

the five forty eight by john cheever

The Enduring Impact of The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever

the five forty eight by john cheever is a compelling short story that delves deep into themes of power, vulnerability, and human connection. First published in 1954, this narrative continues to resonate with readers thanks to its complex characters and rich psychological insight. John Cheever, often hailed as the "Chekhov of the suburbs," masterfully crafts a tale that explores the darker undercurrents beneath the polished surface of mid-20th century American life.

Understanding the story's nuances and appreciating its literary significance helps to reveal why it remains a staple in discussions of American short fiction. Let's explore the plot, themes, and stylistic elements that make *The Five Forty Eight* by John Cheever such a fascinating work.

Plot Overview of The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever

At its core, *The Five Forty Eight* chronicles a tense encounter between two former colleagues, Blake and Miss Dent. Blake, a successful businessman, is portrayed as a man accustomed to control and social privilege. Miss Dent, once his secretary, now confronts him on a commuter train, setting into motion a moment charged with emotional and psychological intensity.

The story's title refers to the commuter train Blake routinely takes—the 5:48 p.m. train—which becomes the setting for this unexpected confrontation. As Miss Dent reveals past grievances, the narrative explores themes of power imbalance, exploitation, and the consequences of neglecting human dignity.

Key Characters and Their Dynamics

- **Blake**: A representation of corporate America's elite, Blake exhibits detachment and a sense of superiority. His interactions hint at a history of mistreatment toward Miss Dent, underscoring the theme of abuse of power.

- **Miss Dent**: Her quiet dignity masks a simmering pain. Through her actions, Cheever highlights the consequences of emotional trauma and the desire for justice or closure.

Their encounter is not just a personal reckoning but also a reflection on societal structures that enable such imbalances.

Themes Explored in The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever

John Cheever's story is rich with themes that invite readers to probe beneath the surface of everyday life.

Power and Control

One of the most prominent themes is the dynamic of power between employer and employee, man and woman, and abuser and victim. Blake's professional position and social status empower him to dominate Miss Dent, but the story reveals how this power is fragile and ultimately challenged.

Isolation and Alienation

Both characters experience loneliness, albeit in different ways. Blake's detachment from emotional connections contrasts with Miss Dent's isolation stemming from her traumatic past. Cheever's portrayal of suburban life often touches on these feelings of alienation, making this theme central to the story.

Memory and the Past

The story hinges on past events that continue to affect the present. Miss Dent's confrontation forces Blake to face the consequences of his actions, illustrating how unresolved issues can linger and disrupt lives long after the fact.

Stylistic Elements and Literary Techniques

Cheever's storytelling is marked by subtlety and precision. His prose is elegant yet accessible, drawing readers into the psychological depth of the characters.

Use of Setting as Symbolism

The commuter train is more than just a backdrop—it symbolizes transition, routine, and the inescapable movement of life. The 5:48 train represents a moment of reckoning for Blake, interrupting his usual control over his environment.

Dialogue and Internal Monologue

The story skillfully balances dialogue and internal thoughts, allowing readers to understand both characters' perspectives. This dual insight adds complexity to their interaction and fosters empathy.

Ambiguity and Open-Endedness

Cheever avoids neat resolutions, leaving readers to ponder the characters' futures. This ambiguity enhances the story's realism and invites ongoing analysis.

Why The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever Remains Relevant Today

Despite being written over half a century ago, *The Five Forty Eight* continues to resonate for several reasons:

- **Timeless Exploration of Workplace Dynamics**: Issues of harassment, inequality, and abuse of power in professional settings remain topical, making the story's themes pertinent.
- **Psychological Depth**: Cheever's insight into human behavior and emotional complexity appeals to readers interested in character-driven narratives.
- **Suburban Critique**: The story's subtle critique of suburban conformity and emotional repression still finds echoes in modern society.

Tips for Readers Approaching The Five Forty Eight

If you're planning to read or teach this story, consider the following approaches to deepen your understanding:

1. **Pay Attention to Character Motivations**: Reflect on why Miss Dent chooses this moment and place for confrontation and how Blake's reactions reveal his inner conflicts.
2. **Analyze Symbolism**: Look for recurring motifs such as the train, weather, and settings to uncover layers of meaning.
3. **Consider Historical Context**: Understanding the social norms and gender roles of 1950s America can

enrich your interpretation of the characters' actions.

4. ****Discuss Emotional Responses****: Engage with how the story makes you feel and why, as this personal connection often reveals the story's impact.

Exploring Adaptations and Critical Reception

The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever has inspired various adaptations, including television and stage versions, demonstrating its narrative strength and adaptability.

Critics have praised Cheever's ability to blend realism with psychological insight, noting that the story encapsulates the contradictions of American life during the mid-20th century. Its inclusion in anthologies and academic syllabi underscores its literary importance.

Further Reading for Fans of John Cheever

If you appreciate The Five Forty Eight, you might enjoy exploring other Cheever works that explore similar themes:

- ****"The Swimmer"**: Another iconic story that examines suburban life and existential despair.**
- ****"The Enormous Radio"**: A tale about privacy, secrets, and the complexity of human relationships.**
- ****Collections such as "The Stories of John Cheever"**: Offering a broader view of his narrative style and thematic concerns.**

These works collectively provide a richer understanding of Cheever's literary genius.

Immersing yourself in The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever is like peeling back the layers of an ostensibly ordinary life to reveal the tensions and struggles beneath. Its enduring relevance and emotional power continue to engage readers, inviting reflection on the complexities of human relationships and societal expectations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Five Forty Eight' by John Cheever?

The central theme of 'The Five Forty Eight' is the exploration of power dynamics and revenge, particularly focusing on the consequences of emotional neglect and the complexities of human relationships.

Who are the main characters in 'The Five Forty Eight' and what roles do they play?

The main characters are Blake, a successful but emotionally detached businessman, and Miss Dent, his former secretary who seeks confrontation and closure after being fired.

How does John Cheever use setting to enhance the story in 'The Five Forty Eight'?

Cheever uses the urban setting, particularly the commuter train, to symbolize the routine and isolation in Blake's life, creating a confined space that intensifies the tension between characters.

What is the significance of the title 'The Five Forty Eight'?

The title refers to the time of the commuter train Blake takes home, symbolizing the daily monotony and the intersection point where the story's critical encounter unfolds.

How does 'The Five Forty Eight' reflect John Cheever's style and literary concerns?

The story reflects Cheever's style through its focus on suburban life, complex characters, and themes of alienation, identity, and moral ambiguity.

What role does gender play in the dynamics between Blake and Miss Dent?

Gender plays a crucial role, highlighting issues of power imbalance, sexism, and the repercussions of Blake's dismissive and patronizing attitude towards Miss Dent.

How does the story 'The Five Forty Eight' address the theme of accountability?

The story confronts the theme of accountability as Miss Dent forces Blake to face the emotional damage caused by his actions, challenging his detachment and moral blindness.

What is the narrative perspective of 'The Five Forty Eight' and how does it affect the story?

The story is told from a third-person limited perspective, mostly focusing on Blake's thoughts, which allows readers to understand his internal conflicts and biases.

How does John Cheever create suspense in 'The Five Forty Eight'?

Cheever creates suspense through the gradual revelation of Miss Dent's intentions, the confined setting of the train, and the psychological tension between the characters.

What is the resolution of 'The Five Forty Eight' and what message does it convey?

The resolution is ambiguous, with Blake left to confront the consequences of his actions. It conveys a message about the need for empathy and the dangers of emotional neglect.

Additional Resources

The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever: An In-Depth Literary Examination

the five forty eight by john cheever stands as a compelling example of mid-20th-century American short fiction, offering a nuanced exploration of power dynamics, guilt, and human vulnerability. Published initially in *The New Yorker* in 1954, this story occupies a significant place in Cheever's oeuvre, illustrating his deft ability to dissect suburban malaise and the complexities of interpersonal relationships. Through its tight narrative structure and evocative character study, "The Five Forty Eight" invites readers to engage with themes that remain strikingly relevant in contemporary discourse on social hierarchies and personal accountability.

Contextual Background and Publication History

John Cheever, often dubbed "the Chekhov of the suburbs," crafted stories that probe beneath the polished veneer of mid-century American life. "The Five Forty Eight" emerges from this tradition, encapsulating the anxieties and moral ambiguities faced by post-war American society. The story's title refers to a commuter train, symbolizing not only a literal journey but also a metaphorical passage through social and psychological landscapes.

Originally published in a prestigious magazine, the story has since been included in various anthologies and academic collections, cementing its status as a staple in American literature courses. Its enduring appeal lies

in Cheever's subtle interrogation of class and gender roles, as well as his portrayal of alienation in the urban environment.

In-Depth Analysis of The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever

At its core, "The Five Forty Eight" revolves around the interaction between two characters: Blake, a successful but morally flawed businessman, and Miss Dent, a former employee whose life he has adversely affected. Cheever employs a third-person limited point of view, allowing readers intimate access to Blake's inner thoughts while maintaining an element of suspense through Miss Dent's inscrutability.

Character Dynamics and Power Imbalance

The story deftly exposes the unequal power relations between Blake and Miss Dent. Blake embodies corporate authority and privilege, while Miss Dent represents the marginalized working class, specifically women in vulnerable employment positions during the 1950s. Their encounter on the commuter train — the five forty-eight — becomes a tense confrontation where past grievances resurface.

Cheever uses this setting to highlight the societal structures that enable exploitation and silencing of women. Miss Dent's quiet but persistent pursuit of Blake culminates in an ambiguous climax, forcing Blake—and the reader—to reckon with the consequences of his actions.

Thematic Exploration: Guilt and Retribution

One of the prevailing themes in "The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever" is guilt, interwoven with the concept of retribution. Blake's internal conflict reveals a man haunted by his past misdeeds, particularly his dismissal of Miss Dent, whose life was destabilized as a result. The story does not offer a simplistic resolution but rather presents a nuanced portrayal of how guilt operates psychologically.

Miss Dent's role can be interpreted as both victim and agent of justice. Her pursuit is not overtly violent but charged with moral authority, challenging Blake's complacency. This dynamic raises questions about accountability in personal and professional contexts, a topic that remains pertinent in contemporary conversations about workplace ethics and gender relations.

Symbolism and Motifs

Cheever's narrative is rich with symbolic elements that deepen the story's meaning. The train itself

functions as a motif representing transition, escape, and confrontation. The mechanical regularity of the five forty-eight train contrasts sharply with the emotional turbulence between the characters.

Additionally, weather and urban imagery are employed to mirror the characters' psychological states. The cold, impersonal cityscape reinforces themes of alienation and anonymity, underscoring the isolation experienced by both Blake and Miss Dent despite their physical proximity.

Stylistic Features and Narrative Techniques

John Cheever's writing style in "The Five Forty Eight" demonstrates his mastery of economy and precision. The story's pacing maintains tension without resorting to melodrama, and his descriptive choices evoke a palpable atmosphere of unease.

Use of Dialogue and Internal Monologue

Dialogue in the story is sparse but loaded with subtext, revealing character motivations subtly. Cheever balances external conversations with Blake's internal monologue, which exposes his rationalizations and insecurities. This technique creates a layered narrative that engages readers in psychological interpretation.

Setting as a Character

Beyond mere backdrop, the setting in "The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever" operates almost as a character itself. The commuter train, office environments, and urban streets all contribute to the story's mood and thematic resonance. The confined space of the train carriage heightens the claustrophobia and inevitability of confrontation, while the corporate offices symbolize impersonal modernity and systemic indifference.

Comparative Insights and Literary Significance

When juxtaposed with other works by John Cheever, such as "The Swimmer" or "The Enormous Radio," "The Five Forty Eight" shares thematic preoccupations with suburban disillusionment and moral ambiguity. However, this story is particularly notable for its focused critique of workplace dynamics and gendered power.

In the broader landscape of American literature, "The Five Forty Eight" aligns with contemporaneous explorations of existential angst and social critique, akin to the works of Richard Yates and John Updike. Its

inclusion in literary curricula underscores its value as a text that challenges readers to examine ethical complexities beneath everyday interactions.

Pros and Cons in Literary Appreciation

- **Pros:** Concise yet profound narrative; rich symbolism; powerful social commentary on gender and class; effective use of setting and psychological depth.
- **Cons:** Ambiguous ending may frustrate readers seeking closure; some may find the pacing slow compared to more plot-driven stories; requires careful reading to appreciate subtleties.

The Relevance of The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever Today

Despite its mid-20th-century origins, "The Five Forty Eight" resonates with modern audiences due to its exploration of themes like workplace harassment, power abuse, and psychological trauma. The story anticipates contemporary discussions about gender dynamics and accountability that continue to dominate cultural conversations.

Moreover, Cheever's portrayal of urban isolation and the facades maintained in public and private spheres speaks to ongoing human experiences in increasingly complex social environments. Its psychological realism and social critique contribute to its status as a timeless piece of literature.

Through this lens, "The Five Forty Eight by John Cheever" remains a vital text for understanding not only the historical context of its creation but also the persistent undercurrents shaping human relationships and societal structures.

The Five Forty Eight By John Cheever

the five forty eight by john cheever: *John Cheever* Harold Bloom, 2009 Critics examine the Cheever's short stories The Country Husband, Goodbye, My Brother, and The Five-Forty-Eight.

the five forty eight by john cheever: Cheever Short Stories; The Five Forty-eight John Cheever,

the five forty eight by john cheever: Technique and Sensibility in the Fiction and Poetry of Raymond Carver Arthur F. Bethea, 2013-04-03 A comprehensive examination of the fiction and poetry of Raymond Carver.

the five forty eight by john cheever: A Hundred Acres of America Michael Hoberman, 2019 In

A Hundred Acres of America: The Geography of Jewish American Literary History, Michael Hoberman introduces cultural geography as an alternative approach to the immigrant model. Cultural geography allows Hoberman to restore Jewish American writers to their roles as important, active members of the American literary landscape from the 1850s to the present, and to argue that Jewish history, American literary history, and the inhabitation of American geography are, and always have been, contiguous entities. A Hundred Acres of America makes its case by investigating both canonical and extra-canonical literary depictions of six geographies: the frontier, the small town, the urban, the suburban, America as seen from Europe, and Israel as seen from America. Hoberman reads dozens of representative texts closely, and analyzes a wide range of authors, from frontier-era memoirists and turn-of-the-century native-born reformers to contemporary novelists. He adroitly demonstrates that Jewish American authors are not only present throughout American literary history, but actively shaped this history with writings that often subverted or contradicted the ways their non-Jewish peers depicted these geographies--

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Wiley Guide to Writing Essays About Literature* Prof. Paul Headrick, 2013-10-07 This outstanding practical guide to writing analytical essays on literature develops interpretive skills through focused exercises and modeled examples. The program is tailored to meet the specific needs of beginning undergraduates. Features unique, detailed guidance on paragraph structure Includes sample essays throughout to model each stage of the essay-writing process Focused exercises develop the techniques outlined in each chapter Dedicated checklists enable quick, accurate assessment by teachers and students Enhanced glossary with advice on usage added to core definitions

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Alfred Hitchcock Encyclopedia* Stephen Whitty, 2016-06-09 Several decades after his last motion picture was produced, Alfred Hitchcock is still regarded by critics and fans alike as one of the masters of cinema. From silents of the 1920s to his final feature in 1976, the director's many films continue to entertain audiences and inspire filmmakers. In *The Alfred Hitchcock Encyclopedia*, film critic Stephen Whitty provides a detailed overview of the director's work. This reference volume features in-depth critical entries on each of his major films as well as biographical essays on his most frequent collaborators and discussions of significant themes in his work. For this book, Whitty draws on primary-source materials such as interviews he conducted with associates of the director—including screenwriter Jay Presson Allen (Marnie), actresses Eva Marie Saint (North by Northwest) and Kim Novak (Vertigo), actor Farley Granger (Strangers on a Train), actor and producer Norman Lloyd (Saboteur), and Hitchcock's daughter Patricia (Stage Fright; Psycho)—among others. Encompassing the entire range of the director's career—from early influences and silent films to his decade-long television show and cameos in nearly every feature—this is a comprehensive overview of cinema's ultimate showman. A detailed and lively look at the master of suspense, *The Alfred Hitchcock Encyclopedia* will be of interest to professors, students, and the many fans of the director's work.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *Wonderful Town* David Remnick, 2007-12-18 New York City is not only *The New Yorker* magazine's place of origin and its sensibility's lifeblood, it is the heart of American literary culture. *Wonderful Town*, an anthology of superb short fiction by many of the magazine's most accomplished contributors, celebrates the seventy-five-year marriage between a preeminent publication and its preeminent context with this collection of forty-four of its best stories from (so to speak) home. East Side? Philip Roth's chronically tormented alter ego Nathan Zuckerman has just moved there, in *Smart Money*. West Side? Isaac Bashevis Singer's narrator mingles with the customers in *The Cafeteria* (who debate politics and culture in four or five different languages) and becomes embroiled in an obsessional romance. And downtown, John Updike's Maples have begun their courtship of marital disaster, in *Snowing in Greenwich Village*. *Wonderful Town* touches on some of the city's famous places and stops at some of its more obscure corners, but the real guidebook in and between its lines is to the hearts and the minds of those who populate the metropolis built by its pages. Like all good fiction, these stories take particular places, particular people, and particular events and turn them into dramas of universal enlightenment and emotional

impact. Each life in it, and each life in *Wonderful Town*, is the life of us all. Including these stories from the magazine's most iconic writers: "The Five-Fourty-Eight" by John Cheever "Distant Music" by Ann Beattie "Sailor off the Bremen" by Irwin Shaw "Physics" by Tama Janowitz "The Whore of Mensa" by Woody Allen "What it was Like, Seeing Chris" by Deborah Eisenberg "Drawing Room B" by John O'Hara "A Sentimental Journey" by Peter Taylor "The Balloon" by Donald Barthelme "Another Marvellous Thing" by Laurie Colwin "The Failure" by Jonathan Franzen "Apartment Hotel" by Sally Benson "Midair" by Frank Conroy "The Catbird Seat" by James Thurber "I See You, Bianca" by Maeve Brennan "You're Ugly, Too" by Lorrie Moore "Signs and Symbols" by Vladimir Nabokov "Poor Visitor" by Jamaica Kincaid "In Greenwich, There Are Many Gravelled Walks" by Hortense Calisher "Some Nights When Nothing Happens Are the Best Nights in this Place" by John McNulty "Slight Rebellion Off Madison" by J. D. Salinger "Brownstone" by Renata Adler "Partners" by Veronica Geng "The Evolution of Knowledge" by Niccolo Tucci "The Way We Live Now" by Susan Sontag "Do the Windows Open?" by Julie Hecht "The Mentocrats" by Edward Newhouse "The Treatment" by Daniel Menaker "Arrangement in Black and White" by Dorothy Parker "Carlyle Tries Polygamy" by William Melvin Kelley "Children Are Bored on Sunday" by Jean Stafford "Notes from a Bottle" by James Stevenson "Man in the Middle of the Ocean" by Daniel Fuchs "Me Spoulets of the Splendide" by Ludwig Bemelmans "Over by the River" by William Maxwell "Baster" by Jeffrey Eugenides "The Second Tree from the Corner" by E. B. White "Rembrandt's Hat" by Bernard Malamud "Shot: A New York Story" by Elizabeth Hardwick "A Father-To-Be" by Saul Bellow "Farewell, My Lovely Appetizer" by S. J. Perelman "Water Child" by Edwidge Danticat "The Smoker" by David Schickler

the five forty eight by john cheever: Companion to Literature Abby H. P. Werlock, 2009
Praise for the previous edition: Booklist/RBB Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers RUSA/ALA Outstanding Reference Source ... useful ... Recommended for public libraries and undergraduates.

the five forty eight by john cheever: American Literary Minimalism Robert C. Clark, 2014
Many of the authors Robert Clark discusses have yet to be recognized for their individual contributions to the emergence and continuing vitality of the movement. *School of Images* is organized based on chronology and lines of influence. In the introduction, Clark offers a definition of the mode and then describes its early stages. He then explores six works that reflect the core characteristics of the mode: Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time*, Raymond Carver's *Cathedral*, Susan Minot's *Monkeys*, Jay McInerney's *Bright Lights, Big City*, Sandra Cisneros's *Caramelo*, and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. In the conclusion, he discusses contemporary authors and filmmakers whose work represents the ongoing evolution of the category-- Provided by publisher.

the five forty eight by john cheever: Sidney Lumet Frank R. Cunningham, 2021-10-21
Since 1957, Sidney Lumet, the most prolific American director of his generation, has deepened audiences' awareness of social, ethical, and feminist issues through such distinguished films as *12 Angry Men*, *The Verdict*, *Running on Empty*, and *Critical Care*. Especially praised for his literary adaptations—including *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Murder on the Orient Express*—Lumet has also directed such trenchant urban films as *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Serpico*, and *Network*. In this new edition Frank Cunningham expands his analysis of Lumet's earlier films and examines his most recent work, from *A Stranger Among Us* (1992) to *Gloria* (1999). Also new to this edition are discussions of five other films, including *The Appointment*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *Running on Empty*. Cunningham studies in depth over thirty of Lumet's most significant films and surveys other films and the television productions to reveal their enduring artistic and humanistic importance.

the five forty eight by john cheever: The Subversive Storyteller Michelle Pacht, 2009-01-14
The Subversive Storyteller: The Short Story Cycle and the Politics of Identity in America examines how nineteenth- and twentieth-century American authors adapted and expanded the short story cycle to convey subversive or controversial ideas without alienating readers and threatening their ability to succeed within the literary marketplace. The twelve authors highlighted here come from a wide range of cultural, racial, and geographic backgrounds. Their texts represent different, more

advanced stages in the development of the short story cycle as each exploits the fragmentation and inherent lack of cohesion of the genre to reflect the changing realities of life in America during key moments in its history. In tracing the development of the short story cycle through the first two centuries of America's literary tradition, *The Subversive Storyteller* fills a gap in existing scholarship on the genre. It examines how short story cycles by Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sarah Orne Jewett, Charles W. Chesnutt, Willa Cather, Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Raymond Carver, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Louise Erdrich are held together, the publication history of each text (the parts as well as the whole), the revisions made by both authors and editors, and the state of the literary profession at the time each was written.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Theater of Terrence McNally* Raymond-Jean Frontain, 2019-10-04 Terrence McNally's canon of plays, books for musicals and opera libretti possesses such a breadth of subject matter and diversity of dramatic modes that critics have had difficulty assessing his accomplishment. This book is the first critical study to identify the four major stages of McNally's development in terms of his understanding of how theater helps the modern person trapped in a seemingly profane existence to find a gateway to the transcendent. Drawing upon such diverse religious thinkers as Martin Buber, Mircea Eliade, Ilia Delio and Carter Heyward, Frontain analyzes the evolution of McNally's understanding of grace, not as a gift bestowed by an all-powerful deity upon a desperate soul, but as the unwarranted—and, thus, all the more unusual—"act of devotion" (McNally's phrase) that one person performs for another. By seeking to foment community, most importantly at the height of the AIDS pandemic, McNally's theater itself proves to be a channel of grace. McNally's greatest success is shown to be the creation of a theater of empathy and compassion in contradistinction to Artaud's "theater of cruelty" and Albee's Americanization of the theater of the absurd.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Martini* Barnaby Conrad, 1995-04 The martini was and still is more than just a cocktail. This first-of-its-kind book serves up a fabulous cocktail of martini-inspired art, cartoons, collectibles, advertisements, and film stills that reveal how deeply this classic has permeated every aspect of American culture. 150 illustrations, many in color.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *Thematic Guide to Popular Short Stories* Patrick A. Smith, 2002-10-30 Providing easy access to information on nearly 450 short stories, this unique guide surveys a wide spectrum of world literature, canonical works, and contemporary fiction. Librarians and teachers will find multiple purposes for this expertly-compiled resource, which can be employed in much the same way as a standard bibliography. Educators will appreciate the concise annotations, arranged alphabetically by author, that form the core of this work. Insightful critical statements synthesize plot summaries and identify the thematic content of each short story. A theme guide utilizes the nearly 100 theme headings matching those at the start of each entry, allowing the user to quickly locate story titles on related themes and construct reading lists based on individual interests and needs. Another component designed to aid librarians offers one bibliography that lists the anthologies from which the stories are drawn (Works Cited) and one comprised of a number of recent anthologies that can be adapted for the classroom (Further Reading). In addition to the theme index, the general subject and author indexes make this a user-friendly and invaluable resource.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Complete Book of Swimming* Phillip Whitten, 2012-03-07 The all-purpose guide to swimming, for beginners and experts alike, that will help make you fitter, faster, more efficient, and more knowledgeable about this wonderful sport. *The Complete Book of Swimming* is written for those folks who want to become physically fit and stay physically for the rest of their lives; for folks who are seeking to enhance their lives. There are chapters on the different strokes that provide the "how-to" information people need to get started. Equally important are the chapters that answer such questions as Why should I swim? Why swimming and not some other sport? How can swimming improve my health? How can it enhance my life? How will I become a better person—more vital, more competent, vigorous, sexy . . . alive by swimming? Praise for *The Complete Book of Swimming* "Phil Witten not only explains the 'how to' of swimming in clear, easy-to-understand language, but he also explains the 'why' of swimming: why swimming can make

you healthier, happier, and sexier, and can make you feel younger. If *The Complete Book of Swimming* doesn't convince you that swimming is the best thing you could possibly do for your health, then nothing will."—Mark Spitz "Finally a book has been written that will put swimming on the map for the general public. Phil Whitten combines a storyteller's gift for creating excitement with scientific knowledge and personal experience. *The Complete Book of Swimming* is a must read for swimmers (and coaches) at every level, and for anyone interested in lifelong fitness and health."—Skip Kennedy, Olympic coaching staff, men's swimming; men's swimming coach, Stanford University (NCAA champions) "Dr. Whitten has written the perfect all-purpose guide. It's a useful tool for both experienced swimmers who want to improve, and for rookies who aren't sure where to begin. *The Complete Book of Swimming* is an invaluable source for all aging baby boomers."—Karen Allen, *USA Today* "Passion arouses passion, and Dr. Whitten surely cannot fail to persuade aspiring swimmers of all ages and abilities that the sport of swimming is the way to a healthier, happier existence. This is a splendid invitation to beginners, while offering a clearer insight to those who have already donned their suits and goggles. The writing is instructive and entertaining, and the illustrations depict the very latest techniques used in the pool."—Craig Lord, *The Times* (London)

the five forty eight by john cheever: *Vanished Act* James Reidel, 2007-03-01 Critic, novelist, filmmaker, jazz musician, painter, and, above all, poet, Weldon Kees performed, practiced, and published with the best of his generation of artists—the so-called middle generation, which included Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, and John Berryman. His dramatic disappearance (a probable suicide) at the age of forty-one, his movie-star good looks, his role in various movements of the day, and his shifting relationships with key figures in the arts have made him one of the more intriguing—and elusive—artists of the time. In this long-awaited biography, James Reidel presents the first full account of Kees's troubled yet remarkably accomplished life. Reidel traces Kees's career from his birth in 1914 and boyhood in Beatrice, Nebraska, to his stint as an award-winning short-story writer and novelist, his rise as a poet and critic in New York, his branching off into abstract expressionism, jazz music, and theater, and his experimental and scientific filmmaking and photography. Going beyond the cult status that has grown up around Kees over the years, this work fairly and judiciously places him as a cultural adventurer at a particularly rich and significant moment in postwar twentieth-century America.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *Rebels in White Gloves* Miriam Horn, 2011-05-04 When the women of the Wellesley class of 1969 entered the ivory tower, they were initiated into a rarefied world. Many were daughters of privilege, many were going for their MRS. But by the time they graduated four years later, they faced a world turned upside down by the Pill, NOW, student protests, the counterculture, and the Vietnam War. In this social history, Miriam Horn retraces the lives of women caught on a historic cusp. This generation was the first to test-drive modern rules that remain complicated and contentious regarding sexuality, marriage, motherhood, paid work, spirituality, aging, and the difficulties of reconciling public and private life. The result is a story of uncommon subtleties and vibrancy that reflects this generation's fateful choices.

the five forty eight by john cheever: *The Virgins* Pamela Erens, 2013-08-06 It's 1979, and Aviva Rossner and Seung Jung are notorious at Auburn Academy. They're an unlikely pair at an elite East Coast boarding school (she's Jewish; he's Korean American) and hardly shy when it comes to their sexuality. Aviva is a formerly bookish girl looking for liberation from an unhappy childhood; Seung is an enthusiastic dabbler in drugs and a covert rebel against his demanding immigrant parents. In the minds of their titillated classmates—particularly that of Bruce Bennett-Jones—the couple lives in a realm of pure, indulgent pleasure. But, as is often the case, their fabled relationship is more complicated than it seems: despite their lust and urgency, their virginity remains intact, and as they struggle to understand each other, the relationship spirals into disaster. *The Virgins* is the story of Aviva and Seung's descent into confusion and shame, as re-imagined in richly detailed episodes by their classmate Bruce, a once-embittered voyeur turned repentant narrator. With unflinching honesty and breathtaking prose, Pamela Erens brings a fresh voice to the tradition of the great boarding school novel.

the five forty eight by john cheever: Secondary English Rod Quin, Duncan Driver, 2020-09-22 Secondary English is a comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of teaching English in secondary schools for pre-service teachers. Written by highly accomplished English teachers, the book's practical approach to language, literacy and literature, fosters the skills of assessment, unit planning and teaching strategies.

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