

david foster wallace girl with curious hair

David Foster Wallace Girl with Curious Hair: Exploring the Intricacies of a Literary Masterpiece

david foster wallace girl with curious hair is a phrase that instantly brings to mind a unique and compelling collection of short stories by the acclaimed author David Foster Wallace. Known for his profound insight into human nature and his exceptional narrative style, Wallace's "Girl with Curious Hair" is more than just a book; it's a journey into the complexities of modern life, identity, and the often surreal experiences that define contemporary existence. If you're curious about the significance of this work, its themes, or its place within Wallace's literary legacy, this article offers an engaging exploration that sheds light on why "Girl with Curious Hair" continues to captivate readers and critics alike.

Understanding David Foster Wallace's Literary Style

David Foster Wallace revolutionized modern literature with his innovative approach to storytelling. His work is characterized by intricate narratives, sharp wit, and deep philosophical underpinnings. "Girl with Curious Hair," published in 1989, showcases many of these elements, presenting a collection of stories that blend absurdity and realism in ways that feel both unsettling and profoundly truthful.

The Role of Postmodernism

Wallace's writing often falls under the umbrella of postmodern literature, but with a distinctive twist. Unlike some of his contemporaries who embraced irony and detachment, Wallace infused his stories with empathy and a quest for genuine connection. In "Girl with Curious Hair," this manifests in characters who are flawed and searching, often confronting the alienation and superficiality of late 20th-century American culture.

Complex Characters and Narrative Voices

One of the standout features of the stories in "Girl with Curious Hair" is the vivid, sometimes bizarre characters that populate the pages. From disaffected musicians to troubled intellectuals, Wallace's characters are richly drawn and often serve as mirrors to the reader's own anxieties and desires. His use of varying narrative voices—from first-person confessions to more detached third-person perspectives—adds layers of depth and invites readers to engage actively with the text.

Exploring the Themes in "Girl with Curious Hair"

David Foster Wallace's "Girl with Curious Hair" delves into numerous themes that resonate with readers on multiple levels. These are not just stories about quirky individuals; they are reflections on

broader social and psychological issues.

Alienation in Contemporary Society

Many stories in the collection explore the theme of alienation. Whether it's the sense of disconnection in a consumer-driven culture or the isolation that comes from personal trauma, Wallace paints a poignant picture of individuals struggling to find meaning and belonging. This theme is especially relevant in today's digital age, where feelings of loneliness persist despite constant connectivity.

The Nature of Identity and Performance

A recurring motif in "Girl with Curious Hair" is the idea of identity as a form of performance. Characters often grapple with the personas they present to the world versus their inner realities. This tension highlights the complexities of selfhood and the sometimes exhausting effort to maintain appearances, a topic that resonates deeply in an era obsessed with image and social media.

Dark Humor and Satire

While the stories often deal with serious subject matter, Wallace's use of dark humor and satire adds a compelling edge. His ability to find absurdity in the mundane encourages readers to laugh even as they confront uncomfortable truths. This balance of humor and pathos is a hallmark of Wallace's style and contributes to the enduring appeal of "Girl with Curious Hair."

The Impact and Legacy of "Girl with Curious Hair"

Since its release, "Girl with Curious Hair" has been celebrated as a significant contribution to American literature. It helped establish David Foster Wallace as a formidable literary voice and paved the way for his later works, including the acclaimed novel "Infinite Jest."

Influence on Contemporary Writers

Wallace's innovative storytelling and thematic concerns have influenced a generation of writers who admire his blend of intellectual rigor and emotional depth. Authors in the realms of literary fiction and beyond often cite "Girl with Curious Hair" as a source of inspiration for its fearless exploration of complex issues and its stylistic daring.

Critical Reception and Academic Attention

The collection has been the subject of extensive academic study, with scholars analyzing Wallace's use of language, narrative structure, and thematic content. "Girl with Curious Hair" is frequently included in university courses on contemporary literature, highlighting its importance as a text that challenges and enriches readers.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating "Girl with Curious Hair"

For those approaching David Foster Wallace's "Girl with Curious Hair" for the first time, the book can be both thrilling and demanding. Here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Take Your Time:** Wallace's prose is dense and layered. Don't rush through the stories; savor the language and let the nuances sink in.
- **Engage Actively:** Pay attention to shifts in narrative voice and style. These often signal deeper thematic meanings or character insights.
- **Consider the Context:** Understanding the cultural and historical backdrop of the late 1980s can provide valuable perspective on the stories' themes.
- **Discuss with Others:** Sharing interpretations with fellow readers can reveal new angles and enrich your appreciation of the text.

Exploring Further Works by David Foster Wallace

If "Girl with Curious Hair" intrigues you, exploring Wallace's other works can deepen your understanding of his literary universe. His essays, novels, and additional short story collections continue to explore many of the same themes with increasing complexity and nuance.

David Foster Wallace's writing, including "Girl with Curious Hair," invites readers into a world where the ordinary collides with the extraordinary, where humor and tragedy coexist, and where the search for meaning is both a personal and universal journey. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to his work, this collection offers a rich, thought-provoking experience that lingers long after the final page.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is David Foster Wallace in relation to 'Girl with Curious

Hair'?

David Foster Wallace is the author of 'Girl with Curious Hair,' a collection of short stories published in 1989 that showcases his early literary style and themes.

What is 'Girl with Curious Hair' about?

'Girl with Curious Hair' is a collection of short stories by David Foster Wallace that explore themes of identity, media culture, and human behavior through a variety of eccentric and complex characters.

Why is 'Girl with Curious Hair' significant in David Foster Wallace's career?

'Girl with Curious Hair' is significant because it was one of Wallace's first major published works, demonstrating his unique narrative style and establishing him as an important voice in contemporary American literature.

What are common themes in the stories of 'Girl with Curious Hair'?

Common themes include the impact of media and celebrity culture, existential angst, the search for meaning, and the complexity of human relationships.

How does David Foster Wallace's writing style in 'Girl with Curious Hair' differ from his later works?

In 'Girl with Curious Hair,' Wallace's style is more experimental and raw compared to his later, more polished works like 'Infinite Jest,' but it already exhibits his trademark intricate prose and deep psychological insight.

Is 'Girl with Curious Hair' a novel or a collection of short stories?

'Girl with Curious Hair' is a collection of short stories, each with different characters and plots, though some thematic connections run throughout.

What is the significance of the title story 'Girl with Curious Hair'?

The title story 'Girl with Curious Hair' centers on themes of identity and media manipulation, illustrating Wallace's critique of the entertainment industry and the construction of celebrity personas.

How was 'Girl with Curious Hair' received by critics upon its release?

The collection received generally positive reviews for its originality and sharp social commentary, though some critics noted its challenging style and dark humor.

Can themes from 'Girl with Curious Hair' be seen in David Foster Wallace's later works?

Yes, themes such as media influence, existential questions, and intricate character studies from 'Girl with Curious Hair' recur and are further developed in Wallace's later works.

Where can I find 'Girl with Curious Hair' to read David Foster Wallace's early writing?

'Girl with Curious Hair' is available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries in both print and digital formats.

Additional Resources

David Foster Wallace and the Enigmatic "Girl with Curious Hair": An Analytical Exploration

david foster wallace girl with curious hair is a phrase that immediately evokes the distinctive literary style and thematic complexity associated with one of the most influential American writers of the late 20th century. David Foster Wallace's collection, **Girl with Curious Hair**, published in 1989, showcases his early foray into short fiction, marked by a blend of satirical wit, cultural critique, and profound psychological insight. This article delves into the nuances of **Girl with Curious Hair**, examining the thematic elements, narrative style, and cultural significance of Wallace's work, while situating it within the broader context of postmodern American literature.

Understanding **Girl with Curious Hair** in the Context of David Foster Wallace's Oeuvre

David Foster Wallace's **Girl with Curious Hair** is not simply a collection of short stories; it is a multifaceted exploration of American life during the 1980s, a decade often criticized for its excesses and superficiality. The titular story, along with the other pieces in the collection, reveals Wallace's early attempts to grapple with themes of identity, media saturation, and human alienation—topics that would later define his magnum opus, **Infinite Jest**.

This collection stands out for its sharp examination of the cultural landscape, particularly the intersections of celebrity culture, politics, and personal disconnection. Through characters who oscillate between absurdity and existential despair, Wallace crafts narratives that challenge readers to look beyond surface appearances and question the authenticity of social interactions in an increasingly commodified world.

Narrative Style and Literary Techniques

One of the defining features of **Girl with Curious Hair** is Wallace's innovative narrative style. His prose frequently combines dense, footnoted passages with colloquial dialogue, creating a layered reading experience that demands close attention. This technique not only enriches the storytelling but also mirrors the fragmented nature of contemporary consciousness—a hallmark of postmodern literature.

Wallace's use of irony and dark humor permeates the collection, often serving as a vehicle to critique societal norms and the vacuity of media-driven fame. The "girl with curious hair" herself embodies this tension—both a literal character and a symbolic figure representing the elusive nature of identity in a culture obsessed with image and spectacle.

Thematic Exploration: Alienation and Media Saturation

A recurrent theme in **Girl with Curious Hair** is the pervasive sense of alienation experienced by individuals in a media-saturated society. Wallace's characters frequently confront the paradox of being hyper-visible yet fundamentally isolated. This motif presciently anticipates the challenges posed by today's digital culture, where social media platforms amplify both connection and disconnection.

The stories highlight the consequences of living in a world dominated by celebrity worship and commodification, revealing how these forces distort personal relationships and self-perception. For instance, several narratives focus on the lives of public figures or those on the periphery of fame, exposing the performative aspects of identity shaped by external expectations.

Comparative Insights: **Girl with Curious Hair** and Contemporary Short Fiction

When compared to contemporaneous short story collections, David Foster Wallace's **Girl with Curious Hair** distinguishes itself through its intellectual rigor and emotional depth. Unlike the minimalist tendencies of writers such as Raymond Carver, Wallace's stories delve into complexity with sprawling sentences and intricate character studies. This stylistic divergence reflects a broader shift in American literature during the late 20th century, moving toward a more expansive and experimental narrative form.

Moreover, Wallace's work can be contrasted with the cynical postmodernism of authors like Thomas Pynchon. While both employ metafictional techniques and cultural critique, Wallace's writing often reveals a yearning for genuine human connection beneath the irony, offering a more hopeful, albeit complicated, vision of meaning.

Pros and Cons of Wallace's Approach in **Girl with Curious*

Hair*

- **Pros:**

- Innovative narrative style that challenges traditional storytelling.
- Rich thematic content addressing cultural and existential issues.
- Combination of humor and pathos creates a nuanced emotional landscape.

- **Cons:**

- Dense prose and complex sentence structures may alienate casual readers.
- Heavy use of irony and metafiction can sometimes obscure narrative clarity.
- Some stories might feel uneven in tone or pacing due to experimental form.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy of *Girl with Curious Hair*

The significance of *Girl with Curious Hair* extends beyond its immediate literary value; it laid the groundwork for David Foster Wallace's later critical acclaim. The collection's exploration of media influence and identity politics resonates with ongoing debates about authenticity and representation in the digital age.

Critics and scholars have noted how Wallace's early work anticipated the challenges faced by a generation navigating the complexities of information overload and performative social roles. This prescience has cemented *Girl with Curious Hair* as a pivotal text for understanding the evolution of American literature at the turn of the century.

Furthermore, the collection has influenced a new wave of writers who seek to blend intellectual inquiry with narrative experimentation. Its impact is evident in contemporary fiction that prioritizes both stylistic innovation and deep cultural engagement.

LSI Keywords Integration: Enhancing Understanding of Wallace's Work

To fully appreciate the depth of *david foster wallace girl with curious hair*, it is essential to recognize related themes and terms that recur across his works. Keywords such as "postmodern American literature," "media critique," "celebrity culture," "narrative complexity," and "existential alienation" are integral to discussions surrounding this collection.

The intersection of these LSI (Latent Semantic Indexing) keywords with Wallace's storytelling enriches readers' comprehension and situates the book within ongoing literary and cultural conversations. These terms also assist in framing *Girl with Curious Hair* as a work that challenges readers to interrogate not only the text but also the broader societal structures it reflects.

David Foster Wallace's *Girl with Curious Hair* remains an essential study in the complexities of modern identity and the pervasive influence of media. Its blend of stylistic innovation and thematic depth continues to provoke critical thought and inspire literary exploration. As an early yet enduring example of Wallace's genius, the collection invites readers to navigate the curious interplay between appearance and reality, connection and isolation—a dynamic as relevant today as it was at the time of its publication.

David Foster Wallace Girl With Curious Hair

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david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Girl With Curious Hair David Foster Wallace, 2023-12-07 'A visionary, a craftsman, a comedian... he's in a different time-space continuum from the rest of us. Goddam him' Zadie Smith, Guardian 'David Foster Wallace turns the short story upside down and inside out, making the adjectives "inventive", "unique" and "original" seem blasé' T. Coraghessan Boyle 'Truly funny surreal humour' San Francisco Chronicle *Girl With Curious Hair* is replete with the prodigious talent of David Foster Wallace and his remarkable and unsettling re-imaginings of reality. From an eerily 'real', almost holographic evocation of Lyndon B. Johnson, to over-televised game-show hosts and late-night comedians, to the title story, where terminal punk nihilism meets Young Republicanism, Wallace renders the incredible comprehensible, the bizarre normal, the absurd hilarious, the familiar strange.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: *The Cambridge Companion to David Foster Wallace* Ralph Clare, 2018-09-20 A compelling, comprehensive, and substantive introduction to the work of David Foster Wallace.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: David Foster Wallace's Toxic Sexuality Edward Jackson, 2020-06-11 David Foster Wallace's *Toxic Sexuality: Hideousness, Neoliberalism, Spermatics* is the first full-length study of perhaps the most controversial aspect of Wallace's work – male sexuality. Departing from biographical accounts of Wallace's troubled relationship to sex, the book offers new and engaging close readings of this vexed topic in both his fiction and non-fiction. Wallace consistently returns to images of sexual toxicity across his career to argue that, when it comes to sex, men are immutably hideous. He makes this argument by drawing on a variety of neoliberal logics and spermatic metaphors, which in their appeal to apparently neutral economic

processes and natural bodily facts, forestall the possibility that men can change. The book therefore provides a revisionist account of Wallace's attitudes towards capitalism, as well as a critical dissection of his approach to masculinity and sexuality. In doing so, David Foster Wallace's *Toxic Sexuality* shows how Wallace can be considered a neoliberal writer, whose commitment to furthering male sexual toxicity is a disturbing but undeniable part of his literary project.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: David Foster Wallace - Eine Einführung zu Autor und Werk Stefanie Röder, 2009-03-03 Fachbuch aus dem Jahr 2007 im Fachbereich Amerikanistik - Literatur, Note: 1,0, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Bei diesem Text handelt es sich um das erste Kapitel einer mit 1,0 benoteten Diplomarbeit mit dem Titel David Foster Wallaces 'Brief Interviews with Hideous Men' - Eine kritische Analyse der deutschen Übersetzung. Nach einem Abriss der Autorenbiografie erfolgt eine Einordnung Wallaces in den Kontext der amerikanischen Gegenwartsliteratur. Seine theoretische Position wird mit Bezug auf den von John Barth geprägten Begriff der 'Literature of Exhaustion' und anhand von seines programmatischen Essays *E Unibus Pluram* untersucht. Dabei wird das Augenmerk auch auf die praktische Umsetzung in Wallaces Literatur, vor allem in seinem Hauptwerk *Infinite Jest* gelegt. Ein letztes Kapitel widmet sich der Story-Sammlung *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*; anhand einzelner Storys werden mögliche Interpretationsansätze aufgezeigt.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: New Media and the Transformation of Postmodern American Literature Casey Michael Henry, 2019-02-07 How has American literature after postmodernism responded to the digital age? Drawing on insights from contemporary media theory, this is the first book to explore the explosion of new media technologies as an animating context for contemporary American literature. Casey Michael Henry examines the intertwining histories of new media forms since the 1970s and literary postmodernism and its aftermath, from William Gaddis's *J R* and Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* through to David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. Through these histories, the book charts the ways in which print-based postmodern writing at first resisted new mass media forms and ultimately came to respond to them.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: The Matter of High Words Robert Chodat, 2017 In a world of matter, how can we express what matters? This book examines a constellation of post-WWII authors who pose this question through both art and argument. Seeking to dramatize our highest words, these postwar sages raise essential questions about meaning, language, science, and modernity.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: The Moving Text Garrick V. Allen , Christopher R. Brewer, Dennis F. Kinlaw III , 2018-06-30 Drawing upon the pioneering work of the British theologian David Brown who argues for a non-static, 'moving text' that reaches beyond the biblical canon, this volume brings together twelve interdisciplinary essays, as well as a response from Brown. With essays ranging from New Testament textual criticism to the fiction of David Foster Wallace, *The Moving Text* provides an introduction to Brown and the Bible that will be of interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as specialists in a wide range of fields. Contributions include: Ian Boxall (The Catholic University of America) *From the Magi to Pilate's Wife: David Brown, Tradition and the Reception of Matthew's Text*, Robert MacSwain (The University of the South) *David Brown and Eleonore Stump on Biblical Interpretation*, Aaron Rosen (Rocky Mountain College) *Revisions of Sacrifice: Abraham in Art and Interfaith Dialogue*, Dennis F. Kinlaw III (Houston Baptist University) *The Forms of Faith in Contemporary American Fiction*.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Existentialist Engagement in Wallace, Eggers and Foer Allard den Dulk, 2014-12-18 The novels of David Foster Wallace, Dave Eggers and Jonathan Safran Foer are increasingly regarded as representing a new trend, an 'aesthetic sea change' in contemporary American literature. 'Post-postmodernism' and 'New Sincerity' are just two of the labels that have been attached to this trend. But what do these labels mean? What characterizes and connects these novels? Den Dulk shows that the connection between these works lies in their shared philosophical dimension. On the one hand, they portray excessive self-reflection and endless irony as the two main problems of contemporary Western life. On the other hand, the

novels embody an attempt to overcome these problems: sincerity, reality-commitment and community are portrayed as the virtues needed to achieve a meaningful life. This shared philosophical dimension is analyzed by viewing the novels in light of the existentialist philosophies of Søren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Albert Camus.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Contemporary Fictions of Attention Alice Bennett, 2018-08-09 With the supposed shortening of our attention spans, what future is there for fiction in the age of the internet? *Contemporary Fictions of Attention* rejects this discourse of distraction-crisis which suggests that the future of reading is in peril, and instead finds that contemporary writers construct 'fictions of attention' that find some value in states or moments of inattention. Through discussion of work by a diverse selection of writers, including Joshua Cohen, Ben Lerner, Tom McCarthy, Ali Smith, Zadie Smith, and David Foster Wallace, this book identifies how fiction prompts readers to become peripherally aware of their own attention. *Contemporary Fictions of Attention* locates a common interest in attention within 21st-century fiction and connects this interest to a series of debates surrounding ethics, temporality, the everyday, boredom, work, and self-discipline in contemporary culture.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: *David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest* Stephen J. Burn, 2012-04-19 *Infinite Jest* has been hailed as one the great modern American novels and its author, David Foster Wallace, who committed suicide in 2008, as one of the most influential and innovative authors of the past 20 years. Don DeLillo called *Infinite Jest* a three-stage rocket to the future, a work equal to the huge, babbling spin-out sweep of contemporary life, while *Time Magazine* included *Infinite Jest* on its list of 100 Greatest Novels published between 1923-2006. *David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest: A Reader's Guide* was the first book to be published on the novel and is a key reference for those who wish to explore further. *Infinite Jest* has become an exemplar for difficulty in contemporary Fiction-its 1,079 pages full of verbal invention, oblique narration, and a scattered, nonlinear, chronology. In this comprehensively revised second edition, Burn maps Wallace's influence on contemporary American fiction, outlines Wallace's poetics, and provides a full-length study of the novel, drawing out the most important themes and ideas, before surveying Wallace's post-*Infinite Jest* output, including *The Pale King*.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: *Wallace's Dialects* Mary Shapiro, 2020-05-14 Mary Shapiro explores the use of regional and ethnic dialects in the works of David Foster Wallace, not just as a device used to add realism to dialogue, but as a vehicle for important social commentary about the role language plays in our daily lives, how we express personal identity, and how we navigate social relationships. *Wallace's Dialects* straddles the fields of linguistic criticism and folk linguistics, considering which linguistic variables of Jewish-American English, African-American English, Midwestern, Southern, and Boston regional dialects were salient enough for Wallace to represent, and how he showed the intersectionality of these with gender and social class. Wallace's own use of language is examined with respect to how it encodes his identity as a white, male, economically privileged Midwesterner, while also foregrounding characteristic and distinctive idiolect features that allowed him to connect to readers across implied social boundaries.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: *Brooding* Michael Martone, 2018-03-01 This collection of more than twenty-five essays, both meditative and formally inventive, considers all kinds of subjects: everyday objects such as keys and hats, plus concepts of time and place; the memoir; writing; the essay itself; and Michael Martone's friendship with the writers David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Franzen, and Kurt Vonnegut. Throughout the essays, Martone's style expands with the incorporation of new technological platforms. Several of the pieces were written specifically for online venues, while the essays on the death of Martone's mother and father were written on Facebook while the events happened. One essay about using new technologies in the classroom was written solely in tweets. *Brooding*—the book's title and the title of an essay—draws a parallel between the disappearance of early browsers and the emergence, after seventeen years, of a brood of cicadas. Throughout these essays Martone's words inhabit spaces where the reconnection to people in the past and the metaphors of electronic memory converge.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Axolotl Roadkill Helene Hegemann, 2020-04-13
Helene Hegemanns knallhartes Debüt Die sechzehnjährige Mifti lebt seit dem Tod ihrer Mutter in Berlin und im heranwachsenden Ausnahmezustand. Als ›pseudo-belastungsgestörtes‹ Problemkind tanzt, vögelt und kokst sie sich durch die Hauptstadtszene. Das Besondere an Mifti ist ihre Hypersensibilität und ihr offener, fragender Blick auf eine Elterngeneration, die weder auf sich noch ihre Kinder aufpassen kann. Hin- und hergerissen zwischen Genie und Wahn entlarvt Mifti Sprache, Lebensentwürfe und Konventionen der Erwachsenen als das ›allgemeine Dahinschimmeln‹ ihres wohlstandsverwahrlosten Umfelds.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: SoundMachine Rachel Zucker, 2020-07-28
Through heartbreaking, often comic, genre-non-conforming pieces spanning the past 10 years, Rachel Zucker trains her relentless attention on marriage, motherhood, grief, the need to speak, depression, sex, and many other topics. Part poetry, part memoir, part lyric essay—and not limited by any of these categories—SoundMachine is a book written out of the persistent feeling that the human voice is both a meaningless sound and the only way we know we exist.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: William T. Vollmann Christopher K. Coffman, Daniel Lukes, 2014-12-18 This fascinating, massive, wide-ranging collection that editors Christopher K. Coffman and Daniel Lukes have gathered together into William T. Vollmann: A Critical Companion will soon be recognized as one of those rare critical books for which that egregiously overused term 'groundbreaking' is fully justified. —Larry McCaffery, from the preface of William T. Vollmann: A Critical Companion The essays in this collection make a case for regarding William T. Vollmann as the most ambitious, productive, and important living author in the US. His oeuvre includes not only outstanding work in numerous literary genres, but also global reportage, ethical treatises, paintings, photographs, and many other productions. His reputation as a daring traveler and his fascination with life on the margins have earned him an extra-literary renown unequalled in our time. Perhaps most importantly, his work is exceptional in relation to the literary moment. Vollmann is a member of a group of authors who are responding to the skeptical ironies of postmodernism with a reinvigoration of fiction's affective possibilities and moral sensibilities, but he stands out even among this cohort for his prioritization of moral engagement, historical awareness, and geopolitical scope. Included in this book in addition to twelve scholarly critical essays are reflections on Vollmann by many of his peers, confidantes, and collaborators, including Jonathan Franzen, James Franco, and Michael Glawogger. With a preface by Larry McCaffery and an afterword by Michael Hemmingson, this book offers readings of most of Vollmann's works, includes the first critical engagements with several key titles, and introduces a range of voices from international Vollmann scholarship.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Consider This Chuck Palahniuk, 2020-01-07
Renowned, bestselling novelist Chuck Palahniuk takes us behind the scenes of the writing life, with postcards from decades on the road and incredible examination of the power of fiction and the art of storytelling. In this spellbinding blend of memoir and insight, bestselling author Chuck Palahniuk shares stories and generous advice on what makes writing powerful and what makes for powerful writing. With advice grounded in years of careful study and a keenly observed life, Palahniuk combines practical advice and concrete examples from beloved classics, his own books, and a kitchen-table MFA culled from an evolving circle of beloved authors and artists, with anecdotes, postcards from the road, and much more. Clear-eyed, sensitive, illuminating, and knowledgeable, Consider This is Palahniuk's love letter to stories and storytellers, booksellers and books themselves. Consider it a classic in the making.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows John Koenig, 2021-11-16 Poetically defining emotions we all feel but don't have the words to express, the creator of the popular online project of the same name invites readers on his epic quest to fill the gaps in the language of emotion.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Maximalism in Contemporary American Literature Nick Levey, 2016-11-18 This book begins a new and foundational discussion of

maximalism by investigating how the treatment of detail in contemporary literature impels readers to navigate, tolerate, and enrich the cultural landscape of postindustrial America. It studies the maximalist novels of David Foster Wallace, Nicholson Baker, Thomas Pynchon, and others, considering how overly-detailed writing serves the institutional, emotional, and intellectual needs of contemporary readers and writers. The book argues that maximalist novels not only exceed perceived limits of style, subject matter, and scope, but strive to remake the usefulness of books in contemporary culture, refreshing the act of reading. Levey shows that while these novels are preoccupied with detail and description, they are relatively unconcerned with the traditional goals of representation. Instead, they use detail to communicate particular values and fantasies of intelligence, enthusiasm, and ability attached to the management of complex and excessive information. Whether reinvigorating the banal and trivial in mainstream culture, or soothing anxieties of human insufficiency in the age of automation and the internet, these texts model significant abilities, rather than just objects of significance, and encourage readers to develop habits of reading that complement the demands of an increasingly detailed culture. Drawing upon a diverse range of theoretical schools and cultural texts, including Thing Theory, Marxism, New Formalism, playlists, blogs, and archival manuscripts, the book proposes a new understanding of maximalist writing and a new way of approaching the usefulness of literary objects in contemporary culture.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction

Heather Houser, 2014-06-03 The 1970s brought a new understanding of the biological and intellectual impact of environmental crises on human beings. As efforts to prevent ecological and bodily injury aligned, a new literature of sickness emerged. Ecosickness fiction imaginatively rethinks the link between these forms of threat and the sick body to bring readers to environmental consciousness. Tracing the development of ecosickness through a compelling archive of contemporary U.S. novels and memoirs, *Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction* establishes that we cannot comprehend environmental and medical dilemmas through data alone and must call on the sometimes surprising emotions that literary metaphors, tropes, and narratives deploy. In chapters on David Foster Wallace, Richard Powers, Leslie Marmon Silko, Marge Piercy, Jan Zita Grover, and David Wojnarowicz, Heather Houser shows how narrative affects such as wonder and disgust organize perception of an endangered world and orient us ethically toward it. The study builds the connective tissue between contemporary literature, ecocriticism, affect studies, and the medical humanities. It also positions ecosickness fiction relative to emergent forms of environmentalism and technoscientific innovations such as regenerative medicine and alternative ecosystems. Houser models an approach to contemporary fiction as a laboratory for affective changes that spark or squelch ethical projects.

david foster wallace girl with curious hair: Kindler Kompakt: Amerikanische Literatur, 20. Jahrhundert Frank Kelleter, 2015-09-07 Die Kindler Kompakt Bände präsentieren in handlicher Form die 30 - 40 wichtigsten Autoren und Werke einer Literatur eines Jahrhunderts. Auf 192 Seiten werden sie vorgestellt. Dazu gibt es eine kompakte Einleitung des Herausgebers. Hier werden die Epochen verortet, die großen Linien gezogen, das Wesentliche zusammengefasst. Das alles handlich und in schöner Form, zweifarbige Gestaltung, lesbarer Satz. Schöne literarische Begleiter in allen Lebenslagen - wer Klassiker kauft, wird von Kindler Kompakt begeistert sein!

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