

## Coram Boy

Many people who work on Broadway keep scrapbooks of their experiences, with photos, signed posters, ticket stubs, and of course Playbills. Playbill Books has expanded this idea into an annual project that is becoming a Broadway institution: The Playbill Broadway Yearbook. Taking the form of a school yearbook, the third edition is packed with photos and memorabilia from the 2006-2007 Broadway season. The new edition includes chapters on all 67 Broadway shows that ran during the season - new shows like Curtains and Spring Awakening as well as long-running ones like Wicked. In addition to headshots of all the actors who appeared in Playbill, the book has photos of producers, writers, designers, stage managers, stagehands, musicians - even ushers. The Playbill Broadway Yearbook also has a correspondent on each production to report on inside information: opening-night gifts, who got the Gypsy Robe, daily rituals, celebrity visits, memorable ad-libs, and more. Correspondents range from dressers and stage doormen to stage managers, dancers, featured players, and even stars of the shows.

Children's literature continues to be one of the most rapidly expanding and exciting of interdisciplinary academic studies, of interest to anyone concerned with literature, education, internationalism, childhood or culture in general. The second edition of Peter Hunt's bestselling International Companion Encyclopedia of Children's Literature offers comprehensive coverage of the subject across the world, with substantial, accessible, articles by specialists and world-ranking experts. Almost everything is here, from advanced theory to the latest practice – from bibliographical research to working with books and children with special needs. This edition has been expanded and includes over fifty new articles. All of the other articles have been updated, substantially revised or rewritten, or have revised bibliographies. New topics include Postcolonialism, Comparative Studies, Ancient Texts, Contemporary Children's Rhymes and Folklore, Contemporary Comics, War, Horror, Series Fiction, Film, Creative Writing, and 'Crossover' literature. The international section has been expanded to reflect world events, and now includes separate articles on countries such as the Baltic states, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Iran, Korea, Mexico and Central America, Slovenia, and Taiwan. First Published in 2004. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

In the late 1600s, in a convent in Mexico, a gifted and progressive writer finds herself at the centre of a deadly battle of ideas. Celebrated by the Court but silenced by the Church, she is betrayed by the very people she thought she could trust. Inspired by the extraordinary life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Helen Edmundson's *The Heresy of Love* is a powerful drama about a clash between organised religion and personal faith, full of intrigue and danger, ruthless ambitions and illicit desire. Premiered by the RSC in 2012, *The Heresy of Love* was revived in a new production at Shakespeare's Globe, London, in 2015.

The former director of London's National Theatre presents a candid, behind-the-scenes memoir about his career directing theater, producing films and opera, and working closely with some of the world's most celebrated actors.

Adoption is one of the great, untold stories of our recent past. It is a truly epic tale of loss, guilt, identity, family feuds, reunion and redemption. It is a subject, until very recently, surrounded by secrecy and taboos. This is the heart-warming true story of a little girl's adoption in the 1950s and her search, nearly forty years later, for her birth mother. When mother and daughter meet, Sue thinks she has finally reached the end of her journey. Then Sue discovers she wasn't the only baby her mother gave away ... Weaved throughout is the vivid, emotional history of adoption in the UK. Drawing on a wide range of intimate personal experiences, it outlines the forces that shaped 20th century adoption practice, from baby-farming, the stigma of illegitimacy, incest and the bastardy laws, to children taken by force, the Magdalene laundries, mass emigration schemes without parental consent, to modern day adoption practices, buying babies from abroad, sperm donor fathers and tearful reunions on Trisha.

A stunning collection of mystical fairy tales, *Blackberry Blue* is packed with picturesque moments that will bewitch readers - Booktrust Step into a magical world of enchanted forests, talking animals and wicked witches . . . These six magical stories will thrill and enchant you. Watch *Blackberry Blue* rise from the bramble patch; follow Emeka the pathfinder on his mission to save a lost king; join Princess Desire as she gallops across the Milky Way on her jet-black horse. These beautifully written and original stories will delight readers of all ages, and the stunning illustrations by Richard Collingridge will take your breath away.

Gavin's six stories are spooky, engaging and refreshing in their originality.

Complemented by Richard Collingridge's atmospheric illustrations, this lovely book deserves to become a classic. - Marilyn Brocklehurst, Bookseller

The acclaimed author of *Brute* recounts the life of the veteran U.S. Air Force pilot and innovative military strategist in this biography. John Boyd was arguably the greatest fighter pilot in American history. From the proving ground of the Korean War, he went on to win renown as the instructor who defeated—in less than forty seconds—every pilot who challenged him. But what made Boyd a man for the ages was what happened after he left the cockpit. A fighter on the ground as well as in the air, Boyd was relentless, brilliant, stubborn, and virtually always right.

He managed to transform almost single-handedly the way military aircraft, particularly the F-15 and F-16, were designed. He then dedicated many lonely years to a radical theory of conflict that at the time was mostly ignored but now informs military activity around the globe and is acclaimed as the most influential thinking about conflict since Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. Praise for Boyd "Boyd could not be more welcome. . . . It should be required reading for every American citizen." —Washington Post Book World "This engrossing biography should definitely be on the bedside table of all our current military leadership." —Andrew Cockburn, Los Angeles Times Book Review "A stunning biography . . . Coram

traces how Boyd's ideas percolated into key centers of civilian and military decision making and led to a swift and decisive victory in Operation Desert Storm, and how his maneuverist doctrine foretold the type of terrorist tactics used on September 11." —Martin Edwin Andersen, *Insight*

Set in the 18th century, this is a tale of two cities, two boys and also a tale of fathers and sons. This is the story where the National Theatre has chosen its Christmas show on its biggest stage.

One diamond – a world of spies, death and deception. In Venice, the diamond promises wealth and prestige to greedy Bernardo Pagliarin. At the court of the Great Moghul in Agra, it holds the key to the throne itself. For Filippo and his family, the stone is worth far more. It could bring their father back from the dead. From the bustling markets of seventeenth-century Venice to the majestic palaces of Hindustan, acclaimed author Jamila Gavin takes the reader on an unforgettable quest across desert, sea and mountains.

A moving and beautifully written story about what can happen when two completely different boys are forced to put aside their differences, for fans of *Wonder*. There are two sides to every story. Alex's OCD is so severe that it's difficult for him to even leave his house some days. His classmate Dan is so angry that he lashes out at the easiest target he can find at school: Alex. When their moms arrange for Alex and Dan to spend time together over winter break, it seems like a recipe for certain disaster...until it isn't. Once forced together, these two sworn enemies discover that there is much more to each other than they ever knew.

Brings Ben Jonson to the twenty-first century by reading *Volpone* through psychoanalysis, poststructuralism and Marxism

(Theatre World). Applause Theatre & Cinema Books is pleased to make this venerable continuing series complete by publishing Theatre World Volume 63 . Theatre World remains the authoritative pictorial and statistical record of the season on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway, and for regional theatre companies. Volume 63 features Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater's Tony Award-winning Best Musical *Spring Awakening* , which also earned a Theatre World Award for actor Jonathan Groff. Tom Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia* captured the Best Play Tony Award, as well as Tonys for featured actors Billy Crudup and Jennifer Ehle. *Frasier* star David Hyde Pierce returned to his theatre roots to capture a Tony for *Kander and Ebb's Curtains* , and other highlights of the season include the Off-Broadway musical *In the Heights* as well as *Passing Strange* , which debuted at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Both have since transferred to Broadway and become critical and popular hits. As always, Theatre World 's outstanding features include: \* An expanded section of professional regional productions from across the U.S. \* The longest running shows on and Off-Broadway \* Full coverage of the Theatre World Awards for Broadway and Off-Broadway debuts \* Expanded obituaries and a comprehensive index

Gothic, intoxicating, feminist, darkly provoking and deeply romantic - this is the breathtakingly imagined untold story of the brides of *Dracula*, by bestselling author Kiran Millwood Hargrave in her much-anticipated YA debut. They say the thirst of blood is like a madness - they must sate it. Even with their own kin. On the eve of her divining, the day she'll discover her fate, seventeen-year-old Lil and her twin sister Kizzy are captured and enslaved by the cruel Boyar Valcar, taken far away from their beloved traveller community. Forced to work in the harsh and unwelcoming castle kitchens, Lil is comforted when she meets Mira, a fellow slave who she feels drawn to in a way she doesn't understand. But she also learns about the Dragon, a mysterious and terrifying figure of myth and legend who takes girls as gifts. They may not have had their divining day, but the girls will still discover their fate...

Winner of the STR Theatre Book Prize 2014 *The National Theatre Story* is filled with artistic, financial and political battles, onstage triumphs – and the occasional disaster. This definitive

account takes readers from the National Theatre's 19th-century origins, through false dawns in the early 1900s, and on to its hard-fought inauguration in 1963. At the Old Vic, Laurence Olivier was for ten years the inspirational Director of the NT Company, before Peter Hall took over and, in 1976, led the move into the National's concrete home on the South Bank. Altogether, the NT has staged more than 800 productions, premiering some of the 20th and 21st centuries' most popular and controversial plays, including *Amadeus*, *The Romans in Britain*, *Closer*, *The History Boys*, *War Horse* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Certain to be essential reading for theatre lovers and students, *The National Theatre Story* is packed with photographs and draws on Daniel Rosenthal's unprecedented access to the National Theatre's own archives, unpublished correspondence and more than 100 new interviews with directors, playwrights and actors, including Olivier's successors as Director (Peter Hall, Richard Eyre, Trevor Nunn and Nicholas Hytner), and other great figures from the last 50 years of British and American drama, among them Edward Albee, Alan Bennett, Judi Dench, Michael Gambon, David Hare, Tony Kushner, Ian McKellen, Diana Rigg, Maggie Smith, Peter Shaffer, Stephen Sondheim and Tom Stoppard.

Set in the eighteenth century, *Coram Boy* is a tale of two cities and a tale of two boys: Toby, saved from an African slave ship, and Aaron, the illegitimate heir to a great estate. It's also a tale of fathers and sons: slave-trader, Otis, and his son Meshak; and landowner Sir William Ashbrook and the son he disinherits.

Edited by Peter Hunt, a leading figure in the field, this book introduces the study of children's literature, addressing theoretical questions as well as the most relevant critical approaches to the discipline. The fourteen chapters draw on insights from academic disciplines ranging from cultural and literary studies to education and psychology, and include an essay on what writers for children think about their craft. The result is a fascinating array of perspectives on key topics in children's literature as well as an introduction to such diverse concerns as literacy, ideology, stylistics, feminism, history, culture and bibliotherapy. An extensive general bibliography is complemented by lists of further reading for each chapter and a glossary defines critical and technical terms, making the book accessible for those coming to the field or to a particular approach for the first time. In this second edition there are four entirely new chapters; contributors have revisited and revised or rewritten seven of the chapters to reflect new thinking, while the remaining three are classic essays, widely acknowledged to be definitive. *Understanding Children's Literature* will not only be an invaluable guide for students of literature or education, but it will also inform and enrich the practice of teachers and librarians.

The last thirty years have witnessed one of the most fertile periods in the history of children's books. A fascinating reference guide to the world of children's literature, this volume covers every genre from fairy tales to chapbooks; school stories to science fiction; comics to children's hymns

This rich treasury of poems, verses, blessings and meditations reflects a child's journey from baby to teenager, from first milestones to leaving home:- Bring rhythm, security and intimacy to family life with poems for birthdays, morning verses, mealtime graces and evening prayers; a treasure chest for dipping into &ndash poems for celebration, comfort and insight; poems for younger children to share and older children to read alone; ideas for introducing poetry into family life.

Presents an introduction to historical fiction for readers in grades four through eight, listing eighty titles of works for this age group and providing plot summaries, characters, historical background, and selected passages for discussion.

This critically acclaimed adaptation of Jamila Gavin's Whitbread Award winning novel brings to all students the stories of two orphans at the Coram Hospital. Set in 18th

century England with villains and loyal friends, cruelty and hope, it has as much relevance today as the period in which it is set.

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Orphaned eleven-year-old Joe lives in a hospital due to his autoimmune disease, interacting only with his sister, an American boy with the same illness, and medical staff while dreaming of being a superhero.

The author of *American Patriot* details the life of an innovative U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. From the earliest days of his thirty-four-year military career, Victor "Brute" Krulak displayed a remarkable facility for applying creative ways of fighting to the Marine Corps. He went on daring spy missions, was badly wounded, pioneered the use of amphibious vehicles, and masterminded the invasion of Okinawa. In Korea, he was a combat hero and invented the use of helicopters in warfare. In Vietnam, he developed a holistic strategy in stark contrast to the Army's "Search and Destroy" methods—but when he stood up to LBJ to protest, he was punished. And yet it can be argued that all of these accomplishments pale in comparison to what he did after World War II and again after Korea: Krulak almost single-handedly stopped the U.S. government from abolishing the Marine Corps. Praise for *Brute* "Coram captures General Krulak's striding march across the Marine Corps, and across the American century . . . [and] is a meticulous investigator of the things that drove Brute Krulak, not all of them pretty... Brute is plainspoken and absorbing . . . and captures its subject in strokes that are sharp, simple and often funny." —Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* "A well-written tale about a complicated yet admirable man." —James Srodes, *The Washington Times* "A revealing-and troubling-portrait of a much-revered figure." —Kirkus Reviews

This powerful Newbery-winning classic tells the story of the great coon dog Sounder and his family. An African American boy and his family rarely have enough to eat. Each night, the boy's father takes their dog, Sounder, out to look for food. The man grows more desperate by the day. When food suddenly appears on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing. But the sheriff and his deputies are not far behind. The ever-loyal Sounder remains determined to help the family he loves as hard times bear down. This classic novel shows the courage, love, and faith that bind a family together despite the

racism and inhumanity they face in the nineteenth-century deep South. Readers who enjoy timeless dog stories such as *Old Yeller* and *Where the Red Fern Grows* will find much to love in *Southerner*, even as they read through tears at times.

The Whitbread 2000 Book of the Year is a haunting and captivating work of historical fiction for children. The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish. Mish saves one, Aaron, who grows up happily unaware of his history, proving himself a promising musician. As Aaron's new life takes him closer to his real family, the watchful Mish makes a terrible mistake, delivering Aaron and his best friend Toby back into the hands of the Coram man. It tells the story of a dark time in English history. Fans of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and *Goodnight Mr Tom* will love this. A great read for children aged 10+. Look out for Jamilla's other titles: *The Eye of the Horse* *The Robber Baron's Daughter* *The Track of the Wind* *Wheel of Surya* *Coram Boy* won the 2000 Whitbread Children's Book of the Year, was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and has been adapted into a highly acclaimed stage play. Jamila Gavin was born in Mussoorie, India, in the foothills of the Himalayas. With an Indian father and an English mother, she inherited two rich cultures which ran side by side throughout her life, and which always made her feel she belonged to both countries. The family finally settled in England where Jamila completed her schooling, was a music student, worked for the BBC and became a mother of two children. It was then that she began writing children's books, and felt a need to reflect the multi-cultural world in which she and her children now lived.

The Bloomsbury Handbook of Reading Perspectives and Practices focuses on the experiences of reading from a young age to maturity and the different ways reading is encountered: in other words, the processes involved as well as the outcomes. The international group of experts, within both teaching and academia, focuses on reading in school: how is it taught? What is taught? How is it assessed? Controversial issues are explored: the acquisition of phonics; teaching the canon, including or ignoring digital texts; the advent of standards-based tests. The contributions also consider people's biographies of reading, their memories of reading in school and their current views on literature. Together, this well-edited volume provides a more complete view of reading than is currently on offer, exploring all aspects of what it means to be literate and how we define being literate.

From the author of the bestselling and award-winning *WITCH CHILD*, comes another outstanding historical novel. When two young women meet under extraordinary circumstances in the eighteenth-century West Indies, they are unified in their desire to escape their oppressive lives. The first is a slave, forced to work in a plantation mansion and subjected to terrible cruelty at the hands of the plantation manager. The second is a spirited and rebellious English girl, sent to the West Indies to marry well. But fate ensures that one night the two young women have to save each other and run away to a life no less dangerous but certainly a lot more free. As pirates, they roam the seas, fight pitched battles against their foes and become embroiled in many a heart-quickenning adventure. Written in brilliant and sparkling first-person narrative, this is a wonderful novel in which Celia Rees has brought the past vividly and intimately to life. **NATIONAL BESTSELLER • WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • A searing, post-**

apocalyptic novel about a father and son's fight to survive, this "tale of survival and the miracle of goodness only adds to McCarthy's stature as a living master. It's gripping, frightening and, ultimately, beautiful" (San Francisco Chronicle). A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

*Playing for time* explores connections between theatre time, the historical moment and fictional time. Geraldine Cousin persuasively argues that a crucial characteristic of contemporary British theatre is its preoccupation with instability and danger, and traces images of catastrophe and loss in a wide range of recent plays and productions. The diversity of the texts that are examined is a major strength of the book. In addition to plays by contemporary dramatists, Cousin analyses staged adaptations of novels, and productions of plays by Euripides, Strindberg and Priestley. A key focus is Stephen Daldry's award-winning revival of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, which is discussed in relation both to other Priestley 'time' plays and to Caryl Churchill's apocalyptic *Far Away*. Lost children are a recurring motif: Bryony Lavery's *Frozen*, for example, is explored in the context of the Soham murders (which took place while the play was in production at the National Theatre), whilst three virtually simultaneous productions of Euripides' *Hecuba* are interpreted with regard to the Beslan massacre of schoolchildren.

Entrenched secrets, mysterious spirits, and an astonishing friendship weave together in this extraordinary and haunting debut that *School Library Journal* calls "a powerful story about loss and moving on." Nothing matters. Only Bird matters. And he flew away. Jewel never knew her brother Bird, but all her life she has lived in his shadow. Her parents blame Grandpa for the tragedy of their family's past: they say that Grandpa attracted a malevolent spirit—a duppy—into their home. Grandpa hasn't spoken a word since. Now Jewel is twelve, and she lives in a house full of secrets and impenetrable silence. Jewel is sure that no one will ever love her like they loved Bird, until the night that she meets a mysterious boy in a tree. Grandpa is convinced that the boy is a duppy, but Jewel knows that he is something more. And that maybe—just maybe—the time has come to break through the stagnant silence of the past.

'Funny and heartfelt with a cunning twist. Stewart Foster is a grandmaster.' - ROSS WELFORD 'An inspirational underdog story and a chilling mystery! A winning combination.' - DAVID SOLOMONS Some people think that I'm a problem child, that I'm lazy and never pay attention in lessons. But the thing is, I'm not a problem child at all. I'm just a child with a problem. Felix is struggling at school. His ADHD makes it hard for him to concentrate and his grades are slipping. Everyone keeps telling him to try harder, but no one seems to understand just how hard he finds it. When Mum

suggests Felix spends time with his grandfather, Felix can't think of anything worse. Granddad hasn't been the same since Grandma died. Plus he's always trying to teach Felix boring chess. But sometimes the best lessons come in the most unexpected of places, and Granddad soon shows Felix that there's everything to play for. Praise for **ALL THE THINGS THAT COULD GO WRONG** 'A moving, humane, funny portrait of two very different boys discovering what connects us all.' Kiran Milwood Hargrave, author of *The Girl of Ink and Stars* 'It's amazing!' Ross Welford, author of *Time Travelling with a Hamster* 'I loved it.' Lisa Thompson, author of *The Goldfish Boy* 'A touching, funny, gripping read that tackles important issues in a sensitive and thoroughly enjoyable way. Highly recommended.' Stuart Robinson, author of *If Ever I Fall* 'A timely story of courage and reminder of what we all share.' Christopher Edge, author of *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* 'Powerful and warm ... this will linger long in the mind.' Guardian Praise for **THE BUBBLE BOY**, winner of the Sainsbury's Children's Book Award in 2016 'Poignant, hopeful and heartbreaking.' Fiona Noble – Children's Editor, *The Bookseller* 'Deeply moving and utterly gripping . . . Stewart Foster carries off an astonishing feat of storytelling in this exceptional book' Julia Eccleshare, *lovereading.co.uk* 'A gripping and deeply moving book.' Jamila Gavin, author of *Coram Boy* 'One thing we know about good books is their amazing ability to inspire empathy in the reader; to explore ideas and viewpoints that arise from experiences that are out of our own realm. *The Bubble Boy* does this with warmth, quirkiness and a light-hearted touch.' Guardian

This exciting interdisciplinary volume, featuring contributions from a group of leading international scholars, reflects on the long history of representations of transatlantic slaves and slavery, encompassing a broad chronological range, from the eighteenth century to the present day.

When she fell pregnant in London in 1938, Jean knew that she couldn't keep her baby. The unmarried daughter of an elder in the Church of Scotland, she would shame her family if she returned to the north in such a condition. Scared and alone in a city on the brink of war, she begged the Foundling Hospital to give her baby the start in life that she could not. The institution, which had been providing care for deserted infants since the eighteenth century, allowed Jean to nurse her son for nine weeks, leaving her heartbroken when the time came to let him go. But little Tom knew nothing of her love as he grew up in the Foundling Hospital - which, during years of the Second World War, was more like a prison than a children's home. Locked in and subject to public canings and the sadistic whims of the older boys, there was no one to give him a hug, no one to wipe away his tears. A true story of desertion and neglect, this is also a moving account of survival from one of the very last foundlings. It stands as a testament to the love that ultimately led a family back together.

A heartbreaking tale of orphans, angels, murder and music - dramatised from the Whitbread Award-winning novel set in 18th-century England. In 18th-century Gloucestershire, the evil Otis Gardner preys on unmarried mothers, promising to take their babies (and their money) to Thomas Coram's hospital for foundling children. Instead, he buries the babies and pockets the loot. But Otis's downfall is set in train when his half-witted son Meshak falls in love with a young girl, Melissa, and rescues the unwanted son she has had with a disgraced aristocrat. The child is brought up in Coram's hospital, and proves to have inherited the startling musical gifts of his father -

gifts that ultimately bring about his father's redemption and a heartbreaking family reunion. Helen Edmundson's adaptation of Jamila Gavin's award-winning novel, *Coram Boy*, was first performed at the National Theatre, London, in 2005. It won the Time Out Live Award for Best Play. 'A rich and almost Gothic drama' - Philip Pullman

"At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push in to conscious awareness of His Presence." - A.W. Tozer

David was a man after God's own heart. He slew Goliath, ruled Israel and wrote such inspiring scriptures as Psalm 139. Yet David had an affair with Bathsheba, breaking multiple commandments including having Bathsheba's husband murdered. How can we guard our walk and prevent catastrophic mistakes like those that David made? How can we lead a life that bears the fruit of an effective faith? God's Word realistically portrays authentic people of faith. Their true stories are preserved for us as teachable moments. Are we listening? *Before God's Face* takes a practical approach drawing from Biblical stories and modern parallels to help us draw near to God as we learn the simple spiritual discipline of *coram Deo* - living in God's presence. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. (Psalm 89:15)

No part of America scars its children as does the south. In this incandescent memoir, Robert Coram tells how a rough-edged boy escaped from a nowhere little town in rural southwest Georgia and became an accomplished writer. With a flawless ear and an unblinking eye, Coram escorts us across a unique landscape, capturing the nuances of life in a small southern town during the 1950s, not by writing of the romantic south, but rather of a south that can be narrow and harsh and brutal. He takes on the big issues: race, religion, love, death, and family values. His coming-of-age story is troubling, sometimes embarrassing to read, but always hilarious. As a native son, Coram captures in pitch-perfect tone the voice of a teenage boy, a new voice from the old south--a voice as fresh and as blinding as a southern sunrise. Coram holds nothing back. No part of his early life is too embarrassing or too personal, including losing his virginity in a church and public beatings by his father. Though centered on Coram's long-suffering mother, his brutal father, and his dog that lived in hope, the main feature of his story may be the humor. Rarely does a writer draw so much humor from such a harsh childhood. His story will linger in your heart. Coram is the author of seven novels and seven works of non-fiction, including four acclaimed biographies. He lives in Atlanta.

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