



The Fun Stuff: And Other Essays

James Wood

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Following *The Broken Estate*, *The Irresponsible Self*, and *How Fiction Works*—books that established James Wood as the leading critic of his generation—*The Fun Stuff* confirms Wood's preeminence, not only as a discerning judge but also as an appreciator of the contemporary novel. In twenty-three passionate, sparkling dispatches—that range over such crucial writers as Thomas Hardy, Leon Tolstoy, Edmund Wilson, and Mikhail Lermontov—Wood offers a panoramic look at the modern novel. He effortlessly connects his encyclopedic, passionate understanding of the literary canon with an equally in-depth analysis of the most important authors writing today, including Cormac McCarthy, Lydia Davis, Aleksandar Hemon, and Michel Houellebecq. Included in *The Fun Stuff* are the title essay on Keith Moon and the lost joys of drumming—which was a finalist for last year's National Magazine Awards—as well as Wood's essay on George Orwell, which Christopher Hitchens selected for the *Best American Essays 2010*. *The Fun Stuff* is indispensable reading for anyone who cares about contemporary literature.

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