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# House Of Holes Nicholson Baker

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Holes  
Essays  
Double Fold  
House of Holes  
A Novel  
Written Words and Public Spaces in Antebellum New York  
Adventures Among Cyborgs, Utopians, Hackers, and the Futurists Solving the Modest Problem of Death  
A History of the Unnatural Rhythms That Made Us Who We Are  
The Naughty Bits  
Leaving the Atocha Station  
Bad Behavior  
A Novel  
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The Mezzanine  
A Novel  
House of Holes  
A True Story  
Picked-Up Pieces  
House of Holes

Why One French Woman Suddenly Gave Up Sex

*House Of Holes Nicholson Baker*

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## LONG PATEL

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Holes Open Road Media

The literary education you've always lusted for. Fresh from the virtual pages of Nerve.com comes this collection of "naughty bits," an irreverent look into the steamy, scandalous side of literature past and present. With bite-sized salacious excerpts from the classics -- new and old -- each with a fresh, insightful introduction, *The Naughty Bits* presents the world's great books as you never thought you'd see them. Includes naughty bits by: Dante D. H. Lawrence Philip Roth Goethe Toni Morrison Julio Cortázar John Cheever William Shakespeare Thaddeus Rutkowski John Donne Thomas Malory Günter Grass Herman Melville John Barth Ernest Hemingway Erica Jong Thomas Carew M. F. K. Fisher William Kennedy Jeanette Winterson Paul West Harry Mathews Catullus Clarice Lispector Giovanni Boccaccio James Baldwin Nicholson Baker Tom Wolfe John Wilmot Kevin Canty Plato James Joyce Lydia Davis François Rabelais Kenneth Starr Henry Miller John Updike Geoffrey Chaucer Marquis de Sade Sir Philip Sidney Holly Hughes Martin Amis Andrew Marvell The Pearl Poet Thomas Pynchon Sappho William Gibson Mark Leyner Margery Kempe Jean Genet Edmund Spenser John Cleland Kurt Vonnegut Anaïs Nin Petronius Keith Banner Umberto Eco J. G. Ballard Mario Vargas Llosa Ovid Jean de Meun Catherine Breillat George Eliot Kenzaburo Oe Cormac McCarthy Larry Flynt Rupert Brooke *The Old Testament*

*Essays* Penguin

Shandee finds a friendly arm at a granite quarry. Ned drops down a hole in a golf course. Luna meets a man made of light bulbs at a tanning parlor. So begins Nicholson Baker's fuse-blowing, sex-positive escapade, *House of Holes*. Baker, the bestselling author of *The Mezzanine*, *Vox*, and *The Fermata*, who 'writes like no one else in America' (*Newsweek*), returns to erotic territory with a gleefully over-the-top novel set in a pleasure resort, where normal rules don't apply. Visitors, pulled in via their drinking straws or the dryers in laundromats, can undergo crotch transfers . . . make love to trees . . . visit the Groanrooms and the twelve-screen Porndecahedron . . . or pussy-surf the White Lake. It's very expensive, of course, but there are work-study programs. In charge of day-to-day operations is Lila, a former hospital administrator whose breast milk has unusual regenerative properties. Brimful of good-nature, wit, and surreal sexual vocabulary, *House of Holes* is a modern-day Hieronymous Boschian bacchanal that is sure to surprise, amuse, and arouse.

Double Fold W. W. Norton & Company

At Westish College, a small school on the shore of Lake Michigan, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big league stardom. But when a routine throw goes disastrously off course, the fates of five people are upended. Henry's fight against self-doubt threatens to ruin his future. College president Guert Affenlight, a longtime bachelor, has fallen unexpectedly and helplessly in love. Owen Dunne, Henry's gay roommate and teammate, becomes caught up in a dangerous affair. Mike Schwartz, the Harpooners' team captain and Henry's best friend, realizes he has guided Henry's career at the expense of his own. And Pella Affenlight, Guert's daughter, returns to Westish

after escaping an ill-fated marriage, determined to start a new life. As the season counts down to its climactic final game, these five are forced to confront their deepest hopes, anxieties, and secrets. In the process they forge new bonds, and help one another find their true paths. Written with boundless intelligence and filled with the tenderness of youth, *The Art of Fielding* is an expansive, warmhearted novel about ambition and its limits, about family and friendship and love, and about commitment--to oneself and to others.

**House of Holes** Two Dollar Radio

In John Updike's second collection of assorted prose he comes into his own as a book reviewer; most of the pieces picked up here were first published in *The New Yorker* in the 1960s and early '70s. If one word could sum up the young critic's approach to books and their authors it would be "generosity": "Better to praise and share," he says in his Foreword, "than to blame and ban." And so he follows his enthusiasms, which prove both deserving and infectious: Kierkegaard, Proust, Joyce, Dostoevsky, and Hamsun among the classics; Borges, Nabokov, Grass, Bellow, Cheever, and Jong among the contemporaries. Here too are meditations on Satan and cemeteries, travel essays on London and Anguilla, three very early "golf dreams," and one big interview. *Picked-Up Pieces* is a glittering treasury for every reader who likes life, books, wit—and John Updike.

**A Novel** Penguin

A beloved French author, journalist, editor and fashion blogger, at 49 years of age, makes a deliberate choice to remain single and celibate, a truly liberating decision that opens up a number of questions about the over-sexed society in which we live.

**Written Words and Public Spaces in Antebellum New York** Vintage

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NEWBERY MEDAL WINNER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

Dig deep in this award-winning, modern classic that will remind readers that adventure is right around the corner--or just under your feet! Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption. "A smart jigsaw puzzle of a novel." —*New York Times*

\*Includes a double bonus: an excerpt from *Small Steps*, the follow-up to *Holes*, as well as an excerpt from the *New York Times* bestseller *Fuzzy Mud*.

*Adventures Among Cyborgs, Utopians, Hackers, and the Futurists Solving the Modest Problem of Death* Yale University Press

WOLITZER/TEN YEAR NAP

*A History of the Unnatural Rhythms That Made Us Who We Are* Random House

\*The Believer Book Awards, 2019: Editors' Longlists in Fiction \*The Northern California 'Golden

Poppy' Book Awards 2019, Fiction longlist \*A Best Book of 2019 —Vulture, Entropy, BuzzFeed, Thrillist "Etter brilliantly, viciously lays bare what it means to be a woman in the world, what it means to hurt, to need, to want, so much it consumes everything." —Roxane Gay, author of *Bad Feminist* "I loved every page of this gorgeous, grotesque, heartbreaking novel." —Carmen Maria Machado, author of *Her Body and Other Parties* A surreal exploration of one woman's life and death against a landscape of meat, office desks, and bad men. *The Book of X* tells the tale of Cassie, a girl born with her stomach twisted in the shape of a knot. From childhood with her parents on the family meat farm, to a desk job in the city, to finally experiencing love, she grapples with her body, men, and society, all the while imagining a softer world than the one she is in. Twining the drama of the everyday — school-age crushes, paying bills, the sickness of parents — with the surreal — rivers of thighs, men for sale, and fields of throats — Cassie's realities alternate to create a blurred, fantastic world of haunting beauty.

*The Naughty Bits* Vintage

Henkin explores the influential but little-noticed role reading played in New York City's public life between 1825 and 1865. The "ubiquitous urban texts"—from newspapers to paper money, from street signs to handbills—became both indispensable urban guides and apt symbols for a new kind of public life that emerged first in New York.

*Leaving the Atocha Station* Crown

House of Holes

**Bad Behavior** Hogarth

Having turned phone sex into the subject of an astonishing national bestseller in *Vox*, Baker now outdoes himself with an outrageously arousing, acrobatically stylish "X-rated sci-fi fantasy that leaves *Vox* seeming more like mere fiber-optic foreplay" (*Seattle Times*). "Sparkling."—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

*A Novel* Penguin

"Staggeringly good." —*Counterpunch* A major new work, a hybrid of history, journalism, and memoir, about the modern Freedom of Information Act—FOIA—and the horrifying, decades-old government misdeeds that it is unable to demystify, from one of America's most celebrated writers Eight years ago, while investigating the possibility that the United States had used biological weapons in the Korean War, Nicholson Baker requested a series of Air Force documents from the early 1950s under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Years went by, and he got no response. Rather than wait forever, Baker set out to keep a personal journal of what it feels like to try to write about major historical events in a world of pervasive redactions, withheld records, and glacially slow governmental responses. The result is one of the most original and daring works of nonfiction in recent memory, a singular and mesmerizing narrative that tunnels into the history of some of the darkest and most shameful plans and projects of the CIA, the Air Force, and the presidencies of Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. In his lucid and unassuming style, Baker assembles what he learns, piece by piece, about Project Baseless, a crash Pentagon program begun in the early fifties that aimed to achieve "an Air Force-wide combat capability in biological and chemical warfare at the earliest possible date." Along the way, he unearths stories of balloons carrying crop disease, leaflet bombs filled with feathers, suicidal scientists, leaky centrifuges,

paranoid political-warfare tacticians, insane experiments on animals and humans, weaponized ticks, ferocious propaganda battles with China, and cover and deception plans meant to trick the Kremlin into ramping up its germ-warfare program. At the same time, Baker tells the stories of the heroic journalists and lawyers who have devoted their energies to wresting documentary evidence from government repositories, and he shares anecdotes from his daily life in Maine feeding his dogs and watching the morning light gather on the horizon. The result is an astonishing and utterly disarming story about waiting, bureaucracy, the horrors of war, and, above all, the cruel secrets that the United States government seems determined to keep forever from its citizens.

Simon & Schuster

In the *New York Times* bestseller *House of Holes*, Nicholson Baker, "one of the most beautiful, original, and ingenious prose stylists to have come along in decades" (*The New York Times Magazine*), returns to the terrain that made him famous with a gleefully provocative, off-the-charts erotic novel that is unlike anything you've read—"a filthy tour de force" (*Time*). Shandee finds a friendly arm at a granite quarry. Ned drops down a hole in a golf course. So begins Nicholson Baker's fuse-blowing sexual escapade—a modern-day Hieronymus Boschian bacchanal set in a pleasure resort where normal rules don't apply. *House of Holes*, one of the most talked-about books in recent memory, is a gleefully provocative novel sure to surprise, amuse, and arouse.

*The Book of X* Simon and Schuster

The ostensible purpose of a library is to preserve the printed word. But for fifty years our country's libraries—including the Library of Congress—have been doing just the opposite, destroying hundreds of thousands of historic newspapers and replacing them with microfilm copies that are difficult to read, lack all the color and quality of the original paper and illustrations, and deteriorate with age. With meticulous detective work and Baker's well-known explanatory power, *Double Fold* reveals a secret history of microfilm lobbyists, former CIA agents, and warehouses where priceless archives are destroyed with a machine called a guillotine. Baker argues passionately for preservation, even cashing in his own retirement account to save one important archive—all twenty tons of it. Written the brilliant narrative style that Nicholson Baker fans have come to expect, *Double Fold* is a persuasive and often devastating book that may turn out to be *The Jungle of the American library system*.

*Lightning People* Serpent's Tail

One of *Publishers Weekly's* Best Books of 2019 A journey through the many ways to live an artistic life—from the flashy and famous to the quiet and steady—full of unexpected insights about creativity and contentment, from the author of *The Good Girl's Guide to Getting Lost*. Rachel Friedman was a serious violist as a kid. She quit music in college but never stopped fantasizing about what her life might be like if she had never put down her bow. Years later, a freelance writer in New York, she again finds herself struggling with her fantasy of an artist's life versus its much more complicated reality. In search of answers, she decides to track down her childhood friends from Interlochen, a prestigious arts camp she attended, full of aspiring actors, artists, dancers, and musicians, to find out how their early creative ambitions have translated into adult careers, relationships, and identities. Rachel's conversations with these men and women spark nuanced revelations about creativity and being an artist: that it doesn't have to be all or nothing, that success

isn't always linear, that sometimes it's okay to quit. *And Then We Grew Up* is for anyone who has given up a childhood dream and wondered "what-if?", for those who have aspired to do what they love and had doubts along the way, and for all whose careers fall somewhere between emerging and established. Warm, whip-smart, and insightful, it offers inspiration for finding creative fulfillment wherever we end up in life.

[A Novel](#) Vintage

While writing an introduction to a new poetry anthology, Paul Chowder struggles with the end of a relationship, his own stunted career, and the suffering of poets as varied as Tennyson and Roethke.

**Travelling Sprinkler** Pantheon

Adam Gordon is a brilliant, if highly unreliable, young American poet on a prestigious fellowship in Madrid, struggling to establish his sense of self and his relationship to art. What is actual when our experiences are mediated by language, technology, medication, and the arts? Is poetry an essential art form, or merely a screen for the reader's projections? Instead of following the dictates of his fellowship, Adam's "research" becomes a meditation on the possibility of the genuine in the arts and beyond: are his relationships with the people he meets in Spain as fraudulent as he fears his poems are? A witness to the 2004 Madrid train bombings and their aftermath, does he participate in historic events or merely watch them pass him by? In prose that veers between the comic and tragic, the self-contemptuous and the inspired, *Leaving the Atocha Station* is a portrait of the artist as a young man in an age of Google searches, pharmaceuticals, and spectacle. Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1979, Ben Lerner is the author of three books of poetry *The Lichtenberg Figures*, *Angle of Yaw*, and *Mean Free Path*. He has been a finalist for the National Book Award and the Northern California Book Award, a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, and the recipient of a 2010-2011 Howard Foundation Fellowship. In 2011 he became the first American to win the *Preis der Stadt Münster für Internationale Poesie*. *Leaving the Atocha Station* is his first novel.

[The Pisces](#) Coffee House Press

The novel that inspired the film starring James Franco and Seth Rogen: "One of a kind . . . a funny, unnervingly surreal page turner" (*Newsweek*). Named one of the Best Books of the Year by the *Washington Post Book World*, *Newsweek*, and the *Los Angeles Times Book Review* *Zeroville* centers on the story of Vikar, a young architecture student so enthralled with the movies that his friends call him "cinéautistic." With an intensely religious childhood behind him, and tattoos of Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift on his head, he arrives in Hollywood—where he's mistaken for a member of the Manson family and eventually scores a job as a film editor. Vikar discovers the frames of a secret film within the reels of every movie ever made, and sets about splicing them together—a task that takes on frightening theological dimensions. Electrifying and "darkly funny," *Zeroville* dives into the renegade American cinema of the 1970s and '80s and emerges into an era for which we have no

name (*Publishers Weekly*). "Funny, disturbing, daring . . . dreamlike and sometimes nightmarish." —*The New York Times Book Review* "Magnificent." —*The Believer* "[A] writer who has been compared to Vladimir Nabokov, Don DeLillo, and Thomas Pynchon." —*Bookmarks Magazine* "Erickson is as unique and vital and pure a voice as American fiction has produced." —Jonathan Lethem

**Baseless** Vintage

A National Book Critics Circle Award-winner elevates the ordinary events that occur to a man on his lunch hour into "a constant delight" of a novel (*The Boston Globe*). In this startling, witty, and inexhaustibly inventive novel, New York Times–bestselling author Nicholson Baker uses a one-story escalator ride as the occasion for a dazzling reappraisal of everyday objects and rituals. From the humble milk carton to the act of tying one's shoes, *The Mezzanine* at once defamiliarizes the familiar world and endows it with loopy and euphoric poetry. Baker's accounts of the ordinary become extraordinary through his sharp storytelling and his unconventional, conversational style. At first glance, *The Mezzanine* appears to be a book about nothing. In reality, it is a brilliant celebration of things, simultaneously demonstrating the value of reflection and the importance of everyday human experiences. "A very funny book . . . Its 135 pages probably contain more insight into life as we live it today than anything currently on the best-seller list." —*The New York Times* "Captures the spirit of American corporate life and invests it with a passion and sympathy that is entirely unexpected." —*The Seattle Times* "Among the year's best." —*The Boston Globe* "Baker writes with appealing charm . . . [He] clowns and shows off . . . rambles and pounces hard; he says acute things, extravagant things, terribly funny things." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review* "Wonderfully readable, in fact gripping, with surprising bursts of recognition, humor and wonder." —*The Washington Post Book World*

[The Fermata](#) Columbia University Press

"Ripley is an unmistakable descendant of Gatsby, that 'penniless young man without a past' who will stop at nothing."—Frank Rich Now part of American film and literary lore, Tom Ripley, "a bisexual psychopath and art forger who murders without remorse when his comforts are threatened" (*New York Times Book Review*), was Patricia Highsmith's favorite creation. In these volumes, we find Ripley ensconced on a French estate with a wealthy wife, a world-class art collection, and a past to hide. In *Ripley Under Ground* (1970), an art forgery goes awry and Ripley is threatened with exposure; in *The Boy Who Followed Ripley* (1980), Highsmith explores Ripley's bizarrely paternal relationship with a troubled young runaway, whose abduction draws them into Berlin's seamy underworld; and in *Ripley Under Water* (1991), Ripley is confronted by a snooping American couple obsessed with the disappearance of an art collector who visited Ripley years before. More than any other American literary character, Ripley provides "a lens to peer into the sinister machinations of human behavior" (John Freeman, *Pittsburgh Gazette*).