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Letters 1941-1985 Italo Calvino Italo Calvino (eGalley) *Etty Hermit in Paris Fahrenheit 451* The Letters of Samuel Beckett: Letters 1941-1985 Classics in Progress **Cosmicomics The Secret Life of the Savoy The Distance of the Moon Maker of Patterns: An Autobiography Through Letters** *The Complete Cosmicomics* Letters of James Agee to Father Flye Last Witnesses Letters of E.B. White Nineteen Eighty-Four **The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells Dandelion Wine** *The Unwomanly Face of War Living on Paper Love Letters: Vita and Virginia Before She Met Me Preliminary Inventory of the General Records of the Treasury Department, Record Group 56 Fantastic Tales The Letters of Virginia Woolf Dear Los Angeles The Road This is My Own Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer Ancient Light Yeats and Violence Forbidden Diary Virginia Woolf: The Complete Collection *Into the War Letters to Sartre American Renaissance Frog and Toad Are Friends Italo Calvino**

for the first time novelist iris murdoch s life in her own words from girlhood to her last years iris murdoch was an acclaimed novelist and groundbreaking philosopher whose life reflected her unconventional beliefs and values but what has been missing from biographical accounts has been murdoch s own voice her life in her own words living on paper the first major collection of murdoch s most compelling and interesting personal letters gives for the first time a rounded self portrait of one of the twentieth century s greatest writers and thinkers with more than 760 letters fewer than forty of which have been published before the book provides a unique chronicle of murdoch s life from her days as a schoolgirl to her last years the result is the most important book about murdoch in more than a decade the letters show a great mind at work struggling with philosophical problems trying to bring a difficult novel together exploring spirituality and responding pointedly to world events they also reveal her personal life the subject of much speculation in all its complexity especially in letters to lovers or close friends such as the writers brigid brophy elias canetti and raymond queneau philosophers michael oakeshott and philippa foot and mathematician georg kreisel we witness murdoch s emotional hunger her tendency to live on the edge of what was socially acceptable and her irreverence and sharp sense of humor we also learn how her private life fed into the plots and characters of her novels despite her claims that they were not drawn from reality direct and intimate these letters bring us closer than ever before to iris murdoch as a person making for an extraordinary reading experience the summer of 28 was a vintage season for a growing boy a summer of green apple trees mowed lawns and new sneakers of half burnt firecrackers of gathering dandelions of grandma s belly busting dinner it was a summer of sorrows and marvels and gold fuzzed bees a magical timeless summer in the life of a twelve year old boy named douglas spaulding remembered forever by the incomparable ray bradbury the only god living in green town illinois that douglas spaulding knew of the facts about john huff aged twelve are simple and soon stated he could pathfind more trails than any choctaw or cherokee since time began could leap from the sky like a chimpanzee from a vine could live underwater two minutes and slide fifty yards downstream could hit baseballs into apple trees knocking down harvests could jump six foot orchard walls ran laughing sat easy was not a bully was kind knew the words to all the cowboy songs and would teach you if you asked knew the names of all the wild flowers and when the moon would rise or set and when the tides came in or out he was in fact the only god living in the whole of green town illinois during the twentieth century that douglas spaulding knew of ray bradbury is an authentic original time enchanting stories about the evolution of the universe with characters that are fashioned from

mathematical formulae and cellular structures naturally we were all there old qfwfq said where else could we have been nobody knew then that there could be space or time either what use did we have for time packed in there like sardines translated by william weaver a helen and kurt wolff book letters written during the uprooting and forced relocation of the japanese canadian community in late 1941 this second volume of the letters of samuel beckett opens with the war years when it was often impossible or too dangerous to correspond the surge of letters beginning in 1945 and their variety are matched by the outpouring and the range of beckett s published work primarily written in french and later translated by the author the work includes stories a series of novels molloy malone dies and the unnamable essays and plays most notably waiting for godot the letters chronicle a passionately committed but little known writer evolving into a figure of international reputation and his response to such fame the volume provides detailed introductions which discuss beckett s situation during the war and his crucial move into the french language as well as translations of the letters explanatory notes year by year chronologies profiles of correspondents and other contextual information a long awaited english translation of the groundbreaking oral history of women in world war ii across europe and russia from the winner of the nobel prize in literature named one of the best books of the year by the washington post the guardian npr the economist milwaukee journal sentinel kirkus reviews for more than three decades svetlana alexievich has been the memory and conscience of the twentieth century when the swedish academy awarded her the nobel prize it cited her invention of a new kind of literary genre describing her work as a history of emotions a history of the soul in the unwomanly face of war alexievich chronicles the experiences of the soviet women who fought on the front lines on the home front and in the occupied territories these women more than a million in total were nurses and doctors pilots tank drivers machine gunners and snipers they battled alongside men and yet after the victory their efforts and sacrifices were forgotten alexievich traveled thousands of miles and visited more than a hundred towns to record these women s stories together this symphony of voices reveals a different aspect of the war the everyday details of life in combat left out of the official histories translated by the renowned richard pevear and larissa volokhonsky the unwomanly face of war is a powerful and poignant account of the central conflict of the twentieth century a kaleidoscopic portrait of the human side of war the winner of the nobel prize in literature for her polyphonic writings a monument to suffering and courage in our time a landmark timothy snyder author of on tyranny twenty lessons from the twentieth century an astonishing book harrowing and life affirming it deserves the widest possible readership paula hawkins author of the girl on the train alexievich has gained probably the world s deepest most eloquent understanding of the post soviet condition she has consistently chronicled that which has been intentionally forgotten masha gessen national book award winning author of the future is history delve into a legendary literary love affair i am reduced to a thing that wants virginia i composed a beautiful letter to you in the sleepless nightmare hours of the night and it has all gone i just miss you at a dinner party in 1922 virginia woolf met the renowned author aristocrat and sapphist vita sackville west virginia wrote in her diary that she didn t think much of vita s conversation but she did think very highly of her legs it was to be the start of almost twenty years of flirtation friendship and literary collaboration their correspondence ended only with virginia s death in 1941 intimate and playful these selected letters and diary entries allow us to hear these women s constantly changing feelings for each other in their own words eavesdrop on the affair that inspired virginia to write her most fantastical novel orlando and discover a relationship that even a hundred years later feels radical and relatable with a new introduction from alison bechdel author of fun home and creator of the bechdel test a rich mosaic of diary entries and letters from marilyn monroe cesar chavez susan sontag albert einstein and many more this is the story of los angeles

as told by locals transplants and some just passing through los angeles is refracted in all its irreducible unexplainable glory los angeles times the city of angels has played a distinct role in the hearts minds and imaginations of millions of people who see it as the ultimate symbol of the american dream david kipler a cultural historian and avid scholar of los angeles has scoured libraries archives and private estates to assemble a kaleidoscopic view of a truly unique city from the spanish missionary expeditions in the early 1500s to the golden age of hollywood to the strange new world of social media this collection is a slice of life in l a through the years the pieces are arranged by date january 1st to december 31st featuring selections from different decades and centuries what emerges is a vivid tapestry of insights personal discoveries and wry observations that together distill the essence of the city as sprawling and magical as the city itself dear los angeles is a fascinating must have collection for everyone in from or touched by southern california with excerpts from the writing of ray bradbury edgar rice burroughs octavia e butler italo calvino winston churchill noël coward simone de beauvoir james dean t s eliot william faulkner lawrence ferlinghetti richard feynman f scott fitzgerald allen ginsberg dashiell hammett charlton heston zora neale hurston christopher isherwood john lennon h l mencken anaïs nin sylvia plath ronald reagan joan rivers james thurber dalton trumbo evelyn waugh tennessee williams p g wodehouse and many more advance praise for dear los angeles this book s a brilliant constellation spread out over a few centuries and five thousand square miles each tiny entry pins the reality of the great unreal city of angels to a moment in human time moments enthralled appalled jubilant suffering gossiping or bragging and it turns out there s no better way to paint a picture of the place jonathan lethem a scintillating collection of letters and diary entries an engrossing trove of colorful witty insights publishers weekly starred review i ll croak before i write ads or sell bonds or do anything except write james agee s father died when he was just six years old a loss immortalized in his pulitzer prize winning novel a death in the family three years later agee s mother moved the mourning family from knoxville tennessee to the campus of st andrew s an episcopal boarding school near sewanee there agee met father james harold flye who would become his history teacher though agee was just ten the two struck up an unlikely and enduring friendship traveling europe by bicycle and exchanging letters for thirty years from agee s admission to exeter academy to his death at forty five the intimate letters collected by father flye after agee s death form the most intimate portrait of agee available a starkly revealing account of the internal and external life of a tortured twentieth century genius agee candidly shares his struggles with depression professional failure and a tumultuous personal life that included three wives and four children first published in 1962 letters of james agee to father flye followed the rediscovery of agee s let us now praise famous men and the posthumous publication of a death in the family which won the 1958 pulitzer prize and became a hit Broadway play and film the collection sold prolifically throughout the 1960s and 70s in mass market editions as a new generation of readers discovered the deep talents of the writer dwight macdonald called the most broadly gifted writer of our american generation from the trade paperback edition this volume collects the complete writings of virginia woolf 8 novels 3 biographies 46 short stories 606 essays 1 play her diary and some letters contents the novels the voyage out 1915 night and day 1919 jacob s room 1922 mrs dalloway 1925 to the lighthouse 1927 the waves 1931 the years 1937 between the acts 1941 the biographies orlando a biography 1928 flush a biography 1933 roger fry a biography 1940 the stories monday or tuesday 1921 a haunted house and other short stories 1944 mrs dalloway s party 1973 the complete shorter fiction 1985 the essays the common reader i 1925 a room of one s own 1929 on being ill 1930 the london scene 1931 the common reader ii 1932 three guineas 1938 the death of the moth and other essays 1942 the moment and other essays 1947 the captain s death bed and other essays 1950 granite and rainbow 1958 books

and portraits 1978 women and writing 1979 383 essays from newspapers and magazines see update v 3 0 autobiographical writing a writer s diary 1953 moments of being 1976 the diary vols 1 5 1977 84 see updates v 4 0 v 5 0 and v 6 0 the letters vols 1 6 1975 80 see update v 7 0 v 8 0 v 9 0 and v 10 0 the letters of v w and lytton strachey 1956 see update v 8 0 a passionate apprentice the early journals 1887 1909 1990 see update v 10 0 the play freshwater a comedy both versions 1976 digicat publishing presents to you this special edition of letters to malcolm chiefly on prayer by c s lewis digicat publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind every digicat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format the books are available in print as well as ebooks digicat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature time is a catastrophe perpetual and irreversible science and fiction interweave delightfully in these playful cosmicomic short stories penguin modern fifty new books celebrating the pioneering spirit of the iconic penguin modern classics series with each one offering a concentrated hit of its contemporary international flavour here are authors ranging from kathy acker to james baldwin truman capote to stanislaw lem and george orwell to shirley jackson essays radical and inspiring poems moving and disturbing stories surreal and fabulous taking us from the deep south to modern japan new york s underground scene to the farthest reaches of outer space the study of greco roman civilisation is as exciting and innovative today as it has ever been this intriguing collection of essays by contemporary classicists reveals new discoveries new interpretations and new ways of exploring the experiences of the ancient world through one and a half millennia of literature politics philosophy law religion and art the classical world formed the origin of western culture and thought this book emphasises the many ways in which it continues to engage with contemporary life offering a wide variety of authorial style the chapters range in subject matter from contemporary poets exploitation of greek and latin authors via newly discovered literary texts and art works to modern arguments about ancient democracy and slavery and close readings of the great poets and philosophers of antiquity this engaging book reflects the current rejuvenation of classical studies and will fascinate anyone with an interest in western history these three stories set during the summer of 1940 draw on italo calvino s memories of his own adolescence during the second world war too young to be forced to fight in mussolini s army but old enough to be conscripted into the italian youth brigades the callow narrator of these tales observes the mounting unease of a city girding itself for war the looting of an occupied french town and nighttime revels during a blackout appearing here in its first english translation into the war is one of calvino s only works of autobiographical fiction it offers both a glimpse of this writer s extraordinary life and a distilled dram of his wry ingenious literary voice from cover page 4 one summer day toad was unhappy he had lost the white fourholed big round thick button from his jacket who helped him look for it his best friend frog another day frog was unhappy he was sick in bed and looking green who gave him some tea and told him a story his best friend toad from the first enchanting story to the last these five adventures of two best friends are packed with excitement gaiety and tender affection children will find this book delightful to read and beautiful to look at either story by story or from cover to cover a lifetime of candid reflections from physicist freeman dyson an acute observer of personality and human foibles new york times book review written between 1940 and the late 1970s the postwar recollections of renowned physicist freeman dyson have been celebrated as an historic portrait of modern science and its greatest players including robert oppenheimer richard feynman stephen hawking and hans bethe chronicling the stories of those who were engaged in solving some of the most challenging quandaries of twentieth century physics dyson lends acute insight and profound observations to a life s work spent chasing what einstein called those deep mysteries that nature intends to keep for herself whether reflecting on the

drama of world war ii the moral dilemmas of nuclear development the challenges of the space program or the demands of raising six children dyson s annotated letters reveal the voice of one more creative than almost anyone else of his generation kip thorne an illuminating work in these trying times maker of patterns is an eyewitness account of the scientific discoveries that define our modern age nineteen eighty four 1949 was george orwell s final novel and was completed in difficult conditions shortly before his early death it is one of the most influential and widely read novels of the post war period winner of the pulitzer prize national bestseller 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 from the bestselling author of the passenger 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 look for cormac mccarthy s latest bestselling novels the passenger and stella maris the night can sweat with terror as before we pieced our thoughts into philosophy and planned to bring the world under a rule who are but weasels fighting in a hole w b yeats nineteen hundred and nineteen this is a book about how poetry seen through the instance of a single poem seeks to make sense of a turbulent and dangerous world poetry must introduce order and shape where there is none and also in certain crucial cases remain faithful to the disorder and shapelessness of experience many poems manage the first of these tasks very few manage both w b yeats nineteen hundred and nineteen written and first published in 1921 is one of them it is a work which asks what happens when what is taken to be civilization crumbles what apocalyptic events wait in the wings what are history s victims and executors to do except mock and mourn successive chapters investigate the six parts of the poem connecting them to yeats broader poetic practice his interest in the occult and his changing vision of irish nationalism to the work of other poets irish english russian german and to irish and european history between 1916 the date of the easter uprising in dublin and 1923 the date of the end of the irish civil war theoretical considerations of the shape and meaning of violence both political and religious link the chapters to each other the man Booker prize winning author of the sea gives us a brilliant profoundly moving new novel about an actor in the twilight of his life and his career a meditation on love and loss and on the inscrutable immediacy of the past in our present lives is there any difference between memory and invention that is the question that fuels this stunning novel written with the depth of character the clarifying lyricism and the sly humor that have marked all of john banville s extraordinary works and it is the question that haunts alexander cleave an actor in the twilight of his career and of his life as he plumbs the memories of his first and perhaps only love he fifteen years old the woman more than twice his age the mother of his best friend the situation impossible thrilling devouring and finally devastating and of his daughter lost to a kind of madness of mind and heart that cleave can only fail to understand when his dormant acting career is suddenly inexplicably revived with a movie role portraying a man who may not be who he says he is his young leading lady famous and fragile unwittingly gives him the opportunity to see with aching clarity the chasm that yawns between the doing of a thing and the recollection of what was done ancient

light is a profoundly moving meditation on love and loss on the inscrutable immediacy of the past in our present lives on how invention shapes memory and memory shapes the man it is a book of spellbinding power and pathos from one of the greatest masters of prose at work today this ebook edition includes a reading group guide the only thing i would like to be able to teach is a way of looking in other words a way of being in the world in the end literature cannot teach anything else italo calvino novelist literary critic and editor was also a masterful letter writer whose correspondents included umberto eco primo levi gore vidal and pier paolo pasolini this collection of his extraordinary letters the first in english gives an illuminating insight into his work and life they include correspondence with fellow authors generous encouragement to young writers responses to critics thoughts on literary criticism and literature in general as well as giving glimpses of calvino s role in the antifascist resistance his disenchantment with communism and his travels to america and cuba together they reveal the searching intellect clarity and passionate commitment of a great writer at work translated by martin mclaughlin selected with an introduction by michael wood these letters place calvino in the larger frame of twentieth century italy and provide a showcase for his refined and civil voice letters is a charming addition to the planet calvino a place cluttered with sphinxes chimeras knights spaceships and viscounts both cloven and whole guardian a masterpiece the guardian from the nobel prize winning writer an oral history of children s experiences in world war ii across russia named one of the best books of the year by the washington post for more than three decades svetlana alexievich has been the memory and conscience of the twentieth century when the swedish academy awarded her the nobel prize it cited her for inventing a new kind of literary genre describing her work as a history of emotions a history of the soul bringing together dozens of voices in her distinctive style last witnesses is alexievich s collection of the memories of those who were children during world war ii they had sometimes been soldiers as well as witnesses and their generation grew up with the trauma of the war deeply embedded a trauma that would change the course of the russian nation collectively this symphony of children s stories filled with the everyday details of life in combat reveals an altogether unprecedented view of the war alexievich gives voice to those whose memories have been lost in the official narratives uncovering a powerful hidden history from the personal and private experiences of individuals translated by the renowned richard pevear and larissa volokhonsky last witnesses is a powerful and poignant account of the central conflict of the twentieth century a kaleidoscopic portrait of the human side of war praise for last witnesses there is a special sort of clear eyed humility to alexievich s reporting the guardian a bracing reminder of the enduring power of the written word to testify to pain like no other medium children survive they grow up and they do not forget they are the first and last witnesses the new republic a profound triumph the big issue alexievich excavates and briefly gives prominence to demolished lives and eradicated communities it is impossible not to turn the page impossible not to wonder whom we next might meet impossible not to think differently about children caught in conflict the washington post in the midst of the horrors of the nazi holocaust etty s writings reveal a young jewish woman who celebrated life and remained an undaunted example of courage sympathy and compassion through this splendid translation by arnold j pomerans commissioned by the etty hillesum foundation readers everywhere will resonate with the spirit of this amazing young woman from the critically acclaimed author of the new york times bestseller the confessions of max tivoli comes the impossible lives of greta wells a rapturously romantic story of a woman who finds herself transported to the other lives she might have lived after the death of her beloved twin brother and the abandonment of her long time lover greta wells undergoes electroshock therapy over the course of the treatment greta finds herself repeatedly sent to 1918 1941 and back to the present whisked from the gas lit streets and horse drawn carriages of the west village to a

martini fueled lunch at the oak room in these other worlds greta finds her brother alive and well though fearfully masking his true personality and her former lover is now her devoted husband but will he be unfaithful to her in this life as well greta wells is fascinated by her alter egos in 1941 she is a devoted mother in 1918 she is a bohemian adulteress in this spellbinding novel by andrew sean greer each reality has its own losses its own rewards each extracts a different price which life will she choose as she wrestles with the unpredictability of love and the consequences of even her most carefully considered choices the bestselling booker prize winning author of the sense of an ending delivers a remarkably original and subtle book the new york review of books about the nature of love and jealousy at the start of this fiendishly comic and suspenseful novel a mild mannered english academic chuckles as he watches his wife commit adultery the action takes place before she met him but lines between film and reality past and present become terrifyingly blurred in this sad and funny tour de force from the author of flaubert s parrot letters of e b white touches on a wide variety of subjects including the new yorker editor who became the author s wife their dachshund fred with his look of fake respectability and white s contemporaries from harold ross and james thurber to groucho marx and john updike and later senator edmund s muskie and garrison keillor updated with newly released letters from 1976 to 1985 additional photographs and a new foreword by john updike this unparalleled collection of letters from one of america s favorite essayists poets and storytellers now spans nearly a century from 1908 to 1985 book jacket the captivating story of the famed savoy hotel s founders told through three generations and one hundred years of glamour and high society for the gondoliers themed birthday dinner the hotel obligingly flooded the courtyard to conjure the grand canal of venice dinner was served on a silk lined floating gondola real swans were swimming in the water and as a final flourish a baby elephant borrowed from london zoo pulled a five foot high birthday cake in three generations the doyle carte family and london s savoy hotel pioneered the idea of the luxury hotel and the modern theater propelled gilbert and sullivan to lasting stardom made oscar wilde a transatlantic celebrity inspired a p g wodehouse series and popularized early jazz electric lights and art deco following the history of the iconic savoy hotel through three generations of the doyle carte family the secret life of the savoy brings to life the extraordinary cultural legacy of the most famous hotel in the world together for the first time a new translation of the revered contemporary italian author s short stories describing the beginning of the universe and other natural phenomena builds creative tales around well known scientific facts the extraordinary letters of italo calvino one of the great writers of the twentieth century translated into english for the first time by martin mclaughlin with an introduction by michael wood italo calvino novelist literary critic and editor was also a masterful letter writer whose correspondents included umberto eco primo levi gore vidal and pier paolo pasolini this collection of his extraordinary letters the first in english gives an illuminating insight into his work and life they include correspondence with fellow authors generous encouragement to young writers responses to critics thoughts on literary criticism and literature in general as well as giving glimpses of calvino s role in the antifascist resistance his disenchantment with communism and his travels to america and cuba together they reveal the searching intellect clarity and passionate commitment of a great writer at work this literally marvelous collection of letters shows him to have been gregarious puckish funny combative and above all wonderful company and opens a new and fascinating perspective on one of the master writers of the twentieth century michael wood and martin mclaughlin have done calvino and us a great and loving service john banville a charming addition to the planet calvino a place cluttered with sphinxes chimeras knights spaceships and viscounts both cloven and whole guardian italo calvino one of italy s finest postwar writers was born in cuba in 1923 and grew up in san remo italy best known for his experimental

masterpieces invisible cities and if on a winter's night a traveller he was also a brilliant exponent of allegorical fantasy in works such as the complete cosmicomics he died in siena in 1985 a fireman in charge of burning books meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read depicts a future world in which all printed reading material is burned in these letters de beauvoir tells sartre everything tracing the extraordinary complications of their triangular love life they reveal her not only as manipulative and dependent but also as vulnerable passionate jealous and committed the posthumously published collection hermit in paris draws together an array of italo calvino's autobiographical writings that provide an illuminating and unexpectedly intimate portrait of one of the postwar era's most inventive and fascinating writers in these pages calvino recounts his experiences in italy's antifascist resistance pays homage to his influences traces the evolution of his literary style and in one of the book's most humorous and entertaining sections provides a wry commentary on his travels in the united states in 1959 and 1960 this is the first collection in english of the extraordinary letters of one of the great writers of the twentieth century italy's most important postwar novelist italo calvino 1923 1985 achieved worldwide fame with such books as cosmicomics invisible cities and if on a winter's night a traveler but he was also an influential literary critic an important literary editor and a masterful letter writer whose correspondents included umberto eco primo levi gore vidal leonardo sciascia natalia ginzburg michelangelo antonioni pier paolo pasolini and luciano berio this book includes a generous selection of about 650 letters written between world war ii and the end of calvino's life selected and introduced by michael wood the letters are expertly rendered into english and annotated by well known calvino translator martin mclaughlin the letters are filled with insights about calvino's writing and that of others about italian american english and french literature about literary criticism and literature in general and about culture and politics the book also provides a kind of autobiography documenting calvino's communism and his resignation from the party in 1957 his eye opening trip to the united states in 1959 60 his move to paris where he lived from 1967 to 1980 and his trip to his birthplace in cuba where he met che guevara some lengthy letters amount almost to critical essays while one is an appropriately brief defense of brevity and there is an even shorter reassuring note to his parents written on a scrap of paper while he and his brother were in hiding during the antifascist resistance this is a book that will fascinate and delight calvino fans and anyone else interested in a remarkable portrait of a great writer at work twenty six fantasy tales from the 19th century tracing the genre from its roots in german romanticism to the ghost stories of henry james the editor who prefaces each story analyzes the resurgence of the fantastic in our day this is the first collection in english of the extraordinary letters of one of the great writers of the twentieth century italy's most important postwar novelist italo calvino 1923 1985 achieved worldwide fame with such books as cosmicomics invisible cities and if on a winter's night a traveler but he was also an influential literary critic an important literary editor and a masterful letter writer whose correspondents included umberto eco primo levi gore vidal leonardo sciascia natalia ginzburg michelangelo antonioni pier paolo pasolini and luciano berio this book includes a generous selection of about 650 letters written between world war ii and the end of calvino's life selected and introduced by michael wood the letters are expertly rendered into english and annotated by well known calvino translator martin mclaughlin the letters are filled with insights about calvino's writing and that of others about italian american english and french literature about literary criticism and literature in general and about culture and politics the book also provides a kind of autobiography documenting calvino's communism and his resignation from the party in 1957 his eye opening trip to the united states in 1959 60 his move to paris where he lived from 1967 to 1980 and his trip to his birthplace in cuba where he met che guevara some lengthy letters amount almost to critical essays while one is an

appropriately brief defense of brevity and there is an even shorter reassuring note to his parents written on a scrap of paper while he and his brother were in hiding during the antifascist resistance this is a book that will fascinate and delight calvino fans and anyone else interested in a remarkable portrait of a great writer at work

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