

## E L Doctorow

*During his lifetime E. L. Doctorow was a remarkable phenomenon among contemporary American novelists. He was a serious writer who was popular, a political writer who was a stylist, an original writer who was highly eclectic and an historical writer who invented the past. In this study, originally published in 1985, Paul Levine follows Doctorow's progress as a novelist and traces the development of certain themes that recur in his work including the relationships between history and imagination, between high and popular culture and between political content and radical style. He also examines Doctorow's notion of the writer as witness and actor and of writing as a subversive activity, two concerns which link him with important writers in Europe and Latin America. The book should provide a valuable and comprehensive coverage of his work to date, including the films of Ragtime and The Book of Daniel.*

*Valuable philosophical insights into Doctorow's novels as paragons of modernist narrative technique.*

*NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, THE KANSAS CITY STAR, AND BOOKLIST* Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness, or perhaps greatness, by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion, scavenging the city streets for things they think they can use, hoarding the daily newspapers as research for Langley's proposed dateless newspaper whose reportage will be as prophecy. Yet the epic events of the century play out in the lives of the two brothers—wars, political movements, technological advances—and even though they want nothing more than to shut out the world, history seems to pass through their cluttered house in the persons of immigrants, prostitutes, society women, government agents, gangsters, jazz musicians . . . and their housebound lives are fraught with odyssean peril as they struggle to survive and create meaning for themselves.

*The central figure of this novel is a young man whose parents were executed for conspiring to steal atomic secrets for Russia. His name is Daniel Isaacson, and as the story opens, his parents have been dead for many years. He has had a long time to adjust to their deaths. He has not adjusted. Out of the shambles of his childhood, he has constructed a new life—marriage to an adoring girl who gives him a son of his own, and a career in scholarship. It is a life that*

enrages him. In the silence of the library at Columbia University, where he is supposedly writing a Ph.D. dissertation, Daniel composes something quite different. It is a confession of his most intimate relationships—with his wife, his foster parents, and his kid sister Susan, whose own radicalism so reproaches him. It is a book of memories: riding a bus with his parents to the ill-fated Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill; watching the FBI take his father away; appearing with Susan at rallies protesting their parents' innocence; visiting his mother and father in the Death House. It is a book of investigation: transcribing Daniel's interviews with people who knew his parents, or who knew about them; and logging his strange researches and discoveries in the library stacks. It is a book of judgments of everyone involved in the case—lawyers, police, informers, friends, and the Isaacson family itself. It is a book rich in characters, from elderly grand-mothers of immigrant culture, to covert radicals of the McCarthy era, to hippie marchers on the Pen-tagon. It is a book that spans the quarter-century of American life since World War II. It is a book about the nature of Left politics in this country—its sacrificial rites, its peculiar cruelties, its humility, its bitterness. It is a book about some of the beautiful and terrible feelings of childhood. It is about the nature of guilt and innocence, and about the relations of people to nations. It is *The Book of Daniel*.  
*Ragtime*

*All the Time in the World*

*Selected Essays, 1993–2006*

*Cultivating Creativity through Projects, Passion, Peers, and Play*

*E.L. Doctorow, Essays and Conversations*

**E. L. Doctorow is acclaimed internationally for such novels as *Ragtime*, *Billy Bathgate*, and *The March*. Now here are Doctorow's rich, revelatory essays on the nature of imaginative thought. In *Creationists*, Doctorow considers creativity in its many forms: from the literary (Melville and Mark Twain) to the comic (Harpo Marx) to the cosmic (Genesis and Einstein). As he wrestles with the subjects that have teased and fired his own imagination, Doctorow affirms the idea that "we know by what we create." Just what is Melville doing in *Moby-Dick*? And how did *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* impel Mark Twain to radically rewrite what we know as *Huckleberry Finn*? Can we ever trust what novelists say about their own work? How could Franz Kafka have written a book called *Amerika* without ever leaving Europe? In posing such questions, Doctorow grapples with literary creation not as a critic or as a scholar—but as one working writer frankly contemplating the work of another. It's a perspective that affords him both protean grace and profound insight. Among the essays collected here are Doctorow's musings on the very different Spanish Civil War novels of Ernest Hemingway and André Malraux; a candid assessment of Edgar Allan Poe as our "greatest bad writer"; a bracing analysis of the story of Genesis**

*in which God figures as the most complex and riveting character. Whether he is considering how Harpo Marx opened our eyes to surrealism, the haunting photos with which the late German writer W. G. Sebald illustrated his texts, or the innovations of such literary icons as Heinrich von Kleist, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Sinclair Lewis, Doctorow is unfailingly generous, shrewd, attentive, surprising, and precise. In examining the creative works of different times and disciplines, Doctorow also reveals the source and nature of his own artistry. Rich in aphorism and anecdote, steeped in history and psychology, informed by a lifetime of reading and writing, *Creationists* opens a magnificent window into one of the great creative minds of our time.*

*The hero of this dazzling novel by American master E. L. Doctorow is Joe, a young man on the run in the depths of the Great Depression. A late-summer night finds him alone and shivering beside a railroad track in the Adirondack mountains when a private railcar passes. Brightly lit windows reveal well-dressed men at a table and, in another compartment, a beautiful girl holding up a white dress before her naked form. Joe will follow the track to the mysterious estate at Loon Lake, where he finds the girl along with a tycoon, an aviatrix, a drunken poet, and a covey of gangsters. Here Joe's fate will play out in this powerful story of ambition, aggression, and identity. Loon Lake is another stunning achievement of this acclaimed author. "Powerful . . . [a] complex and haunting meditation on modern American history." -The New York Times "A genuine thriller . . . a marvelous exploration of the complexities and contradictions of the American dream . . . Not under any circumstances would we reveal the truly shattering climax." -The Dallas Morning News "A dazzling performance . . . [Loon Lake] anatomizes America with insight, passion, and inventiveness." -The Washington Post Book World "Hypnotic . . . tantalizes long after it has ended." -Time "Compelling . . . brilliantly done." -St. Louis Post-Dispatch "A masterpiece." -Chicago Sun-Times*

*Inleiding tot het werk van de Amerikaanse schrijver (1931- )*

**WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER OF THE PEN/FAULKNER AWARD NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** In 1864, Union general William Tecumseh Sherman marched his sixty thousand troops through Georgia to the sea, and then up into the Carolinas. The army fought off Confederate forces, demolished cities, and accumulated a borne-along population of freed blacks and white refugees until all that remained was the dangerous transient life of the dispossessed and the triumphant. In E. L. Doctorow's hands the great march becomes a floating world, a nomadic consciousness, and an unforgettable reading experience with awesome relevance to our own times.

**The March**

**Trauma, Gender and Ethics in the Works of E.L. Doctorow**

**On the Fiction of E.L. Doctorow**

**E. L. Doctorow**

**Homer & Langley**

RagtimeA NovelRandom House

From a master of modern American letters comes an enthralling collection of brilliant short

fiction about people who, as E. L. Doctorow notes in his Preface, are somehow "distinct from their surroundings—people in some sort of contest with the prevailing world." Containing six unforgettable stories that have never appeared in book form, and a selection of previous classics, *All the Time in the World* is resonant with the mystery, tension, and moral investigation that distinguish the fiction of E. L. Doctorow.

In this study of Doctorow's major works, Harter and Thompson examine the author's critical and popular success. They focus on the variety and versatility of his writing, the historical and cultural considerations that inform all of his fiction, and explicate the multiple connections between history, autobiography, and fiction in Doctorow's writings. The authors argue that at the center of Doctorow's art is his primary concern with his characters' consciences, rather than their ideology. They also cover the allegorical patterns and disarming realism that are important features of Doctorow's works. ISBN 0-8057-7604-4: \$21.95.

Interviews with the distinguished American author, E.L. Doctorow, are accompanied by critical examinations of the themes of his novels

Critical Essays on E.L. Doctorow

The Waterworks

E.L. Doctorow

Loon Lake

The Book of Daniel

A novel set in America at the turn of the 20th century. It's characters: three remarkable families whose lives become entwined with Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata.

Describes Doctorow's work in terms of the author's intentions, inventions, politics, creation of voice, taste for melodrama, & character types.

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Published in 1975, *Ragtime* changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, *Ragtime* captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

A Study Guide for E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

Billy Bathgate

Sweet Land Stories

Creationists

Welcome to Hard Times

New and Selected Stories

**A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for E. L. Doctorow's Ragtime, published the year the Vietnam War came to a close in 1975. As a work of historical fiction, Ragtime uses a turn-of-the-century America as a pedestal to showcase issues such as freedom, identity, and justice. Moreover, Doctorow was one of the first to use magic realism to discuss and dissect the nature of change. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Doctorow's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons it has stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.**

**This project approaches four of E. L. Doctorow's novels—Welcome to Hard Times (1960), The Book of Daniel (1971), Ragtime (1975), and City of God (2000)—from the perspectives of feminist criticism and trauma theory. The study springs from the assumption that Doctorow's literary project is eminently ethical and has an underlying social and political scope. This crops up through the novels' overriding concern with injustice and their engagement with the representation of human suffering in a variety of forms. The book puts forward the claim that E.L. Doctorow's literary project—through its representation of psychological trauma and its attitude towards gender—may be understood as a call to action against both each individual's indifference and the wider social and political structures and ideologies that justify and/or facilitate the injustices and oppression to which those who are situated at the margins of contemporary US society are subjected.**

**Here is E. L. Doctorow's debut novel, a searing allegory of frontier life that sets the stage for his subsequent classics. Hard Times is the name of a town in the barren hills of the Dakota Territory. To this town there comes one day one of the reckless sociopaths who wander the West to kill and rape and pillage. By the time he is through and has ridden off, Hard Times is a**

smoking ruin. The de facto mayor, Blue, takes in two survivors of the carnage—a boy, Jimmy, and a prostitute, Molly, who has suffered unspeakably—and makes them his provisional family. Blue begins to rebuild Hard Times, welcoming new settlers, while Molly waits with vengeance in her heart for the return of the outlaw. Praise for *Welcome to Hard Times* “A forceful, credible story of cowardice and evil.”—*The Washington Post* “We are caught up with these people as real human beings.”—*Chicago Sun-Times* “Dramatic and exciting.”—*The New York Times* “Terse and powerful.”—*Newsweek* “A taut, bloodthirsty read.”—*The Times Literary Supplement* “A superb piece of fiction.”—*The New Republic* Filled with philosophical musings and personal observations, this fiction writerÆs take on the universe combines memoir with science to explore the American consciousness and experience. (Literature)

**World's Fair**

**A Novel**

**A Novella and Six Stories**

**City of God**

**Conversations with E.L. Doctorow**

FBI agents pay a surprise visit to a Communist man and his wife in their New York apartment, and after a trial that divides the country, the couple are sent to the electric chair for treason. Decades later, in 1967, their son Daniel struggles to understand the tragedy of their lives. But while he is tormented by his past and trying to appreciate his own wife and son, Daniel is also haunted, like millions of others, by the need to come to terms with a country destroying itself in the Vietnam War. A stunning fictionalization of a political drama that tore the United States apart, *The Book of Daniel* is an intensely moving tale of political martyrdom and the search for meaning. This book gathers a suite of newly commissioned, original essays on the work of E.L. Doctorow.

A superb collection of fifteen stories—including “Wakefield,” the inspiration for the film starring Bryan Cranston—by the author of *Ragtime*, *The March*, *The Book of Daniel*, and *Billy Bathgate* He has been called “a national treasure” by George Saunders. Doctorow’s great topic, said Don DeLillo, is “the reach of American possibility, in which plain lives take on the cadences of history.” This power is apparent everywhere in these stories: the bravery and self-delusion of people seeking the American dream; the

geniuses, mystics, and charlatans who offer people false hope, or an actual glimpse of greatness. In "A House on the Plains," a mother has a plan for financial independence, which may include murder. In "Walter John Harmon," a man starts a cult using subterfuge and seduction. "Jolene: A Life" follows a teenager who escapes her home for Hollywood on a perilous quest for success. "Heist," the account of an Episcopal priest coping with a crisis of faith, was expanded into the bestseller *City of God*. "The Water Works," about the underbelly of 1870s New York, grew into a brilliant novel. "Liner Notes: The Songs of Billy Bathgate" is a corollary to the renowned novel and includes Doctorow's revisions. These fifteen stories, written from the 1960s to the early twenty-first century, and selected, revised, and placed in order by the author himself shortly before he died in 2015, are a testament to the genius of E. L. Doctorow. Praise for Doctorow: Collected Stories "Here, without the framework of historical context that defines his best-known novels, we discover a Doctorow equally adept at plumbing the contemporary American psyche and are reminded of literature's loss following his death."—O: The Oprah Magazine "These tales—sketches, really, wide-ranging in time, place and circumstances—are penned by a modern master. . . . What makes Doctorow's historical novels brilliant is their engaging prose, smart writerly style, unconventional narratives and inventive and entertaining plots. Same for these dog-eared, pre-owned stories."—USA Today Praise for E. L. Doctorow "He has rewarded us, these forty-five years, with a vision of ourselves, as a people, a vision possessed of what I might call 'aspirational verve'—he sees us clearly and tenderly, just as we are, but also sees past that—to what we might, at our best, become."—George Saunders "Doctorow did not so much write fiction about history as he seemed to occupy history itself. He owned it. He made it his own."—Ta-Nehisi Coates "On every level, [Doctorow's] work is powerful. . . . His sensitivity to language is perfectly balanced, and complemented by a gigantic vision."—Jennifer Egan "[He wrote] with such stunning audacity that I can still remember my parents' awed dinner-table conversation, that summer, about a novel they were reading, called *Ragtime*, that went up to the overgrown wall enclosing the garden of fiction and opened the doorway to history."—Michael Chabon "Doctorow's prose tends to create its own landscape, and to

become a force that works in opposition to the power of social reality.”—Don DeLillo “A writer of dazzling gifts and boundless imaginative energy.”—Joyce Carol Oates  
Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's devastating march through Georgia and the Carolinas during the final years of the Civil War has a profound impact on the outcome of the war, in a richly textured, evocative historical novel that captures the full experience of the diverse characters caught up in the struggle. 150,000 first printing.  
Lifelong Kindergarten  
Lives of the Poets

Drinks Before Dinner

Models of Misrepresentation

***Doctorow's novels imagine the great moments of American history - the Old West, the Depression - as backdrops for tales of moral pain and injustice. In these interviews, Doctorow explores the themes of his work.***

***To open this book is to enter the perilous, thrilling world of Billy Bathgate, the brazen boy who is accepted into the inner circle of the notorious Dutch Schultz gang. Like an urban Tom Sawyer, Billy takes us along on his fateful adventures as he becomes good-luck charm, apprentice, and finally protégé to one of the great murdering gangsters of the Depression-era underworld in New York City. The luminous transformation of fact into fiction that is E. L. Doctorow's trademark comes to triumphant fruition in Billy Bathgate, a peerless coming-of-age tale and one of Doctorow's boldest and most beloved bestsellers.***

***The long-unavailable work by one of America's most eminent writers. Drinks Before Dinner, called “witty and provocative” by the New York Times, is E.L. Doctorow's only play. A tour-de-force of language and ideas concerning the individual's role in and response to contemporary America, Drinks Before Dinner revolves around a dinner party for the economically privileged. As Doctorow writes in his introduction, “[This play] deals in general statements about the most common circumstances of our lives, the numbers of us, the cars we drive, the television we watch, the cities we live in, our contraception and***



**our armaments, and our underlying sense of the apocalypse. . . .”**

**An assortment of short fiction ranges across America, from Alaska to the District of Columbia, as it explores the complexities of modern life in such stories as "Jolene: a Life," "A House on the Plains," "Baby Wilson," and "Walter John Harmon."**

**Andrew's Brain**

**Poets and Presidents**

**A Play**

**Reporting the Universe**

**Understanding E.L. Doctorow**

*Innocence is lost to unforgettable experience in these brilliant stories by E. L. Doctorow, as full of mystery and meaning as any of the longer works by this American master. In "The Writer in the Family," a young man learns the difference between lying and literature after he is induced into deceiving a relative through letters. In "Wili," an early-twentieth-century idyll is destroyed by infidelity. In "The Foreign Legation," a girl and an act of political anarchy collide with devastating results. These and other stories flow into the novella "Lives of the Poets," in which the images and themes of the earlier stories become part of the narrator's unsparing confessions about his own mind, offering a rare look at the creative process and its connection to the heart.*

*How lessons from kindergarten can help everyone develop the creative thinking skills needed to thrive in today's society. In kindergartens these days, children spend more time with math worksheets and phonics flashcards than building blocks and finger paint. Kindergarten is becoming more like the rest of school. In Lifelong Kindergarten, learning expert Mitchel Resnick argues for exactly the opposite: the rest of school (even the rest of life) should be more like kindergarten. To thrive in today's fast-changing world, people of all ages must learn to think and act creatively—and the best way to do that is by focusing more on imagining, creating, playing, sharing, and reflecting, just as children do in traditional kindergartens. Drawing on experiences from more than thirty years at MIT's Media Lab, Resnick discusses new technologies and strategies for engaging young people in creative learning experiences. He tells stories of how children are programming their own games, stories, and inventions (for example, a diary security system, created by a twelve-year-old girl), and collaborating through remixing, crowdsourcing, and large-scale group projects (such as a Halloween-themed game called Night at Dreary Castle, produced by more than twenty kids scattered around the world). By providing young people with opportunities to work on projects, based on their passions, in collaboration with peers, in a playful spirit, we can help them prepare for a world where creative thinking is more important than ever before.*

*NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, SLATE, AND THE TELEGRAPH* This brilliant novel by the author of Ragtime, The Book of Daniel, Billy Bathgate, and The March takes us on a radical trip into the mind of a man who, more than once, has been the inadvertent agent of disaster. Speaking from an unknown place and to an unknown interlocutor, Andrew is thinking, Andrew is talking, Andrew is telling the story of his life, his loves, and the tragedies that have led him to this place and point in time. As he peels back the layers of his strange story, we are led to question what we know about truth and memory, brain and mind, personality and fate, about one another and ourselves. Probing, mischievous, and profound, Andrew's Brain is a singular achievement in the canon of an American master.

*Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. "Too compelling to put down . . . fascinating, sometimes funny, often profound . . . Andrew is a provocatively interesting and even sympathetic character. . . . The novel seamlessly combines Doctorow's remarkable prowess as a literary stylist with deep psychological storytelling pitting truth against delusion, memory and perception, consciousness and craziness. . . . [Doctorow] takes huge creative risks—the best kind."—USA Today "Andrew's Brain is cunning. . . . [A] sly book . . . This babbling Andrew is a casualty of his times, binding his wounds with thick wrappings of words, ideas, bits of story, whatever his spinning mind can unspool for him. . . . One of the things that makes [Andrew] such a terrific comic creation is that he's both maddeningly self-delusive and scarily self-aware: He's a fool, but he's no innocent. . . . Andrew may not be able to enjoy his brain, but Doctorow, freely choosing to inhabit this character's whirligig consciousness, can."—The New York Times Book Review "A tantalising tour de force . . . a journey worth taking . . . With exhilarating brio, the book plays off . . . two contrasting takes on mind and brain. . . . [Andrew's Brain encompasses] an astonishing range of modes: vaudeville humour, tragic romance, philosophical speculation. . . . It fizzles with intellectual energy, verbal pyrotechnics and satiric flair."—The Sunday Times (London) "Dramatic . . . cunning and beautiful . . . strange and oddly fascinating, this book: a musing, a conjecture, a frivolity, a deep interrogatory, a hymn."—San Francisco Chronicle "Provocative . . . a story aswirl in a whirlpool of neuroscience, human relations, loss, guilt and recent American history . . . Doctorow reveals his mastery in the sheen of a text that is both window and mirror. Reading his work is akin to soaring in a glider. Buoyed by invisible breath, readers encounter stunning vistas stretching to horizons they've never imagined."—The Plain Dealer "Andrew's ruminations can be funny, and his descriptions gorgeous."—Associated Press "[An] evocative, suspenseful novel about the deceptive nature of human consciousness."—More "A quick and acutely intelligent read."—Entertainment Weekly*

*NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER With brilliant and audacious strokes, E. L. Doctorow creates a breathtaking collage of memories, events, visions, and provocative thought, all centered on an idea of the modern reality of God. At the heart of this stylistically daring tour de force is a detective story about a cross that vanishes from a rundown Episcopal church in lower Manhattan only to reappear on the roof of an Upper West Side synagogue. Intrigued by the mystery—and by the maverick rector and the young rabbi investigating the strange act of desecration—is a well-known novelist, whose capacious brain is a virtual repository for the ideas and disasters of the age. Daringly poised at the junction of the sacred and the profane, filled with the sights and sounds of New York, and encompassing a large cast of vividly drawn characters including theologians, scientists, Holocaust survivors, and war veterans, City of God is a monumental work of spiritual reflection, philosophy, and history by America's preeminent novelist and chronicler of our time. Praise for City of God "A grander perspective on the universe . . . a novel that sets its sights on God."—The Wall Street Journal "Dazzling . . . The true miracle of City of God is the way its disparate parts fuse into a consistently enthralling and suspenseful whole."—Time "Blooms with humor, and a humanity that carries triumphant as intelligent a novel as one might hope to find these days."—Los Angeles Times "Radiates [with] panoramic ambition and spiritual incandescence."—Chicago Tribune "One of the greatest American novels of the past fifty years . . . Reading City of God restores one's faith in literature."—The Houston Chronicle*

*A Reconsideration*

*Study Guide to Ragtime by E. L. Doctorow*

*Roman*

*A Study Guide for E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime"*

*Doctorow: Collected Stories*

Winner of the National Book Award • “Marvelous . . . You get lost in *World’s Fair* as if it were an exotic adventure. You devour it with the avidity usually provoked by a suspense thriller.”—*The New York Times* Hailed by critics from coast to coast and by readers of all ages, this resonant novel is one of E.L. Doctorow’s greatest works of fiction. It is 1939, and even as the rumbles of progress are being felt worldwide, New York City clings to remnants of the past, with horse-drawn wagons, street peddlers, and hurdy-gurdy men still toiling in its streets. For nine-year-old Edgar Altschuler, life is stoopball and radio serials, idolizing Joe DiMaggio, and enduring the conflicts between his realist mother and his dreamer of a father. The forthcoming *World’s Fair* beckons, an amazing vision of American automation, inventiveness, and prosperity—and Edgar Altschuler responds. A marvelous work from a master storyteller, *World’s Fair* is a book about a boy who must surrender his innocence to come of age, and a generation that must survive great hardship to reach its future. Praise for *World’s Fair* “Something close to magic.”—*Los Angeles Times* “*World’s Fair* is better than a time capsule; it’s an actual slice of a long-ago world, and we emerge from it as dazed as those visitors standing on the corner of the future.”—Anne Tyler “Doctorow has managed to regain the awed perspective of a child in this novel of rare warmth and intimacy. . . . Stony indeed in the heart that cannot be moved by this book.”—*People* “Fascinating . . . exquisitely rendered details of a lost way of life.”—*Newsweek* “Wonderful reading.”—*USA Today*

Forty-eight reviews and nine essays trace the critical reputation of E.L. Doctorow's literary works.

“An elegant page-turner of nineteenth-century detective fiction.” —*The Washington Post Book World* One rainy morning in 1871 in lower Manhattan, Martin Pemberton a freelance writer, sees in a passing stagecoach several elderly men, one of whom he recognizes as his supposedly dead and buried father. While trying to unravel the mystery, Pemberton disappears, sending McIlvaine, his employer, the editor of an evening paper, in pursuit of the truth behind his freelancer’s fate. Layer by layer, McIlvaine reveals a modern metropolis surging with primordial urges and sins, where the Tweed Ring operates the city for its own profit and a conspicuously self-satisfied nouveau-riche ignores the poverty and squalor that surrounds them. In E. L. Doctorow’s skilled hands, *The Waterworks* becomes, in the words of *The New York Times*, “a dark moral tale . . . an eloquently troubling evocation of our past.” “Startling and spellbinding . . . The waters that lave the narrative all run to the great confluence, where the deepest issues of life and death are borne along on the swift, sure vessel of [Doctorow’s] poetic imagination.” —*The New York Times Book Review* “Hypnotic . . . a dazzling romp, an extraordinary read, given strength and grace by the telling, by the poetic voice and controlled cynical lyricism of its streetwise and world-weary narrator.” —*The Philadelphia Inquirer* “A gem of a novel, intimate as chamber music . . . a thriller guaranteed to leave readers with residual chills and shudders.” —*Boston Sunday Herald* “Enthralling . . . a story of debauchery and redemption that is spellbinding from first page to last.” —*Chicago Sun-Times* “An immense, extraordinary achievement.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

An Annotated Bibliography