticipation and tension, with a sense of trepidation, in fact. This is a book which makes you think about the nature of reality and relationships, the possible and the impossible, the bizarre manifestations of what we call love-- William Wharton.

Wrongful Deaths

The title brings to mind a luxury vessel on the most glamorous river in the world, but readers expecting to learn about the high life in France will be in for a surprise. In this charming memoir, painter and novelist Wharton (*Birdy*) instead gives us literally the nuts and bolts of building a houseboat, along with generous dollops of humor and local color. As a struggling artist in Paris with his schoolteacher wife and four children, Wharton decided to build his own boat after visiting that of an acquaintance in the mid-1970s. He recounts the family's adventures in making

their dream come true. They gave up their Paris flat and moved onto the boat, which docked 12 miles downriver from Paris at Le Port Marly. There they spent the next 25 years adding the finishing touches. The most poignant moment comes at the wedding of oldest child, Kate, aboard ship. The author reminds us that she, her husband and their two children were to perish in 1988 in an Oregon fire, a tragedy he recounted in *Ever After*. Some readers might have preferred learning more about life aboard the boat than about the details of building it, but this work will satisfy Wharton devotees and Francophiles alike.

Swimmer in the Secret Sea

A new edition of a classic 1982 American Book Award nominee follows James Chelni, an infantryman in Vietnam, who, while stationed in an area controlled by enemy forces, changes from having pacifist leanings to being a raging war lover. Reprint.

Houseboat on the Seine

Frank Bascombe, in the aftermath of his divorce and the ruin of his career, has entered an 'Existence Period' - selling real estate in New Jersey and mastering the high-wire act of normalcy. But over one Fourth of July weekend, Frank is called into sudden, bewildering engagement with life. Independence Day is a moving, peerlessly funny odyssey through America and through the layered consciousness of one of its most compelling literary incarnations, conducted by a novelist of extraordinary empathy and perception.

Ever After

"From the acclaimed 1978 novel by William Wharton, *BIRDY* tells the story of a man undone by the horrors of World War II and the friend who tries to guide him back to earth."--Back cover.

Shoeless Joe

The Victory Dogs is the incredible story of two puppies who become heroes of the blitz. A heartwarming story for 9+ readers who are fans of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse* and Lauren St John. *BARK* and *HOWL* are two puppies, born on the London underground *SHEBA* is an elderly one-eared cat When the Blitz begins, how will they survive? It's the start of the Second World War and *Bark* and *Howl* are lost in the dark maze of tunnels under London. With *Sheba's* help, they learn how to survive. But when the bombs begin to fall, the puppies become separated. As the attacks continue, *Bark* and *Howl* are frightened, but they know the tunnels so well - they're the only ones who can lead hundreds of trapped people out of danger. Will *Bark* and *Howl* find each other - and be victorious in leading Londoners to safety? 'If you love Michael Morpurgo, you will enjoy this' *Express* 'A moving tale told with warmth, kindness and lashings of good sense that lovers of Dick King-Smith will especially appreciate' *The Times* 'Every now and then a writer comes along with a unique way of storytelling . . . Meet Megan Rix . . . her novels are deeply moving and will strike a chord with animal lovers.' *LoveReading* About the author: Megan

Rix lives in England with her husband, and their adorable dogs, Traffy and Bella. Also available by Megan Rix: The Great Escape

Pablo and Birdy

Know Scumbler in his poignant, hilarious life. Get mad at him and even cry with him. Here's Don Quixote, Santa Claus, and Faust rolled into one "thick shadow" of a man. A joyous sixty-year-old American street painter lives on the Left Bank in Paris, making a living by creating rentable apartments out of the most unlikely spaces. Mostly, however, he paints with utter delight in the creative act and discovers remarkable characters along his path: crafts-men, students, prostitutes, motorcyclists. He scumbles and fails. He digs twisting tunnels under Paris streets and builds nests: nature nests, rats' nests, birds' nests. He collects clocks and designs his own life from the "inside." Wanting to be true beyond honesty, visible past seeing to being, Scumbler scrambles, tumbles, rumbles, rambles through the ecstatic pleasure of creation and the pangs of ordinary existence.

The Man with the Golden Arm

William Wharton turns his microscopic gaze on his own life to narrate and scrutinize the untimely deaths of his daughter and her family. A moving story of one man's rage against death, and spiritual renewal.

Franky Furbo

The Man with the Golden Arm tells the story of Frankie Machine, the golden arm dealer at a back street Chicago gambling den. Frankie reckons he's a tough guy in the Chicago underworld but finds that he's not tough enough to kick his heroin addiction. With consummate skill and a finely-tuned ear for the authentic dialogue of the backstreets, Algren lays bare the tragedy and humour of Frankie's world. Features the first UK publication of a foreword by Kurt Vonnegut and an afterword by Studs Terkel.

Voyage of a Summer Sun

During WWII, a dying American soldier, William Wiley, and his German captor, Wilhelm Klug, are miraculously rescued by a fox endowed with extraordinary powers, Franky Furbo. For William, the experience is indisputably true but when he discovers later that neither his wife nor children believe in Franky, he endures a crisis of faith and searches desperately for the truth. Franky Furbo is a modern fable with a remarkable twist, quite unlike anything Wharton wrote before or since.

Sacred Cows

In Tidings, one of America's best-loved authors paints a vivid scene of an unusual family Christmas.

Postcard From The Past

A young writer in search of a spiritual father, Nathan Zuckerman views E. I. Lonoff, who lives with his wife and his student-mistress in rural Massachusetts, as an embodiment of the ideal of artistic integrity and independence

People Who Say Goodbye

Birdy, fascinated with birds since early childhood, concentrates all his energies on his passion for flight, becoming an obsessed teen-age Leonardo, building models, exercising to strengthen his "wing" muscles, and, in his dreams, falling in love with one of his birds

The Arab of the Future 3

In August of 1988, heavy black smoke engulfed an Oregon highway, causing a massive 23-car pileup that claimed the lives of novelist William Wharton's 36-year-old daughter, her husband, and their two infant daughters. They'd been victims of field burning, a routine agricultural practice, and were burned alive in their van. How could such a thing happen? And how could a father come to terms with such a loss? *Ever After*, Wharton's first memoir, is his search for answers to these questions, written with the inspired simplicity that won him great acclaim for his novels.

Ever After

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY MARK HADDON In *Postcard From The Past*, Tom Jackson has gathered a collection of the funniest, weirdest and most moving real messages from the backs of old postcards.

The Virgin Suicides

In the third installment of the acclaimed series, the Sattouf family begins to implode under the pressure of Hafez al-Assad's regime and the suffocation of their rural Syrian village. *The Arab of the Future* is the widely acclaimed, internationally bestselling graphic memoir that tells the story of Riad Sattouf's peripatetic childhood in the Middle East. In the first volume, which covers the years 1978-1984, his family moves between rural France, Libya, and Syria, where they eventually settle in his father's native village of Ter Maaleh, near Homs. The second volume recounts young Riad's first year attending school in Syria (1984-1985), where he dedicates himself to becoming a true Syrian in the country of Hafez al-Assad. In this third volume, (1985-1987), Riad's mother, fed up with the grinding reality of daily life in the village, decides she cannot take it any longer. When she resolves to move back to France, young Riad sees his father torn between his wife's aspirations and the weight of family traditions.

Max Ride

Ray Kinsella's fanatic love of baseball drives him to build a baseball stadium in his corn field and kidnap the author, J.D. Salinger, and bring him to a baseball game

Dad

Inspired by her grandparents' WWII courtship letters, New York Times bestselling author Kristina McMorris delivers a moving tale of friendship, family, and the twists of fate that change us forever . . . It's 1944, and although foreign battles are escalating, the war seems distant in every way to sensible college student Liz Stephens. That is, until her chance encounter with charming infantryman Morgan McClain at a USO dance in Chicago. Their deep connection feels mutual to Liz, but to her dismay, her bombshell roommate, Betty, is the one who promises to write the deploying soldier. Singer Betty Cordell delights in the prospect of a dashing serviceman filling her life with adventure, marital bliss, and societal circles outranking her modest roots. It only makes sense for her to beg Liz for help penning an eloquent letter to Morgan, now bound for a dangerous front. After all, she's certain the beauty of Liz's ghostwritten prose would ensure a courtship as enviable as their roommate Julia's relationship with her beloved sailor—and Betty is right, though not how she foresees. Likewise, Julia Renard's betrothal is more complicated than it appears. When tempting opportunities arise, the future she always envisioned as a devoted wife and mother risks derailment. And yet, as the Allies edge toward victory, every person—through heart-wrenching choices and life-altering letters—will discover within themselves profound courage, bittersweet hope, and the true meaning of home . . . “A gripping and memorable story, *Letters from Home* is a timeless lesson in love and loss and the moments that shape our lives.” —Pam Jenoff, New York Times bestselling author of *The Lost Girls of Paris*

Pride

The sequel to Faulkner's most sensational novel *Sanctuary*, was written twenty years later but takes up the story of Temple Drake eight years after the events related in *Sanctuary*. Temple is now married to Gowan Stevens. The book begins when the death sentence is pronounced on the nurse Nancy for the murder of Temple and Gowan's child. In an attempt to save her, Temple goes to see the judge to confess her own guilt. Told partly in prose, partly in play form, *Requiem for a Nun* is a haunting exploration of the impact of the past on the present.

Birdy

In August 1988, William Wharton's first-born child, along with her husband and two daughters, was incinerated in a stubble fire that engulfed an interstate highway. Three days later she and her husband visited William Wharton and asked him to do things that stretched the limits of despair.

Catherine, Called Birdy

'A work of astounding originality and imagination.' Daily Mail Naomi Wallace's play, based on the novel by William Wharton, was first presented at the Drum Theatre in Plymouth and transferred to the Lyric, Hammersmith. It received its London West End première at the Comedy Theatre in March 1997.

I Wish This War Were Over

Shaggy Beard wishes to take me to wife! What a monstrous joke. That dog assassin whose breath smells like the mouth of Hell, who makes wind like others make music, who is so ugly and old! Corpus bones, I must make a plan. Luckily I am experienced at outwitting suitors . . . Catherine's in trouble. her father is trying to marry her off to disgusting old Shaggy Beard, and her mother's determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady. Will either of them succeed? Not if Catherine has anything to do with it! Catherine, Called Birdy is Karen Cushman's funny and poignant novel about a 14-year-old girl's fight for freedom.

The Ghost Writer

A boy who drifted into the seaside town of Isla as a baby searches for answers about where he and his parrot came from in this charmer of a tale laced with magical realism from New York Times bestselling author Alison McGhee. The seaside town of Isla has many stories, the most notable being the legend of the Seafaring Parrot. Locals claim that the Seafarer remembers every sound, every whisper, cry, laugh, or snort ever uttered. But, though there have been rumored Seafarer sightings, no one has actually seen the bird before. Other stories surround a boy named Pablo, who had washed up on shore in a blow-up swimming pool as an infant with only a lavender parrot as a companion. Now, on the eve of his tenth birthday, the stories are repeated. "At first I thought it was a huge fish," Emmanuel, the man who found and took Pablo in, says. Pierre, the baker's guess was a good one: Perhaps Pablo has come from an undiscovered country, one unknown to the rest of the world. Maybe the inhabitants there lived in tree houses, or underground. Or maybe he's a pirate baby. But Pablo wants the truth, and the only one who might know it is Birdy, his parrot. After all, she was there, holding onto the raft. But unlike most birds who live in Isla, Birdy can neither talk or fly. Or, at least, she never has. Until...one day, when strong winds begin to blow—winds similar to the ones that brought Pablo to shore—Birdy begins to mutter. Could Birdy be a Seafaring parrot? If she is, then she will be able to tell Pablo the true story of where he came from—of who tied him so lovingly and safely to that raft? But, if she is, that also means the second part of the Seafarer myth is true...that Seafaring Parrots will, eventually, fly away. As Pablo is buzzing with questions, hopes, and fears, an old saying echoes in his mind: winds of change mean fortune lost or fortune gained. And while the winds rise in Isla, Pablo holds tight to Birdy. Would losing his companion, his dearest link to his past, be that loss?

Birdie

Before the First World War, when Wandsworth was still a countrified suburb, P.Y. Betts grew up there, observing with absolute clarity the behaviour and conversation of the adults around her. She did not always understand the implications of what she saw and heard but she remembered it and recreates it with startling immediacy. There were summer holidays at places that always seemed to begin with 'B, dark and smoggy winters when she was dosed with either brown medicine or red tonic, dreaded Christmas with her Grandfather and joyous schooldays with Mrs Stroud that consisted mainly of dictation from the 'Daily Mail'. Phyliss was five when the First World War broke out and she was left with the abiding belief that people who say goodbye did not come back again. Written with

the keen eye for humour that pervades all her work and with the candour of childhood, this delightful and refreshing book captivates all who read it.

Shrapnel

"The complete text, published for the first time in 1973, of Faulkner's third novel, written when he was twenty-nine, which appeared, with his reluctant consent, in a much cut version in 1929 as Sartoris."--P. [4] of cover.

Independence Day

First published in 1993, *The Virgin Suicides* announced the arrival of a major new American novelist. In a quiet suburb of Detroit, the five Lisbon sisters—beautiful, eccentric, and obsessively watched by the neighborhood boys—commit suicide one by one over the course of a single year. As the boys observe them from afar, transfixed, they piece together the mystery of the family's fatal melancholy, in this hypnotic and unforgettable novel of adolescent love, disquiet, and death. Jeffrey Eugenides evokes the emotions of youth with haunting sensitivity and dark humor and creates a coming-of-age story unlike any of our time. Adapted into a critically acclaimed film by Sofia Coppola, *The Virgin Suicides* is a modern classic, a lyrical and timeless tale of sex and suicide that transforms and mythologizes suburban middle-American life.

Birdy

Susanna Moore displays a naturalist's eye for the landscape of her native Hawaii and an uncanny sensitivity to the despairing love between mothers and daughters. Lily Shields grows up amid the heady atmosphere of her mother's madness. For if Anna Shields is an island unto herself - fragile, glamerous, and fearfully needy - Lily is the bridge that connects her to reality. But now Lily is a young woman and a mother herself, self exiled from Hawaii but still attached to Anna's tragedy. And as she tries to untangle those threads of love and loyalty, Moore gives us a novel of shimmering beauty and sadness. *MY OLD SWEETHEART* is a small classic, perfectly formed and mysteriously wise.

Scumbler

Jack has abandoned the world of business to rediscover his real life as a painter on the streets of Paris. Mirabell, a blind woman, accidentally crashes into Jack's easel, and his life is changed forever.

The Cousteau Almanac

First published in Redbook in 1975 to enormous acclaim, this O. Henry Award winner sold 100,000 copies in paperback. Available for the first time in hardcover, *Swimmer in the Secret Sea* is the poignant story of how a man and a woman endured the shock and anguish of their newborn baby's death.

The Eighth Day of the Week

Author of such classic wartime novels as *Birdy* and *A Midnight Clear*, William Wharton was one of the most acclaimed writers of his generation. However, he was also a very private man—he wrote under a pseudonym and rarely gave interviews—so fans and critics could only speculate how much of his work was autobiographical and how much was fiction. Now, for the first time, we are able to read the author's own account of his experiences during World War II—events that went on to influence some of his greatest works. These are the tales that Wharton never wanted to tell his children. Together, they illuminate a deeply personal, transformative experience: of learning to kill, to "abandon my natural desire to live, survive, and to risk my life for reasons I often did not understand and sometimes did not accept." Moving and insightful, *Shrapnel* is a powerful, timeless work from an acclaimed American master.

My Old Sweetheart

Did you know God forbids the tying of shoelaces on Saturday? Or that humans emit an color aura which can only be discerned with a Third Eye? That bountiful harvest requires the flinging of a live goat from a church bell tower? That instead of wishing upon a star, we can wish upon acow? Well into the 21st century, our species continues to participate in beliefs and customs that seem more suited to the Bronze Age than the Information Age, some of which involve poisonous snakes, holy smoke, urine bubbles, crystals, tarot cards, aliens, costumed virgins and, of course, an offering plate. Join Seth Andrews for a random romp across the planet and a humorous look at some of humanity's sacred cows.

A Midnight Clear

An extensive and varied examination of the interrelationship of all living things on the Earth, presenting pressing environmental issues as well as their most promising solutions.

Last Lovers

The critically acclaimed *Birdy* is an inventive, hypnotic novel about friendship and family, love and war, madness and beauty, and, above all, "birdness". Wharton crafts an unforgettable tale--one that suggests a notion of sanity in a world that is manifestly insane.

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