Woodcutters Thomas Bernhard

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fiercely observed often hilarious and reminiscent of ibsen and strindberg the new york times book review this exquisitely controversial novel was initially banned in its author s homeland a searing portrayal of vienna s bourgeoisie it begins with the arrival of an unnamed writer at an artistic dinner hosted by a composer and his society wife a couple he once admired and has come to loathe the guest of honor a distinguished actor from the burgtheater is late as the other guests wait impatiently they are seen through the critical eye of the writer who narrates a silent but frenzied tirade against these former friends most of whom have been brought together by joana a woman they buried earlier that day reflections on joana s life and suicide are mixed with these denunciations until the famous actor arrives bringing an explosive end to the evening that even the writer could not have seen coming

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how are we to think of satire if it has ceased to exist as a discrete genre this study proposes a novel solution understanding the satiric in the postwar era as a set of writing practices figures of inversion myth

making and citation by showing how writers and theorists alike deploy these devices in new contexts this book reexamines the link between german postwar writing and the history of satire and between literature and theory

the logic of modernity is an ironical logic modern irony a flash of genius produced by romantic theorists is first discussed e g in hegel and kierkegaard as an ethical problem personified in figures such as the aesthete the seducer the flaneur or the dandy it fully develops in the novel the modern genre par excellence in novels of the early 19th century no less than in those of postmodernity or in those of the masters of citation parody and pastiche of classical modernism musil joyce and proust this book however goes one step further looking at how such different authors as schmitt kafka and rorty identify the political conflicts contradictions and paradoxes of the 20th century as ironical and offers a comprehensive account of the constitutive irony of modernity s ethical poetical and political logic

excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists poets playwrights and other creative writers 1900 1960

this collection of short stories set in the crown jewel of europe featuring works by nobel prize winners elias canetti and elfriede jelenek is an excellent introduction to the exceptionally rich contemporary austrian literature that illuminates a century of shifting forms and styles

the playwright and novelist thomas bernhard was one of the most widely translated and admired writers of his generation winner of the three most coveted literary prizes in germany gargoyles one of his earliest novels is a singular surreal study of the nature of humanity one morning a doctor and his son set out on daily rounds through the grim mountainous austrian countryside they observe the colorful characters they encounter from an innkeeper whose wife has been murdered to a crippled musical prodigy kept in a cage coping with physical misery madness and the brutality of the austere landscape the parade of human grotesques culminates in a hundred page monologue by an eccentric paranoid prince a relentlessly flowing cascade of words that is classic bernhard

censorship a world encyclopedia presents a comprehensive view of censorship from ancient egypt to those modern societies that claim to have abolished the practice for each country in the world the history of censorship is described and placed in context and the media censored are examined art cyberspace literature music the press popular culture radio television and the theatre not to mention the censorship of language the most fundamental censorship of all also included are surveys of major controversies and chronicles of resistance censorship will be an essential reference work for students of the many subjects touched by censorship and for all those who are interested in the history of and contemporary fate of freedom of expression

thomas bernhard was one of the most original writers of the twentieth century his formal innovation ranks with beckett and kafka his outrageously cantankerous voice recalls dostoevsky but his gift for lacerating lyrical provocative prose is incomparably his own one of bernhard s most acclaimed novels the loser centers on a fictional relationship between piano virtuoso glenn gould and two of his fellow students who feel compelled to renounce their musical ambitions in the face of gould s incomparable genius one commits suicide while the other the obsessive witty and self mocking narrator has retreated into obscurity written as a monologue in one remarkable unbroken paragraph the loser is a brilliant meditation on success failure

genius and fame

first published in german in 1967 these stories were written at the same time as bernhard s early novels frost gargoyles and the lime works and they display the same obsessions restlessness and disarming mastery of language

thomas bernhard is one of the masters of contemporary european fiction george steiner one of the century s most gifted writers new york newsday a virtuoso of rancor and rage bookforum and although he is favorably compared with franz kafka samuel beckett and robert musil thomas bernhard still remains relatively unknown in america uninitiated readers should consider three novellas a passport to the absurd dark and uncommonly comic world of bernhard two of the three novellas here have never before been published in english and all of them show an early preoccupation with the themes illness and madness isolation tragic friendships that would obsess bernhard throughout his career amras one of his earliest works tells the story of two brothers one epileptic who have survived a family suicide pact and are now living in a ruined tower struggling with madness trying either to come fully back to life or finally to die in playing watten the narrator a doctor who lost his practice due to morphine abuse describes a visit paid him by a truck driver who wanted the doctor to return to his habit of playing a game of cards watten every wednesday a habit that the doctor had interrupted when one of the players killed himself the last novella walking records the conversations of the narrator and his friend oehler while they walk discussing anything that comes to mind but always circling back to their mutual friend karrer who has gone irrevocably mad perhaps the most overtly philosophical work in bernhard s highly philosophical oeuvre walking provides a penetrating meditation on the impossibility of truly thinking three novellas offers a superb introduction to the fiction of perhaps the greatest unsung hero of twentieth century literature rarely have the words suffocating intense and obsessive been meant so positively

bullies bastards bitches shows you how to create nuanced bad guys who are indispensible to the stories in which they appear book jacket

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