

Forty Years of Essays and Stories: A Literary Legacy

In the annals of literature, few writers have commanded the respect and admiration of readers and critics alike as the renowned author, essayist, and short story writer. With a career spanning four decades, their prolific output has left an indelible mark on the literary landscape, captivating generations with their incisive prose, thought-provoking ideas, and evocative storytelling.

The Early Years:

Short Application Essay

Born in Taiwan, I came to the United States when I was five. Armed with only two words ("hello" and "popcorn"), I braved the uncertainties of a complex, new environment. Twelve years later, my vocabulary is considerably larger and I have adapted well to my surroundings. At the same time, I have neither forgotten my native culture nor its language.

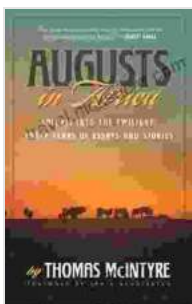
My ties with my native Chinese culture remain as strong as ever. I visit my relatives in Taiwan regularly almost every summer and have traveled throughout China. And to everyone's continuing surprise, I have yet to forget how to speak Mandarin. Nevertheless, twelve years in America has made its impressions upon me as well. I am as "American" as anyone my age. The songs I listen to, the sports I play, and the way I speak are all a reflection of that. In short, I am a combination of both East and West.

Nevertheless, I sometimes wonder whether speaking Chinese at home and visits in the summer are enough to maintain my ties with my native culture. Often, when I see my parents reading old Chinese literature or poetry, I feel that I am only in touch with half of what I am. This sense of loss has led me to seek out my old roots. I turn to the East to rediscover what I have lost.

Yet, I cannot resign myself to merely studying my own culture and language. I want to be able to apply my knowledge as well. To me, pursuing a career in business is a very pragmatic solution to my future welfare. My father is a businessman in Taiwan and I have had numerous opportunities to watch him work. Through him, I have discovered my own interests in the business field. I find the way business operates in the East to be very exciting. At the same time, my father has soothed my sense of morality by showing me that it is possible to be an honest businessman in Asia.

Before I learned about Duke, I had made up my mind to study economics and to ultimately pursue a career in international business. I had come to see this path as the best combination for fulfilling both my aspirations towards knowledge and my pragmatic goals of a future livelihood. China, my planned area of focus, is an expanding market with a dearth of skilled business professionals. But I had misgivings because I wanted a school with a strong focus on the humanities as well. Thus, I find Duke University exciting and perfect for me. It gives me a strong economics curriculum, but still allows me to pursue my interests in the humanities. With economics at Duke University, I will have access to a wide array of studies both within and beyond my chosen major. I will have an edge in the business world by virtue of Duke.

After attending Duke (if I am accepted, of course), I will have a clear path before me. My studies at Duke should virtually guarantee me for any graduate business school. And, after my graduate studies, I will be able to realize my dreams. Perhaps, I will be able to serve as a bridge between East and West.



Augusts in Africa: Safaris into the Twilight: Forty Years of Essays and Stories by Thomas McIntyre

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7851 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 301 pages
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The writer's literary journey began in the vibrant literary scene of the 1980s. Their early essays and stories, published in prestigious literary journals and anthologies, showcased a keen observational eye, a sharp wit, and a deep understanding of the human condition. These formative works garnered critical acclaim, establishing the young writer as a rising star in the literary firmament.

Literary Influences:

The writer's work draws inspiration from a diverse array of literary influences. From the existentialist musings of Albert Camus to the modernist prose of Virginia Woolf, the writer assimilates and transforms these influences into a unique and captivating voice. Their essays grapple with profound philosophical questions, exploring themes of identity, morality, and the nature of existence.

The Essay Collection: "Of Time and Tides"

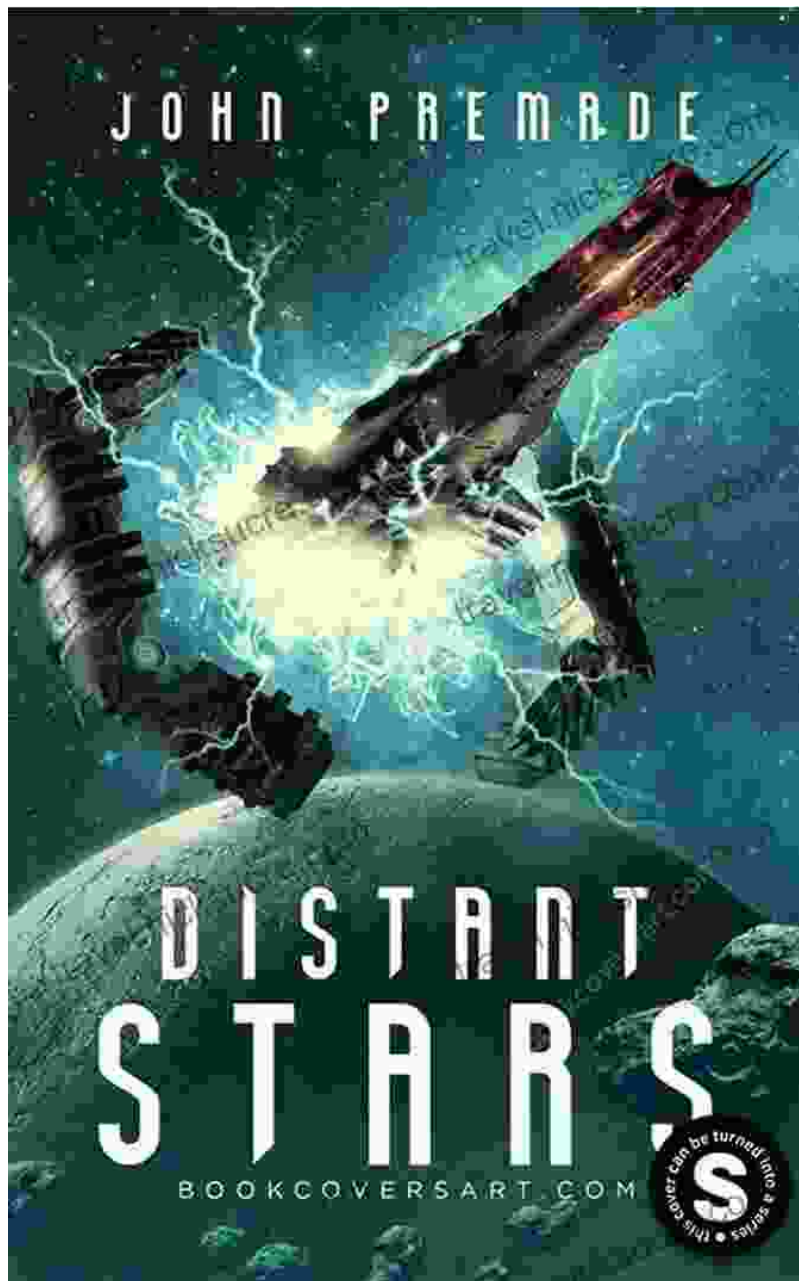
THE HALLOWS



OF TIME AND TIDES

In 1995, the writer published their first essay collection, "Of Time and Tides." The book was an instant critical and commercial success, showcasing the author's mastery of the essay form. Through lyrical and incisive prose, the essays delve into the complexities of human relationships, the passage of time, and the enduring power of art and literature.

The Short Story Collection: "The Distant Star"



In 2002, the writer released their debut short story collection, "The Distant Star." The collection garnered high praise for its evocative prose and its exploration of the hidden depths of the human experience. The stories traverse diverse settings and characters, capturing moments of love, loss, and the search for meaning in a complex world.

Themes and Motifs:

Throughout their writing, the author consistently explores certain thematic and stylistic motifs:

Exploration of Identity:

Identity, both individual and collective, is a central preoccupation in the writer's work. Their characters grapple with questions of self-definition, authenticity, and the impact of societal expectations.

The Passage of Time:

The fleeting nature of time and its profound impact on human lives is a recurring theme in the writer's essays and stories. Through lyrical and evocative prose, they capture the bittersweet beauty and inherent melancholy of time's passage.

The Power of Art and Literature:

The writer's profound love for literature and art is evident throughout their work. They explore the transformative power of storytelling, its ability to illuminate the human condition and provide solace in an uncertain world.

Legacy and Impact:

Over four decades of literary excellence, the writer has left a lasting legacy on the literary world. Their work has been translated into multiple languages, inspiring and influencing countless readers, writers, and scholars. Their essays and stories have been anthologized in prestigious literary collections and continue to be taught in universities and classrooms worldwide.

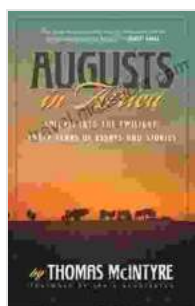
Awards and Recognition

The writer's literary achievements have been recognized with numerous prestigious awards and honors, including:

- The National Book Award for Nonfiction
- The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- The PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction

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The writer's remarkable body of work, spanning four decades, is a testament to their extraordinary talent and unwavering dedication to the art of storytelling. Their essays and stories continue to resonate with readers, offering profound insights into the human condition and the transformative power of literature. As their literary legacy endures, the writer's work will undoubtedly continue to touch and inspire generations to come.



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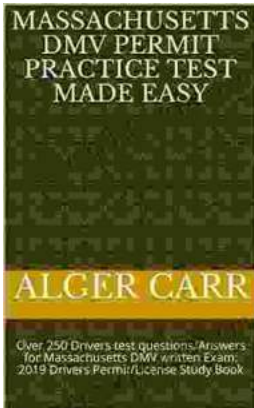
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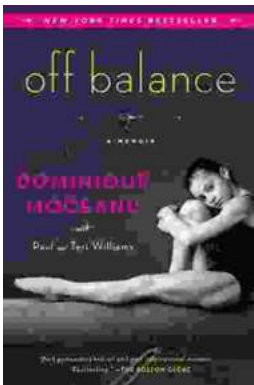
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