

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil

Author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*: The Life and Legacy of John Berendt

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil is a phrase that often leads readers and curious minds to John Berendt, the American writer responsible for one of the most captivating works of narrative nonfiction in recent decades. This book, "*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*," mesmerized audiences with its unique blend of true crime, Southern Gothic atmosphere, and richly drawn characters from Savannah, Georgia. But who exactly is John Berendt, and what inspired him to craft such an enduring literary masterpiece? Let's explore the life, career, and impact of the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

John Berendt: The Man Behind the Book

John Berendt is not your typical crime writer. Unlike many authors who focus strictly on fiction or investigative journalism, Berendt carved out a niche through his distinctive style of narrative nonfiction—a genre that reads like a novel but is grounded in real events. Born in 1939 in Syracuse, New York, Berendt's journey to literary fame was shaped by his early interest in writing and storytelling.

After graduating from Harvard University, he moved into the world of magazine journalism, working for prestigious publications like *The New Yorker*. This background honed his skills in observation, concise prose, and character-driven narratives—elements that would later shine in his most famous book. His experience reporting on diverse people and places helped him develop the keen eye for detail and atmosphere that defines "*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*."

What Makes the Author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* Unique?

John Berendt's writing is often praised for its ability to transport readers into the heart of Savannah's eccentric society. The author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* didn't just recount facts; he infused his narrative with a vivid sense of place and personality, making the city itself almost a character in the story. This approach set the book apart from typical true crime stories.

Blending True Crime with Southern Charm

At its core, "*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*" revolves around the murder trial of Jim Williams, a Savannah antiques dealer accused of killing a man in a dispute. Yet, Berendt's storytelling transcends the crime itself. He dives deep into the city's social fabric, exploring themes of class, culture, and the mystique of the American South. This makes the book appealing not only to true crime enthusiasts but also to readers interested in Southern culture and human drama.

Character Portraits That Bring Savannah to Life

One of the hallmarks of the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is his talent for character sketches. Berendt introduces readers to a colorful cast: from local socialites and voodoo practitioners to eccentric artists and flamboyant personalities. Each figure is painted with warmth, curiosity, and complexity, making the book feel like a guided tour through Savannah's hidden corners.

Background and Influences of John Berendt

Understanding the influences that shaped the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* sheds light on his narrative approach. Berendt's early life and career contributed significantly to his storytelling style.

From Journalism to Narrative Nonfiction

John Berendt's background in journalism is crucial. Working for *The New Yorker*, he developed a knack for detailed reporting and in-depth profiles, skills that translated perfectly into his later work. Unlike traditional journalists, Berendt took a more literary approach, crafting scenes and dialogues that read like fiction but stayed faithful to real events. This narrative nonfiction style was gaining popularity in the 1980s and 1990s, and Berendt's book became a landmark example of the genre.

The Allure of Savannah

Berendt first visited Savannah in the early 1980s and found the city irresistible. Its blend of history, beauty, mystery, and eccentricity offered endless material for storytelling. The Southern Gothic atmosphere—complete with grand mansions, moss-draped oaks, and a palpable sense of tradition mixed with intrigue—captivated him. This setting became the perfect backdrop for his exploration of human nature and crime.

Impact and Legacy of the Author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

The publication of "*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*" in 1994 was a cultural phenomenon. The book remained on *The New York Times* bestseller list for over two years, a testament to its wide appeal and enduring fascination.

Revitalizing Savannah's Tourism

One unexpected outcome of Berendt's work was the boost it gave to Savannah's tourism industry.

Readers from around the world flocked to the city, eager to see the places and meet the kinds of people described in the book. Walking tours, themed restaurants, and even annual festivals celebrate the book's legacy, showing how the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* influenced real-world culture.

Film Adaptation

In 1997, Clint Eastwood directed a film adaptation of the book, starring Kevin Spacey as Jim Williams. Although the movie took some liberties with the story, it further cemented the book's place in popular culture. The film introduced Berendt's work to a broader audience and highlighted his skill in creating compelling, cinematic narratives.

John Berendt's Later Works

While "*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*" remains Berendt's most famous work, the author continued to explore similar themes in his later books, such as "*The City of Falling Angels*," which investigates the aftermath of a fire at Venice's La Fenice opera house. His ongoing fascination with unique cities and their inhabitants reflects the same curiosity and narrative flair that made his first bestseller so successful.

Tips for Readers Interested in John Berendt's Writing

If you're intrigued by the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and want to dive deeper into his style and subjects, here are some tips:

- **Explore Savannah's history:** Understanding the city's background enriches your reading experience, as Berendt's narrative often references local lore and traditions.
- **Read narrative nonfiction:** If you enjoy Berendt's blend of fact and storytelling, try other works in the genre by authors like Truman Capote or Erik Larson.
- **Pay attention to characters:** Berendt excels in character development, so focus on the personalities and relationships that drive the story.
- **Watch the film adaptation:** While different from the book, the movie offers a visual sense of the setting and mood Berendt described.

Why the Author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and*

Evil Still Matters

John Berendt's contribution to literature goes beyond a single bestselling book. He helped popularize narrative nonfiction as a genre that can both entertain and inform. His ability to capture the essence of a place and its people, combined with a compelling true crime story, paved the way for many writers who followed.

Moreover, Berendt's work reminds us of the power of storytelling to reveal deeper truths about human nature and society. The author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* invites readers to look beyond the surface, to appreciate complexity, and to find beauty in the unexpected.

In an age where true crime stories abound, Berendt's book stands out for its elegance, empathy, and literary quality. For those curious about the man behind this remarkable work, exploring John Berendt's life and writing offers valuable insight into how a single book can change the way we see a city — and the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'?

The author of *'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'* is John Berendt.

What genre does John Berendt's 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' belong to?

'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' is a non-fiction work that blends true crime with a narrative style often associated with novels.

When was 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' published?

The book was published in 1994.

What inspired John Berendt to write 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'?

John Berendt was inspired by his fascination with Savannah, Georgia, and a sensational murder trial that took place there.

Did John Berendt write any other notable books after 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'?

Yes, John Berendt also wrote *'The City of Falling Angels,'* published in 2005, which explores Venice,

Italy.

How was John Berendt's writing style in 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' received by critics?

Critics praised Berendt's narrative style for its engaging storytelling and vivid portrayal of Savannah's social life.

Is John Berendt a native of Savannah, the setting of 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'?

No, John Berendt is originally from Syracuse, New York, but he spent several years in Savannah researching and writing the book.

Has 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' been adapted into other media?

Yes, the book was adapted into a film in 1997, directed by Clint Eastwood.

What impact did John Berendt's 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' have on Savannah?

The book brought international attention to Savannah, boosting tourism and interest in the city's culture and history.

Additional Resources

The Author of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Deep Dive into John Berendt's Literary Craft

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil John Berendt has etched his name into contemporary American literature with a unique blend of narrative journalism and Southern Gothic storytelling. Known primarily for his bestselling book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," Berendt stands out as an author who masterfully captures the essence of place, character, and atmosphere, setting a high bar for non-fiction narrative writing. This article explores the background, style, and impact of John Berendt, shedding light on why the author has become synonymous with the atmospheric and intricate storytelling that defines his most famous work.

Background and Early Career of John Berendt

John Berendt was born in 1939 in Syracuse, New York, and later attended Harvard University where he honed his writing skills. Before becoming an acclaimed author, Berendt worked as a magazine editor and writer, contributing to notable publications such as Esquire. His journalistic background profoundly influenced his approach to storytelling, blending rigorous research with compelling narrative techniques. The author of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil transitioned from

magazine writing to book authorship, bringing with him a keen eye for detail and an ability to weave complex human stories into engaging prose.

Berendt's work is often described as "literary non-fiction," a genre that requires meticulous fact-gathering combined with the narrative flair of fiction. This balance is particularly evident in "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," where the author constructs a vivid portrait of Savannah, Georgia, through the lens of a sensational murder trial intertwined with eccentric local characters.

Understanding the Literary Style of the Author of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

One of the defining features of John Berendt's writing is his capacity to immerse readers in a richly detailed setting. As the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, Berendt crafts Savannah not just as a backdrop but as a living, breathing entity that shapes the narrative. His prose is evocative and atmospheric, often employing descriptive language that appeals to the senses and emotions.

Berendt's narrative technique combines investigative journalism with character-driven storytelling, allowing readers to engage with the story on multiple levels. The book's blend of true crime, social commentary, and cultural exploration exemplifies the author's skill in crossing genre boundaries, which has contributed to the work's broad appeal.

The Role of Characterization and Setting

Central to Berendt's success is his ability to develop memorable characters who embody the peculiarities and complexities of their environment. The author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* introduces a cast of local personalities, from the flamboyant antiques dealer Jim Williams to the enigmatic Lady Chablis. These figures are not merely anecdotal but serve as conduits through which Berendt explores broader themes of morality, justice, and Southern tradition.

The setting of Savannah itself is integral to the story's atmosphere. Berendt's vivid descriptions of the city's architecture, social rituals, and cultural contrasts create a textured narrative that transcends simple reportage. The interplay between place and people is a hallmark of his writing, making the locale almost a character in its own right.

Impact and Reception of John Berendt's Work

Since its publication in 1994, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" has enjoyed remarkable commercial and critical success. The book remained on The New York Times bestseller list for an unprecedented 216 weeks, an indicator of its enduring popularity. The author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* received praise for bringing a fresh narrative style to true crime literature, moving away from procedural recounting toward a more immersive experience.

The book's influence extended beyond literature into film; Clint Eastwood directed the 1997 movie

adaptation, further cementing Berendt's cultural impact. The author's ability to create a narrative that appeals to readers interested in crime, culture, and Southern life showcases his versatility and depth.

Pros and Cons of Berendt's Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** Berendt's immersive storytelling and richly drawn characters provide a captivating reading experience that appeals to a wide audience. His journalistic integrity combined with narrative flair sets a benchmark for literary non-fiction.
- **Cons:** Some critics argue that Berendt's blending of fact and narrative embellishment blurs the lines between journalism and fiction, raising questions about the accuracy of certain portrayals. Additionally, the focus on eccentric characters might overshadow deeper socio-political analysis.

The Author's Subsequent Works and Legacy

Following the success of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," John Berendt continued to explore unique cultural landscapes in his later works, such as "The City of Falling Angels," which delves into Venice, Italy's mystique and tragedies. This continuation of place-centric narrative non-fiction demonstrates his commitment to exploring environments rich in history and human drama.

Berendt's legacy as the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* lies in his pioneering approach to true crime storytelling. His work has inspired contemporary authors to adopt a more literary and immersive style, blending meticulous research with creative narrative techniques.

Through his careful balance of fact and storytelling, Berendt has expanded the possibilities of non-fiction writing. The author's influence is evident in the growing popularity of narrative non-fiction and true crime genres that prioritize atmosphere and character development alongside factual recounting.

The enduring fascination with John Berendt's work reflects a broader cultural interest in stories that delve beneath the surface of communities and individuals. His ability to transform real events into compelling narratives continues to resonate with readers seeking both entertainment and insight into the human condition.

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author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*
John Berendt, 1994-01-13 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A modern classic of true crime, set in a most beguiling Southern city—now in a 30th anniversary edition with a new afterword by the author The basis for the upcoming Broadway musical, coming in 2025! "Elegant and wicked . . . might be the first true-crime book that makes the reader want to book a bed and breakfast for an

extended weekend at the scene of the crime.”—The New York Times Book Review Shots rang out in Savannah’s grandest mansion in the misty, early morning hours of May 2, 1981. Was it murder or self-defense? For nearly a decade, the shooting and its aftermath reverberated throughout this hauntingly beautiful city of moss-hung oaks and shaded squares. In this sharply observed, suspenseful, and witty narrative, John Berendt skillfully interweaves a hugely entertaining first-person account of life in this isolated remnant of the Old South with the unpredictable twists and turns of a landmark murder case. It is a spellbinding story peopled by a gallery of remarkable characters: the well-bred society ladies of the Married Woman’s Card Club; the turbulent young gigolo; the hapless recluse who owns a bottle of poison so powerful it could kill every man, woman, and child in Savannah; the aging and profane Southern belle who is the “soul of pampered self-absorption”; the uproariously funny drag queen; the acerbic and arrogant antiques dealer; the sweet-talking, piano-playing con artist; young people dancing the minuet at the black debutante ball; and Minerva, the voodoo priestess who works her magic in the graveyard at midnight. These and other Savannahians act as a Greek chorus, with Berendt revealing the alliances, hostilities, and intrigues that thrive in a town where everyone knows everyone else. Brilliantly conceived and masterfully written, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is a sublime and seductive reading experience.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* John Berendt, 1995-01-01 Shots rang out in Savannah's grandest mansion in the misty, early morning hours of May 2, 1981. Was it murder or self-defense? For nearly a decade, the shooting and its aftermath reverberated throughout this hauntingly beautiful city of moss-hung oaks and shaded squares. John Berendt's sharply observed, suspenseful, and witty narrative reads like a thoroughly engrossing novel, and yet it is a work of nonfiction. Berendt skillfully interweaves a hugely entertaining first-person account of life in this isolated remnant of the Old South with the unpredictable twists and turns of a landmark murder case.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* John Berendt, 1994 This book tells a true story of intrigue, murder, forgery and eccentricity set in the steamy, surreal atmosphere of Savannah, Georgia.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* John Berendt, 1995

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: *Animal's People* Indra Sinha, 2009-03-17 Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, *Animal's People* is by turns a profane, scathingly funny, and piercingly honest tale of a boy so badly damaged by the poisons released during a chemical plant leak that he walks on all fours.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: **A Year in the Garden of Good and Evil, 1999 Calendar** Random House, John Berendt, 1998-08-11 -- A Savannah calendar by the author of the best-selling book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. -- 12 vibrant portraits of buildings and settings that bring the beguiling city of Savannah to life -- 2 million copies of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* in print! -- 3 years on The New York Times bestseller list! -- Now a major motion picture directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Kevin Spacey and John Cusack!

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: **New York Magazine** , 1997-12-01 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: **The Noonday Demon** Andrew Solomon, 2011-11-16 *The Noonday Demon* is Andrew Solomon’s National Book Award-winning, bestselling, and transformative masterpiece on depression—“the book for a generation, elegantly written, meticulously researched, empathetic, and enlightening” (Time)—now with a major new chapter covering recently introduced and novel treatments, suicide and anti-depressants, pregnancy and

depression, and much more. The Noonday Demon examines depression in personal, cultural, and scientific terms. Drawing on his own struggles with the illness and interviews with fellow sufferers, doctors and scientists, policy makers and politicians, drug designers, and philosophers, Andrew Solomon reveals the subtle complexities and sheer agony of the disease as well as the reasons for hope. He confronts the challenge of defining the illness and describes the vast range of available medications and treatments, and the impact the malady has on various demographic populations—around the world and throughout history. He also explores the thorny patch of moral and ethical questions posed by biological explanations for mental illness. With uncommon humanity, candor, wit and erudition, award-winning author Solomon takes readers on a journey of incomparable range and resonance into the most pervasive of family secrets. His contribution to our understanding not only of mental illness but also of the human condition is truly stunning.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: The Bettencourt Affair Tom Sancton, 2018-08-07 An NPR Best Book of 2017 Heiress to the nearly forty-billion-dollar L'Oréal fortune, Liliane Bettencourt was the world's richest woman and the fourteenth wealthiest person. But her gilded life took a dark yet fascinating turn in the past decade. At ninety-four, she was embroiled in what has been called the Bettencourt Affair, a scandal that dominated the headlines in France. Why? It's a tangled web of hidden secrets, divided loyalties, frayed relationships, and fractured families, set in the most romantic city—and involving the most glamorous industry—in the world. The Bettencourt Affair started as a family drama but quickly became a massive scandal, uncovering L'Oréal's shadowy corporate history and buried World War II secrets. From the Right Bank mansions to the Left Bank artist havens; and from the Bettencourts' servant quarters to the office of President Nicolas Sarkozy; all of Paris was shaken by the blockbuster case, the shocking reversals, and the surprising final victim. It all began when Liliane met François-Marie Banier, an artist and photographer who was, in his youth, the toast of Paris and a protégé of Salvador Dalí. Over the next two decades, Banier was given hundreds of millions of dollars in gifts, cash, and insurance policies by Liliane. What, exactly, was their relationship? It wasn't clear, least of all to Liliane's daughter and only child, Françoise, who became suspicious of Banier's motives and filed a lawsuit against him. But Banier has a far different story to tell... The Bettencourt Affair is part courtroom drama; part upstairs-downstairs tale; and part character-driven story of a complex, fascinating family and the intruder who nearly tore it apart.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: The Elements of Journalism, Revised and Updated 4th Edition Bill Kovach, Tom Rosenstiel, 2021-08-10 A timely new edition of the classic journalism text, now featuring updated material on the importance of reporting in the age of media mistrust and fake news—and how journalists can use technology to navigate its challenges More than two decades ago, the Committee of Concerned Journalists gathered some of America's most influential newspeople and asked them, "What is journalism for?" Through exhaustive research, surveys, interviews, and public forums, the committee identified the essential elements that define journalism and its role in our society. The result is one of the most important books on media ever written—winner of the Goldsmith Book Prize from Harvard, a Society of Professional Journalists Award, and the Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism from Penn State University. Updated with new material covering the ways journalists can leverage technology to their advantage, especially given the shifting revenue architecture of news—and with the future of news, facts, and democracy never more in question—this fourth edition of *The Elements of Journalism* is the authoritative guide for journalists, students, and anyone hoping to stay informed in contentious times.

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Center, the last leper colony in the U.S. 30 color photos.

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and Updated 3rd Edition Bill Kovach, Tom Rosenstiel, 2014-04-01 The Book That Every Citizen and Journalist Should Read “What this book does better than any single book on media history, ethics, or practice is weave . . . [together] why media audiences have fled and why new technology and megacorporate ownership are putting good journalism at risk.” —Rasmi Simhan, Boston Globe “Kovach and Rosenstiel’s essays on each [element] are concise gems, filled with insights worthy of becoming axiomatic. . . . The book should become essential reading for journalism professionals and students and for the citizens they aim to serve.” —Carl Sessions Stepp, American Journalism Review “If you think journalists have no idea what you want . . . here is a book that agrees with you. Better—it has solutions. The Elements of Journalism is written for journalists, but any citizen who wonders why the news seems trivial or uninspiring should read it.” —Marta Salij, Detroit Free Press The elements of journalism are: * Journalism’s first obligation is to the truth. * Its first loyalty is to citizens. * Its essence is a discipline of verification. * Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover. * It must serve as an independent monitor of power. * It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise. * It must strive to make the significant interesting and relevant. * It must keep the news comprehensive and proportional. * Its practitioners must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: Murder in the Bayou Ethan Brown, 2019-09-17 A New York Times Bestseller & the Basis for the Hit Showtime Docuseries Murder in the Bayou is a New York Times bestselling chronicle of a high-stakes investigation into the murders of eight women in a troubled Southern parish that is “part murder case, part corruption exposé, and part Louisiana noir” (New York magazine). Between 2005 and 2009, the bodies of eight women were discovered in Jennings, Louisiana, a bayou town of 10,000 in the Jefferson Davis parish. The women came to be known as the Jeff Davis 8, and local law enforcement officials were quick to pursue a serial killer theory, stirring a wave of panic across Jennings’ class-divided neighborhoods. The Jeff Davis 8 had been among society’s most vulnerable—impoverished, abused, and mired with mental illness. They engaged in sex work as a means of survival. And their underworld activity frequently occurred at a decrepit motel called the Boudreaux Inn. As the cases went unsolved, the community began to look inward. Rumors of police corruption and evidence tampering, of collusion between street and shield, cast the serial killer theory into doubt. But what was really going on in the humid rooms of the Boudreaux Inn? Why were crimes going unsolved and police officers being indicted? What had the eight women known? And could anything be done to stop the bloodshed? Mixing muckraking research and immersive journalism over the course of a five-year investigation, Ethan Brown reviewed thousands of pages of previously unseen homicide files to posit what happened during each woman’s final hours delivering a true crime tale that is “mesmerizing” (Rolling Stone) and “explosive” (Huffington Post). “Brown is a man on a mission...he gives the victims more respectful attention than they probably got in real life” (The New York Times). “A must-read for true-crime fans” (Publishers Weekly, starred review), with a new afterword, Murder in the Bayou is the story of an American town buckling under the dark forces of poverty, race, and class division—and a lightning rod for justice for the daughters it lost.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: Factual Fictions Leonora Flis, 2010-08-11 Factual Fictions: Narrative Truth and the Contemporary American Documentary Novel focuses on contemporary American documentary narratives, specifically the documentary novel, as it re-emerged in the 1960s and later developed into various other forms. The book explores the connections between the documentary novel and the concurrent rise of New Journalism (a.k.a. “literary journalism”) in the United States, situating the two genres in the cultural context of the tumultuous 1960s and an emerging postmodern ethos. Flis makes a comprehensive analysis of texts by Truman Capote, Norman Mailer, John Berendt, and Don DeLillo, while tackling discussions on various theoretical complexities with assurance and rigor. Interested in the precarious divide between fact and fiction, the author productively complicates traditional notions of the two poles. Furthermore, the book examines parallels between contemporary Slovene documentary narratives and their American counterparts. Flis’s work, with its systematic and innovative approach to the

subject matter, adds an important historical dimension to the developing field of literary journalism studies as well as to the more established area of 20th Century American literature.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: Travels With Casey Benoit

Denizet-Lewis, 2015-07-21 Over four months, 32 states, and 13,000 miles in a rented motor home, Denizet-Lewis and his canine companion attempt to pay tribute to the most powerful interspecies bond there is, in the country with the highest rate of dog ownership in the world. On the way, Denizet-Lewis--known for his deeply reported dispatches from far corners of American life--meets an irresistible cast of dogs and dog-obsessed humans.

author of midnight in the garden of good and evil: Settling the Borderland Jan Whitt, 2008-09-05 *Settling the Borderland* deals with the intimate connection between journalism and literature, both fields in which work by women has been underrepresented. This book has a twin focus: the work of journalists who became some of the greatest novelists, poets, and short-story writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in America, several of whom are men, and contemporary journalists who best exemplify the effective use of literary techniques in news coverage. Although five women are emphasized here (Katherine Anne Porter, Eudora Welty, Joan Didion, Sara Davidson, and Susan Orlean), three men whose work was profoundly influenced by journalism also are included. Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, and John Steinbeck are well known as writers of poetry, short stories, and novels, but they, too, are among the other voices rarely included in studies of literary journalism. In *Settling the Borderland*, Jan Whitt presents a thorough analysis of the increasingly indistinct lines between truth and fiction and between fact and creative narrative in contemporary media.

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