

McNally Editions Catalog

Fall 2024



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Office Politics

Wilfrid Sheed

Foreword by Gerald Howard

Rights: World

I Am Alien to Life: Selected Stories

Djuna Barnes

Edited and with a foreword by Merve Emre

Rights: World, Audio

Constant Reader: The New Yorker Columns 1927-28

Dorothy Parker

Foreword by Sloane Crosley

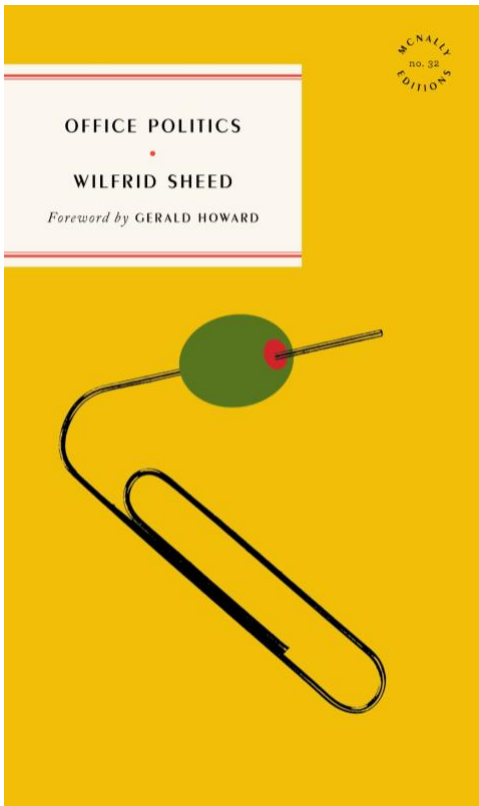
Rights: Public / Intro: World, Audio

New York Sketches

E. B. White

Foreword by Martha White

Rights: World English, Audio



Office Politics

By Wilfrid Sheed

Foreword by Gerald Howard

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341180 • Pub: Sep 10, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 320 pages • \$18.00 • Fiction–Satire / Work Life • Rights: World • eBook ISBN: 9781946022721

“A masterpiece . . . One of the few genuinely comic novels since *Lucky Jim*.” —Elaine Dundy

“*Office Politics* [is] the best of Sheed’s novels and one that remains uncommonly fresh after all these years . . . [A] very funny, very wise, unjustly neglected book.” —Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post*

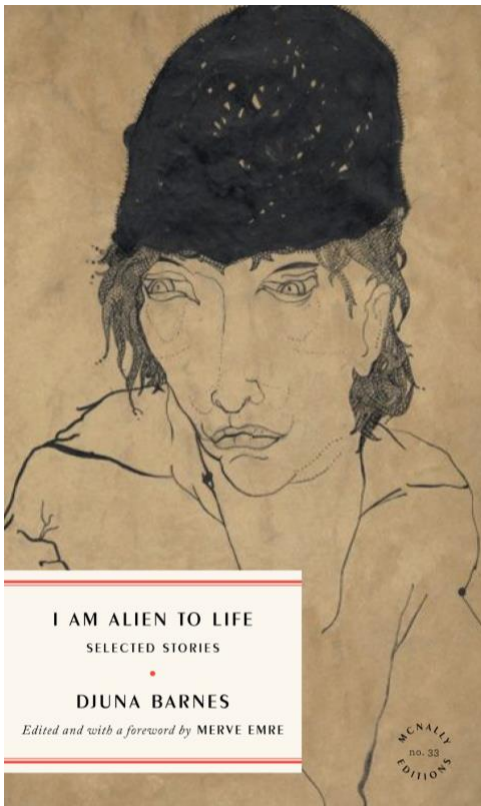
George Wren has landed his dream job: working at *The Outsider*, the prestigious weekly edited by his hero, the suave English expat Gilbert Twining. But soon he discovers that the little magazine is seething with malcontents and mutineers, at least according to Twining, who keeps cornering George for after-work martinis, pouring out his anxieties, professional and otherwise, while George’s wife, Matilda, and baby son wait for him back in Queens. Is Twining paranoid? Is he insane? Or are George’s new office-mates truly plotting an insurrection? And if so, what’s all of it got to do with George?

An indelible satire of 1960s intellectual New York, *Office Politics* is also a celebration of that endangered species, the office, at its pettiest and most idealistic, as the proving ground where grownup life takes place.

Wilfrid Sheed (1930–2011) was born in London, the son of the Catholic publishers Sheed & Ward. He was an editor and critic at the magazines *Jubilee*, *Commonweal*, and the *New York Times Book Review*. A survivor of polio, he published memoirs, nine novels, several essay collections, and books on baseball and jazz.

Gerald Howard is a retired book editor whose essays and reviews have appeared in a variety of publications.





I Am Alien to Life: Selected Stories

By Djuna Barnes

Edited and with a foreword by Merve Emre

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341227 • Oct 8, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 240 pages • \$18.00
• Fiction—Short Stories • Rights: Public / Intro: World, Audio • eBook ISBN:
9781961341234

The best of Djuna Barnes’s dark, droll, incisive short fiction, spanning her all-too-brief career, edited and introduced by Merve Emre.

“A writer of wild and original gifts.” —**Elizabeth Hardwick**

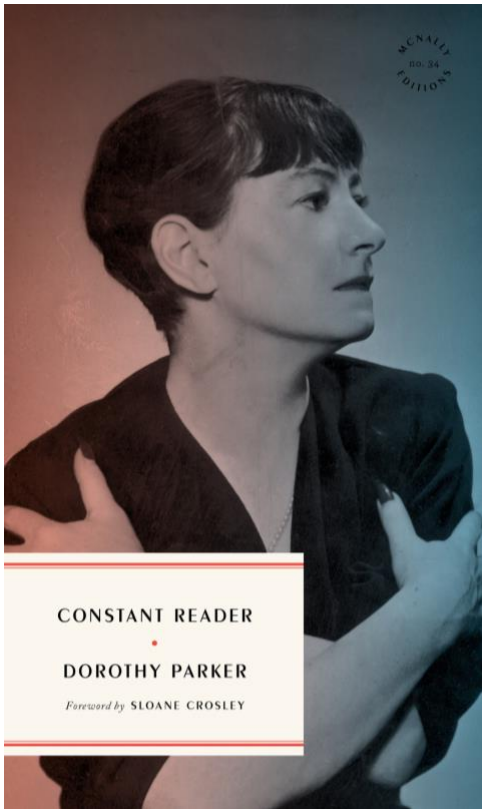
Djuna Barnes is rightly remembered for *Nightwood*, her breakthrough and final novel: a hallmark of modernist literature, championed by T. S. Eliot, and one of the first, strangest, and most brilliant novels of love between women to be published in the twentieth century. Barnes’s career began long before *Nightwood*, however, with journalism, essays, drama, and satire of extraordinary wit and courage.

Here are all the stories Barnes sought to preserve, in the versions she preferred, as well as rarities as selected by critic and *New Yorker* contributor Merve Emre. These are tales of women *tragique* and tremendous all at once, of sons and daughters initiated into the ugly comedy of life, monuments all to a worldview singular and scathing. As Emre writes in her foreword, “[Barnes’s] themes are love and death, especially in Paris and New York; the corruption of nature by culture; the tainted innocence of children; and the mute misery of beasts . . . her characters may be alien to life, but they are alive—spectacularly, grotesquely alive.”

Born in New York State, **Djuna Barnes** (1892–1982) worked as a journalist during World War I and spent the inter-war years in Paris and London among the most celebrated writers and artists of the twentieth century. She published three novels, short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, skits, and a three-act play between 1914 and 1950.

Merve Emre is a professor of creative writing and criticism at Wesleyan University and a contributing writer at the *New Yorker*.





Constant Reader: The New Yorker Columns 1927-28

By Dorothy Parker

Foreword by Sloane Crosley

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341258 • Nov 5, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 224 pages • \$18.00
• Nonfiction—Criticism / Literary / Essays • Rights: Public / Intro: World,
Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781961341265

**“Does anyone know how hard it is to be that funny? . . . Read her book reviews. Read them now and see how good they are.”
—Fran Lebowitz**

“All I wanted in this world was to come to New York and be Dorothy Parker. The funny lady. The only lady at the table . . . Who always got off the perfect line at the perfect moment.” —Nora Ephron, *Esquire*

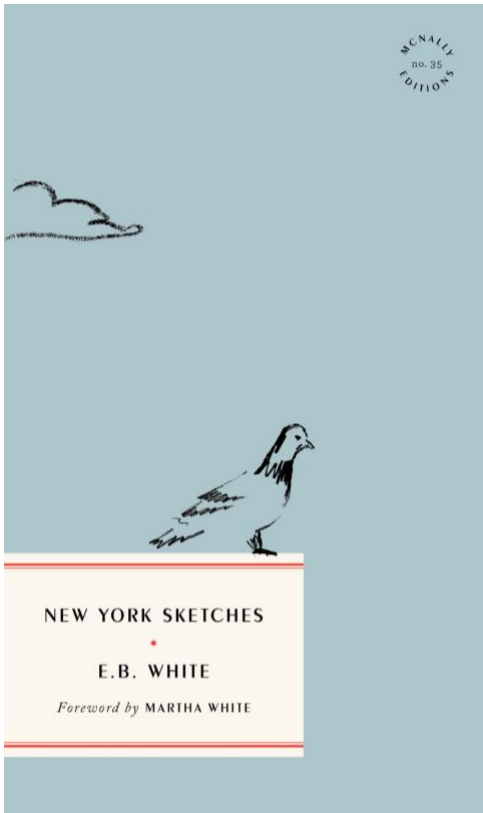
When Dorothy Parker became a book critic for the *New Yorker*, in 1927, she was already a legendary wit, a much-quoted member of the Algonquin Round Table, and an arbiter of literary taste. Under the rubric “Constant Reader,” she created what is still the most entertaining book column ever written. Parker’s hot takes have lost none of their heat, whether she’s taking aim at the evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson (“She can go on like that for hours. Can, hell—does”), praising Hemingway’s latest collection (“He discards detail with magnificent lavishness”), or dissenting from the Tao of Pooh (“And it is that word ‘hummy,’ my darlings, that marks the first place in *The House at Pooh Corner* at which Tonstant Weader Fwowed up”).

Here, for the first time in one volume, is the complete set of weekly reviews that Parker published from October 1927 through November 1928, in all their variety, with gimlet-eyed appreciations of the high and low, from Isadora Duncan to Al Smith, Charles Lindbergh to Little Orphan Annie, Mussolini to Emily Post.

Dorothy Parker née Rothschild (1898–1967), grew up in New York and became famous for her comic poems, short stories, reviews, and repartée over lunches at the Algonquin hotel. A prolific magazine contributor in her youth, she became an ardent civil rights activist.

Sloane Crosley is the author of three essay collections, two novels, and, most recently, a memoir, *Grief Is for People*.





New York Sketches

By E. B. White

Foreword by Martha White

Paperback ISBN: 9781946022738 • Dec 3, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 224 pages • \$18.00 • Nonfiction—Essays / New York • Rights: World English, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781946022745

E. B. White’s greatest stories, essays, jokes, and tall tales about the city he saw clearest, loved best, and skewered mercilessly.

“Some of the finest examples of contemporary, genuinely American prose . . . Eloquence without affectation, profundity without pomposity, and wit without frivolity or hostility. [Like] Thoreau and Twain, White’s creative, humane, and graceful perceptions are an education for the sensibilities.” —*Washington Post*

Over more than fifty years at the *New Yorker*, E. B. White came to define a kind of ideal American prose: clear, casual, democratic, urbane. He also did more than any writer to define his favorite city. In *New York Sketches*, the first collection of his casual pieces about the city, White ranges at whim from the nesting habits of pigeons to the aisles of a calculator trade-show on Eighth Avenue, from the behavior of snails in aquariums to the ghosts of old romance that haunt a flower shop or a fire escape or an old hotel. These sketches, some less than a page long, many written for a laugh, show us White at his most playful and inventive.

New York Sketches is a diversion for every New Yorker—native, adoptive, aspiring, or far from home—and a perfect introduction, not only to what White called “the inscrutable and lovely town,” but to the everyday enchantments of one of her fondest reporters.

Elwyn Brooks White (1899–1985) was born in Mount Vernon, NY, the youngest of six children. He is best known today for his classic children’s books *Charlotte’s Web* and *Stuart Little*; he was also among the best and funniest American prose stylists of the 20th century.

Martha White, granddaughter of E. B. White, is a writer and editor.

