

## George Perec A Void

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*The Solitary Twin Harry Mathews 2018-03-27 Harry Mathews's last novel is one of his most accessible—and perhaps one of his best Harry Mathews's brilliant final work, The Solitary Twin, is an engaging mystery that simultaneously considers the art of storytelling. When identical twins arrive at an unnamed fishing port, they become the focus of the residents' attention and gossip. The stories they tell about the young men uncover a dizzying web of connections, revealing passion, sex, and murder. Fates are surprisingly intertwined, and the result is a moving, often hilarious, novel that questions our assumptions about life and literature.*

*The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise Georges Perec 2017-01-17 Darkly funny account of the office worker's mindset by the celebrated French novelist A long-suffering employee in a big corporation has summoned up the courage to ask for a raise. But as he runs through the looming encounter in his mind, his neuroses come to the surface: What is the best day to see the boss? What if he doesn't offer you a seat when you go into his office? The Art of Asking Your Boss for a Raise is a hilarious account of an employee losing his identity—and possibly his sanity—as he tries to put on the most acceptable face for the corporate world, with its rigid hierarchies and hostility to new ideas. If he follows a certain course of action, so this logic goes, he will succeed—but, in accepting these conditions, are his attempts to challenge his world of work doomed from the outset? Neurotic and pessimistic, yet endearing, comic and never less than entertaining,*

*Perec's Woody Allen-esque underling presents an acute and penetrating vision of the world of office work, as pertinent today as it was when it was written in 1968.*

*Bluffs, The Kyle Perry 2021-07-02 At the bottom of the world, there is an island. It is a land of rugged wilderness, of ice and snow and blistering heat ... They say extinct tigers still roam there. They say other things roam, too. When a school group of teenage girls go missing in the remote wilderness of Tasmania's Great Western Tiers, the people of Limestone Creek are immediately on alert. Not long ago, six young girls went missing in the area of those dangerous bluffs, and the legends of 'the Hungry Man' still haunt locals to this day. Now, authorities can determine that the teacher, Eliza Ellis, was knocked unconscious, so someone on the mountain was up to foul play. Jordan Murphy, father of missing student Jasmine and the town's local dealer, instantly becomes prime suspect, but Detective Con Badenhorst knows that in a town this size - with corrupt cops, small-town politics, and a teenage YouTube sensation - anyone could be hiding something, and bluffing comes second nature. When a body is found, mauled, at the bottom of a cliff, suspicion turns to a wild animal - but that can't explain why she, like all victims past and present, was discovered barefoot, with her shoes found nearby, laces neatly tied. What happened up there on the bluffs? Somebody knows... unless the local legends are true...*

*A Void Georges Perec 2005 "...a daunting triumph of will pushing its way through imposing roadblocks to a magical country, an absurdist nirvana of humor, pathos, and loss."--Time magazine A Void is a metaphysical whodunit, a story chock-full of plots and subplots, of trails in pursuit of trails, all of which afford Perec occasion to display his virtuosity as a verbal magician. It is also an outrageous verbal stunt: a 300-page novel that never once employs the letter E. The year is 1968, and as France is torn apart by social and political anarchy, the noted eccentric and insomniac Anton Vowl goes missing. Ransacking his Paris flat, his best friends scour his diary for clues to his whereabouts. At first glance these pages reveal nothing but Vowl's penchant for word games, especially for "lipograms," compositions in which the use of a particular letter is suppressed. But as the friends work out Vowl's verbal puzzles, and as they investigate various leads discovered among the entries, they too disappear, one by one by one, and under the most mysterious circumstances . . .*

*Shadows in the City of Light Sara R. Horowitz 2021-05-01 Examines the place of Paris in French Jewish literary memory, a memory that, of necessity, grapples with the aftermath of the Holocaust. The essays in Shadows in the City of Light explore the significance of Paris in the writing of five influential French writers—Sarah Kofman, Patrick Modiano, George Perec, Henri Raczymow, and Irene Nemirovsky—whose*

novels and memoirs capture and probe the absences of deported Paris Jews. These writers move their readers through wartime and postwar cityscapes of Paris, walking them through streets and arrondissements where Jews once resided, looking for traces of the disappeared. The city functions as more than a backdrop or setting. Its streets and buildings and monuments remind us of the exhilarating promise of the French Revolution and what it meant for Jews dreaming of equality. But the dynamic space of Paris also reminds us of the Holocaust and its aftermath. The shadowed paths traced by these writers raise complicated questions about ambivalence, absence, memory, secularity, and citizenship. In their writing, the urban landscape itself bears witness to the absent Jews, and what happened to them. For the writers treated in this volume, neither their Frenchness nor their Jewishness is a fixed point. Focusing on Paris's dual role as both a cultural hub and a powerful symbol of hope and conflict in Jewish memory, the contributors address intersections and departures among these writers. Their complexity of thought, artistry, and depth of vision shape a new understanding of the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish and French identity, on literature and literary forms, and on the development of Jewish secular culture in Western Europe. Sara R. Horowitz is Professor of Humanities and Comparative Literature at York University and the author of *Voicing the Void: Muteness and Memory in Holocaust Fiction*, also published by SUNY Press. Amira Bojadzija-Dan is Research Associate at the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. Julia Creet is Professor of English at York University and the author of *The Genealogical Sublime*. Together, they are also coeditors of *H. G. Adler: Life, Literature, Legacy*.

*53 Days Georges Perec 1999*

*Mirror Man Fiona McIntosh 2022-01-05*

*La Boutique Obscure Georges Perec 2013-02-19* The beguiling, never-before-translated dream diary of Georges Perec In *La Boutique Obscure* Perec once again revolutionized literary form, creating the world's first "nocturnal autobiography." From 1968 until 1972—the period when he wrote his most well-known works—the beloved French stylist recorded his dreams. But as you might expect, his approach was far from orthodox. Avoiding the hazy psychoanalysis of most dream journals, he challenged himself to translate his visions and subconscious churnings directly into prose. In laying down the nonsensical leaps of the imagination, he finds new ways to express the texture and ambiguity of dreams—those qualities that prove so elusive. Beyond capturing a universal experience for the first time and being a fine document of literary invention, *La Boutique Obscure* contains the seeds of some of Perec's most famous books. It is also an intimate portrait of one of the great innovators of modern literature.

*Portrait Of A Man Georges Perec 2014-11-06* Gaspard Winckler, master forger, is trapped in a basement studio on the outskirts of Paris,

with his paymaster's blood on his hands. The motive for this murder? A perversion of artistic ambition. After a lifetime lived in the shadows, he has strayed too close to the sun. Fittingly for such an enigmatic writer, *Portrait of a Man* is both Percec's first novel and his last. Frustrated in his efforts to find a publisher, he put it aside, telling a friend: 'I'll go back to it in ten years when it'll turn into a masterpiece, or else I'll wait in my grave until one of my faithful exegetes comes across it in an old trunk.' An apt coda to one of the brightest literary careers of the twentieth century, it is - in the words of David Bellos, the 'faithful exegete' who brought it to light - 'connected by a hundred threads to every part of the literary universe that Percec went on to create - but it's not like anything else that he wrote.

*Brief Notes on the Art and Manner of Arranging One's Books* Georges Percec 2021-06-08 A slim volume featuring Georges Percec's writings on the simple task of arranging books and what it can reveal about life. One of the most singular and extravagant imaginations of the twentieth century, the novelist and essayist Georges Percec was a true original who delighted in wordplay, puzzles, taxonomies and seeing the extraordinary in the everyday. In these virtuoso writings about books and language, he discusses different ways of reading, a list of the things he really must do before he dies and the power of words to overcome the chaos of the world. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives--and upended them. Now Penguin brings you a new set of the acclaimed *Great Ideas*, a curated library of selections from the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

*A Fatal Crossing* Tom Hindle 2022-01-20 'Dazzling' *Crime Monthly* 'My kind of book' *Belfast Telegraph* 'Captivating' *My Weekly Magazine* 'Suspenseful' *Country Life Magazine* \_\_\_\_\_  
November 1924. The *Endeavour* sets sail to New York with 2,000 passengers - and a killer - on board . . . When an elderly gentleman is found dead at the foot of a staircase, ship's officer Timothy Birch is ready to declare it a tragic accident. But James Temple, a strong-minded Scotland Yard inspector, is certain there is more to this misfortune than meets the eye. Birch agrees to investigate, and the trail quickly leads to the theft of a priceless painting. Its very existence is known only to its owner . . . and the dead man. With just days remaining until they reach New York, and even Temple's purpose on board the *Endeavour* proving increasingly suspicious, Birch's search for the culprit is fraught with danger. And all the while, the passengers continue to roam the ship with a killer in their midst . .

. \_\_\_\_\_ 'A very clever plot and a final twist which will delight Agatha Christie fans. You'll love it.' Ragnar Jónasson 'With twist after gut-punching twist, *A Fatal Crossing* really is an ingenious thriller. Highly recommended.' M. W. Craven 'The action unfolds at a rip-roaring pace in this perfectly executed homage to the Golden Age of crime, which features a deviously devised plot boasting a final twist worthy of Christie herself. I loved it!' Anita Frank 'Twists and turns cartwheel to a blindsiding finish' *Woman's Weekly*

*Unremembered* Ken Zurski 2018-08-09 Ken Zurski, author of *The Wreck of the Columbia* and *Peoria Stories*, provides a fascinating collection of once famous people and events that are now all but forgotten by time. Using a backdrop of schemes and discoveries, adventures and tragedies, Zurski weaves these figures and the events that shaped them into a narrative that reveals history's many coincidences, connections, and correlations. We tumble over Niagara Falls in a barrel, soar on the first transcontinental machine-powered flight, and founder aboard a burning steamboat. From an adventurous young woman circumnavigating the globe to a self-absorbed eccentric running for President of the United States, *Unremembered* brings back these lost stories and souls for a new generation to discover.

*The New English Landscape* Jason Orton 2013

*The Dreamers* Gilbert Adair 2014-07-17 Paris in the spring of 1968. The city is beginning to emerge from hibernation and an obscure spirit of social and political renewal is in the air. Yet Théo, his twin sister Isabelle and Matthew, an American student they have befriended, think only of immersing themselves in another, addictive form of hibernation: moviegoing at the Cinémathèque Française. Night after night, they take their place beside their fellow cinephiles in the very front row of the stalls and feast insatiably off the images that flicker across the vast white screen. Denied their nightly 'fix' when the French government suddenly orders the Cinémathèque's closure, Théo, Isabelle and Matthew gradually withdraw into a hermetically sealed universe of their own creation, an airless universe of obsessive private games, ordeals, humiliations and sexual jousting which finds them shedding their clothes and their inhibitions with equal abandon. A vertiginous free fall interrupted only, and tragically, when the real world outside their shuttered apartment succeeds at last in encroaching on their delirium. The study of a triangular relationship whose perverse eroticism contrives nevertheless to conserve its own bruised purity, brilliant in its narrative invention and startling in its imagery, *The Dreamers* (now a major film by Bernardo Bertolucci) belongs to the romantic French tradition of *Les Enfants Terribles* and *Le Grand Meaulnes* and resembles no other work in recent British fiction.

*The Penguin Book of Oulipo* Philip Terry 2019-10-31 A TIMES LITERARY

*SUPPLEMENT BOOK OF THE YEAR 2020 'Lovers of word games and literary puzzles will relish this indispensable anthology' The Guardian 'At times, you simply have to stand back in amazement' Daily Telegraph 'An exhilarating feat, it takes its place as the definitive anthology in English for decades to come' Marina Warner Brought together for the first time, here are 100 pieces of 'Oulipo' writing, celebrating the literary group who revelled in maths problems, puzzles, trickery, wordplay and conundrums. Featuring writers including Georges Perec, Raymond Queneau and Italo Calvino, it includes poems, short stories, word games and even recipes. Alongside these famous Oulipians, are 'anticipatory' wordsmiths who crafted language with unusual constraints and literary tricks, from Jonathan Swift to Lewis Carroll. Philip Terry's playful selection will appeal to lovers of word games, puzzles and literary delights.*

*Torpor Chris Kraus 2017-05-04 The latest novel from the author of cult super-hit I LOVE DICK It's Summer, 1991, the dawning of the New World Order; a post-MTV, pre-AOL generation. Jerome Shafir and Sylvie Green, two former New Yorkers who can no longer afford an East Village apartment, set off on a journey across the entire former Soviet Bloc with the intention of adopting a Romanian orphan. Unflinchingly dark, hilarious and moving, Torpor is at once a satire and philosophy of cultural history, social identity and failing relationships. Dipping into the trajectory of a life at different moments, Kraus interrogates convention and emotion, creating characters that are flawed, witty, and altogether true to life. Part prequel, part sequel, Torpor continues a project of life-writing: personal, unsparing, and triumphant. If I Love Dick is the book of your 20s, Torpor is the book of your 30s.*

*Life Georges Perec 2012-04-24 In this ingenious book Perec creates an entire microcosm in a Paris apartment block. Serge Valene wants to make an elaborate painting of the building he has made his home for the last sixty years. As he plans his picture, he contemplates the lives of all the people he has ever known there. Chapter by chapter, the narrative moves around the building revealing a marvellously diverse cast of characters in a series of every more unlikely tales, which range from an avenging murderer to an eccentric English millionaire who has devised the ultimate pastime...*

*Ourika Claire de Dufort duchesse de Duras 2022-06-02 This French novella narrates the experiences of a Senegalese girl who, after being rescued from slavery, is raised by a noble French family during the French Revolution. She remains unaware of her difference because of being raised in a privileged household until she overhears a conversation that makes her conscious of her race and of the discrimination it faces. After learning about her roots, Ourika lives not as a French woman but as a black person. The story then presents the struggles she faces with her newly discovered identity as an*

educated African lady in eighteenth-century Europe. Claire de Duras wrote this best-seller twenty-five years before the abolition of the slave trade in France. This period was a time when not a lot of women published their work, so Duras published *Ourika* anonymously. It marks an important event in European literature as it is the first novel set in Europe to have a black female protagonist. Despite being a short story, this work addresses the themes of race, nationality, interracial love.

Georges Perec's *Geographies* Charles Forsdick 2019-10-14 Georges Perec, novelist, filmmaker and essayist, was one of the most inventive and original writers of the twentieth century. A fascinating aspect of his work is its intrinsically geographical nature. With major projects on space and place, Perec's writing speaks to a variety of geographical, urban and architectural concerns, both in a substantive way, including a focus on cities, streets, homes and apartments, and in a methodological way, experimenting with methods of urban exploration and observation, classification, enumeration and taxonomy.

Gadsby Ernest Vincent Wright 2018-04-05 *Reproduction of the original: Gadsby* by Ernest Vincent Wright

*The Art and Craft of Approaching Your Head of Department to Submit a Request for a Raise* Georges Perec 2011-03-03 so having weighed the pros and cons you've decided to approach your boss to ask for that well-earned raise in salary but before you schedule the all-important meeting you decide to dip into this handy volume in the hope of finding some valuable tips but instead find a hilarious, mind-bending farcical account of all the many different things that may or may not happen on the journey to see your boss which uses no punctuation or capitalisation and certainly no full stops. Georges Perec famously wrote a whole novel without using the letter 'e'. Now, in this playful short novel, brilliantly translated by David Bellos, Perec once again dispenses with the normal rules for literary composition, with similarly pyrotechnic results.

*W Or The Memory of Childhood* Georges Perec 2011 Tells two parallel tales, in two parts one is a story created in childhood and about childhood; and the other story is about two people called Gaspard Winckler: one an eight year old deaf mute lost in a shipwreck, the other a man despatched to search for him, who discovers W, an island state based on the rules of sport.

*Original Copies* in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol Priya Wadhera 2016-12-08 In *Original Copies* in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol, Priya Wadhera bridges the works of Perec and Warhol for the first time, illuminating a postmodern aesthetic where the original is devalued and the copy reigns supreme.

*A Void* Georges Perec 1995 *Insomniac* Anton Vowl is missing from his Paris rooms, and his companions look for information in his diary, in a work using no "e"

*Ellis Island Georges Perec 1995 Combining poetic and inquisitive text with a wide array of lavish images, a tour of Ellis Island shares the experiences of men and women who passed through its portals when immigrating to the United States. Original.*

*Georges Perec: A Life in Words David Bellos 2010-11-30 "It's hard to see how anyone is ever going to better this User's Manual to the life of Georges Perec" - Gilbert Adair, Sunday Times Winner of the Prix Goncourt for Biography, 1994 George Perec (1936-82) was one of the most significant European writers of the twentieth century and undoubtedly the most versatile and innovative writer of his generation. David Bellos's comprehensive biography - which also provides the first full survey of Perec's irreverent, polymathic oeuvre - explores the life of an anguished, comical and endearingly modest man, who worked quietly as an archivist in a medical research library. The French son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, he remained haunted all of his life by his father's death in the war, fighting to defend France, and his mother's in Auschwitz-Birkenau. His acclaimed novel A Void (1969) - written without using the letter "e" - has been seen as an attempt to escape from the words "père", "mere", and even "George Perec". His career made an auspicious start with Things: A Story of the Sixties (1965), which won the Prix Renaudot. He then pursued an idiosyncratic and ambitious literary itinerary through the intellectual ferment of Paris in the 1960s and 1970s. He belonged to the Ouvrior de Littérature Potentielle (OuLiPo), a radically inventive group of writers whose members included Raymond Queneau and Italo Calvino. Perec achieved international celebrity with Life A User's Manual (1978), which won the Prix Medicis and was voted Novel of the Decade by the Salon du Livre. He died in his mid-forties after a short illness, leaving a truly puzzling detective novel, 53 Days, incomplete. "Professor Bellos's book enables us at once to relish the most wilfully bizarre aspects of Perec's oeuvre and to understand the whys and wherefores of his protean nature" - Jonathan Romney, Literary Review*

*I Remember Joe Brainard 2001 Artwork by Joe Brainard. Edited by Ron Padgett.*

*I Remember Georges Perec 2020-05-21 'Perec is serious fun' The Guardian Both an affectionate portrait of mid-century Paris and a daring memoir, Georges Perec's I Remember is now available in English to UK readers for the first time, with an introduction by David Bellos. In 480 numbered statements, all beginning identically with 'I remember', Perec records a stream of individual memories of a childhood in post-war France, while posing wider questions about memory and nostalgia. As playful and puzzling as the best of his novels, I Remember is an ode to life: the ordinary, the extraordinary, and the sometimes trivial, as seen through the eyes of the irreplaceable Georges Perec.*

An Event, Perhaps Peter Salmon 2020-10-13 Philosopher, film star, father of "post truth"—the real story of Jacques Derrida Who is Jacques Derrida? For some, he is the originator of a relativist philosophy responsible for the contemporary crisis of truth. For the far right, he is one of the architects of Cultural Marxism. To his academic critics, he reduced French philosophy to "little more than an object of ridicule." For his fans, he is an intellectual rock star who ranged across literature, politics, and linguistics. In *An Event, Perhaps*, Peter Salmon presents this misunderstood and misappropriated figure as a deeply humane and urgent thinker for our times. Born in Algiers, the young Jackie was always an outsider. Despite his best efforts, he found it difficult to establish himself among the Paris intellectual milieu of the 1960s. However, in 1967, he changed the whole course of philosophy: outlining the central concepts of deconstruction. Immediately, his reputation as a complex and confounding thinker was established. Feted by some, abhorred by others, Derrida had an exhaustive breadth of interests but, as Salmon shows, was moved by a profound desire to understand how we engage with each other. It is a theme explored through Derrida's intimate relationships with writers such as Althusser, Genet, Lacan, Foucault, Cixous, and Kristeva. Accessible, provocative and beautifully written, *An Event, Perhaps* will introduce a new readership to the life and work of a philosopher whose influence over the way we think will continue long into the twenty-first century.

*A Void* Georges Perec 2008 Anton Vowl is missing. Ransacking his Paris flat, a group of his faithful companions trawl through his diary for any hint as to his location and, insidiously, a ghost, from Vowl's past starts to cast its malignant shadow. This virtuoso story, chock-full of plots and subplots, shows the skill of both author and translator who impart all the action without a crucial grammatical prop: the letter 'e'.

*The Winter Journey* Georges Perec 1995

*Three* by Perec Georges Perec 2004 "Here, in one volume, are three "easy pieces" by the master of the verbal firecracker and Gallic wit. The novella "The Exeter Text" contains all those e's that were omitted from *A Void* (Perec hated waste) and no other vowel (honest). In "Which Moped with Chrome-Plated Handlebars at the Back of the Yard?" we are introduced to Sergeant Henri Pollak and his vehicle (the aforementioned moped) that carried him between Vincennes and Montparnasse; in "A Gallery Portrait", the sensation of the 1913 exhibition in Pittsburgh depicts the artists' patron, beer baron Hermann Raffke, sitting in front of his huge art collection, which includes (of course) "A Gallery Portrait" of the baron sitting before "A Gallery Portrait," etc." -- From publisher's website.

*Escape Attempts* Stanley Cohen 2003-08-29 From sexual fantasies to holidays this marvellous book charts our escape attempts. In a series

of dazzling commentaries the authors reveal the ordinary and extraordinary ways in which we seek to defy the despair of the breakfast table and the office But the book is much more than a first-rate cartography of everyday life. It crackles with important theoretical insights about how 'normality' is managed. This fully revised edition contains a superb new introduction, 'Life After Postmodernism', which exposes the conceits of the postmodernist adventure and which should be required reading for anyone interested in making sense of everyday life.

Many Subtle Channels Daniel Levin Becker 2012-05-08 Main description: What sort of society could bind together Jacques Roubaud, Italo Calvino, Marcel Duchamp, and Raymond Queneau—and Daniel Levin Becker, a young American obsessed with language play? Only the Oulipo, the Paris-based experimental collective founded in 1960 and fated to become one of literature's quirkiest movements. An international organization of writers, artists, and scientists who embrace formal and procedural constraints to achieve literature's possibilities, the Oulipo (the French acronym stands for *O*orkshop for potential literature) is perhaps best known as the cradle of Georges Perec's novel *A Void*, which does not contain the letter e. Drawn to the Oulipo's mystique, Levin Becker secured a Fulbright grant to study the organization and traveled to Paris. He was eventually offered membership, becoming only the second American to be admitted to the group. From the perspective of a young initiate, the Oulipians and their projects are at once bizarre and utterly compelling. Levin Becker's love for games, puzzles, and language play is infectious, calling to mind Elif Batuman's delight in Russian literature in *The Possessed*. In recent years, the Oulipo has inspired the creation of numerous other collectives: the *OuMuPo* (a collective of DJs), the *OuMaPo* (marionette players), the *OuBaPo* (comic strip artists), the *OuFlarfPo* (poets who generate poetry with the aid of search engines), and a menagerie of other *Ou-X-Pos* (workshops for potential something). Levin Becker discusses these and other intriguing developments in this history and personal appreciation of an iconic—and iconoclastic—group.

The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket Edgar Allan Poe 2022-06-02 "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket" is the only complete novel written by American writer Edgar Allan Poe. The story was inspired by a newspaper account of the shipwreck and subsequent rescue of the two men on board. Poe developed the story into a tale of the young Arthur Gordon Pym, who stows away aboard a whaling ship called the *Grampus*. Yet, it's not the mere adventures that make this book a literary masterpiece. Poe imbued his tale with allegorical richness, biblical imagery, and psychological insights. This novel has influenced numerous writers, including Melville, James, Verne, and Nabokov.

*Species of Spaces and Other Pieces* Georges Perec 2008-03-20 "One of

the most significant literary personalities in the world.”—Italo Calvino Georges Perec, author of the highly acclaimed *Life: A User's Manual*, was only forty-six when he died in 1982. Despite a tragic childhood, during which his mother was deported to Auschwitz, Perec produced some of the most entertaining essays of the age. His literary output was deliberately varied in form and style and this generous selection of Perec's non-fictional work, the first to appear in English, demonstrates his characteristic lightness of touch, wry humor, and accessibility. As he contemplates the many ways in which we occupy the space around us, as he depicts the commonplace items with which we are familiar in a startling, engrossing way, as he recounts his psychoanalysis while remaining reticent about his feelings or depicts the Paris of his childhood without a trace of sentimentality, we become aware that we are in the presence of a remarkable, virtuoso writer.

*An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris* Georges Perec 2010 By Georges Perec.

*Things* Georges Perec 1990 Two trailblazing novels by Georges Perec, *Things: Jerome and Sylvie*, the young upwardly mobile couple, lust for the good life. They wanted life's enjoyment, but this equated to ownership. *A Man Asleep*: A nameless student attempts to purify himself entirely of material desires and ambitions.

*The Key of the Tower* Gilbert Adair 1997 Two men, driving from opposite directions along a lonely road in France, find themselves forced to exchange cars when a tree renders the road impassable. From that moment on, a spate of Hitchcockian events unfold.

*Portrait of a Man Known as Il Condottiere* Georges Perec 2015-04-10 Puckish and playful, Georges Perec infused avant-garde and experimental fiction with a wit and wonder that belied the serious concerns and concepts that underpinned it. A prominent member of the OuLiPo, and an abiding influence on fiction writers today, Perec used formal constraints to dazzling effect in such works as *A Void*—a murder mystery that contains nary an “e”—and *Life A User's Manual*, in which an apartment building, systematically canvassed, unfolds secrets and, ultimately offers a reflection on creation, destruction, and the devotion to art. Before embarking on these experiments, however, Perec tried his hand at a relatively straightforward novel, *Portrait of a Man*. His first book, it was rejected by publishers when he submitted it in 1960, after which he filed it away. Decades after Perec's death, David Bellos discovered the manuscript, and through his translation we have a chance to enjoy it in English for the first time. What fans will find here is a thriller that combines themes that would remain prominent in Perec's later work, such as art forgery, authenticity, and murder, as well as craftsman Gaspard Winckler, who whose namesakes play major roles in *Life A User's Manual* and *W or The Memory of Childhood*. Engaging and entertaining on its own merits, and gaining

*additional interest when set in the context of Perec's career, Portrait of a Man is sure to charm the many fans of this postmodern master.*

*george-perec-a-void*

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