

The Coronavirus Novel

written by Joseph Krol. The purview is British and European long-form prose literature and literary culture, 1945-present, with occasional detours from these bounds at clue level.

1) *Description acceptable. One of these works demonstrates their author's use of hapax legomena by describing how the 'don't-mind-if-I-do-ishness of pedestrians on the streets vexes motorists'. These works, which their author began writing to 'fiddle about' during an onset of writer's block in 1927, were finally compiled over the 1970s from manuscripts written on such material as the back of a rejection letter and the (*) inside cover of a pulp crime novel. After writing thousands of these works, their author walked out into the snow and died near Herisau, as described in an NYRB article on their author's 'genius' by JM Coetzee. These works, written in an unusual Germanic shorthand, include stories squeezed onto the back of a postcard written in a Swiss sanatorium. For 10 points, the novel *The Robber* is one of which works, written by the author of *Jakob von Gunten* in tiny handwriting?*

ANSWER: Robert Walsler's microscripts [or anything designating Robert Walsler's works written in small writing; prompt on partial, asking 'written in what manner?']

2) *While sorting this character's papers at the end of one novel, the narrator recalls a torrential piece of 17th-century prose beginning 'I hear new news every day...'. After he reveals he has just missed his mother's funeral out of convenience, this character's marriage is crudely analogised to a Tiepolo ceiling painting in the Palazzo Bragadin. Running jokes include this character's father selling liquid manure, and him being remembered to have worn 'the wrong kind of (*) overcoat'. After this character becomes the chancellor of a new university, red paint is thrown at him by the Quiggin twins. In a bookend to his introduction as a schoolboy, this character dies after leading a naked run through the woods while in Scorpio Murtlock's cult. At various times a Labour peer, British army major, and wife of Pamela Flitton, for 10 points, name this upward-rising antihero of *A Dance to the Music of Time*.*

ANSWER: Lord Kenneth Widmerpool

3) *In the last section of a novel by this author, an old man who calls himself a 'child of sleepwalkers' walks down the Via Veneto and recalls his deteriorating second marriage, with a woman he met at a New Wave film shoot. While writing for *Vanity Fair*, this author penned the quote 'the only convincing love story of our century' about *Lolita*. Over four decades, this author published comic stories in which his birth region was fictionalised as 'Maghrebina'. Many of this author's works, like a novel's opening chapter 'Skushno' about the teenager Bubi and the memoir (*) *Oedipus at Stalingrad*, recount his childhood in Czernopol in the Bukovina. In a five-part novel by this author, his opinions of his Jewish friends change as Nazism takes over Europe, as he realises in retrospect that he espoused the title prejudice. For 10 points, name this Austrian-born novelist of *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite*.*

ANSWER: Gregor von Rezzori

4) *This novel's fourth section includes tens of paragraphs of varying quality each titled 'What I Think About [the protagonist]'. This novel's protagonist is thrown into a canal to his death in its short concluding 'Coda'. The protagonist of this novel tries to teach some children geology in a section formatted with his dialogue in the left column, and his thoughts aligned in the right column. In this novel, a diatribe beginning 'what im really trying to write about is writing' ensues after the abrupt declaration 'OH, (*) FUCK ALL THIS LYING!', in its 'Disintegration' section. A passage about Christopher Marlowe in this novel is violently foreshadowed by an infamous hole cut through the preceding pages. For 10 points, name this novel about the title architect-slash-substitute teacher by Brian Stanley Johnson.*

ANSWER: Albert Angelo

5) A 2017 novel titled for this place mainly consists of Juliette trying to match books she reads to people she sees in this place, at the behest of Soliman. Two popular story anthologies whose entries are structured around this place were translated and edited by Helen Constantine. Tariq imagines seeing 'daylight ghosts' in this place in Sebastian Faulks' most recent novel. In a novel titled for this place, Laverdure repeatedly interjects with the phrase (*) 'talk, talk, talk, that's all you can do!', and the protagonist, who is described as wearing 'blewjenes', eventually falls asleep just before they visit this place. For the first word of a novel part-titled for this place, Barbara Wright used 'howcanaystinksotho' to translate 'Doukipudonktan?'; that novel includes a nightclub ballerina called Gabriel. For 10 points, that Raymond Queneau novel is titled for *Zazie in* which transport network?

ANSWER: The Paris Metro [prompt on Paris or France or the like]

6) After getting massive writer's block in Prague, this author wrote a collection of stories titled for random phrases they heard on their bus commute. This author included 'a ruinous moral landscape' and 'intertextuality' among five requirements for the novel in their 2010 theoretical work *Losing Theories*. While renting a Paris apartment from his landlady Marguerite Duras, this author wrote the novel *The Illustrated Killer*. In a novel by this author, a publisher has a dream in which he cries having relapsed into alcoholism, prompting him to go to Dublin and hold a 'funeral for the book'. A novel about a (*) hunchbacked office worker who compiles a book about historical authors who gave up writing, comprised entirely of footnotes, opens this author's trilogy *Metaliteraria on the Pathologies of Writing*, which also includes *Montano's Affliction* and *Dr Pasavento*. For 10 points, *Bartleby and Co.* is a novel by which hyper-postmodern Spanish author?

ANSWER: Enrique Vila-Matas

7) *Description acceptable*. Attempts at this task dispute the status of about 50 'trechos', which are often indicated by an asterisk. A 1990 attempt at performing this task based on 'chronological' principles contrasted with the first complete attempt at this task in 1982, which ordered its 523 sections thematically. Alongside translation of a certain work, the most popular recent examples of this task are an allegedly 'complete' version by Jeronimo Pizarro and one performed by Richard (*) Zenith. This task, as part of which subtitles like 'The Journey in my Head' are usually sporadically included, is necessitated because the central work was written on undated loose sheets left in a trunk at the author's death. Attempts at this task usually separate sections of the central work narrated by Vicente Guedes and Bernardo Soares. For 10 points, name this task of readying the fragmentary prose masterpiece of Fernando Pessoa for publication.

ANSWER: Preparing / ordering the sections of *The Book of Disquiet* (or *Libro do dessassego*), or the works of Pessoa, for publication, or clear equivalents

8) Adam Curtis' film *Hypernormalisation* argues that works by these two authors ultimately inspired such political techniques as leaders funding opposing propaganda groups. These two authors collaborated on a work set in an insanely hardworking compound where the ears of the lazy get steadily more hairy. In another collaboration by these two authors, six strange locations that lie on a great circle of Earth are analogised to pistol-shots from the (*) Earth-Deneb line. Agents embedded in less advanced civilisations called 'progressors' appear in a series of collaborations by these two authors which the film *Avatar* is often said to have plagiarised. These two authors collaborated on a novel which introduced characters who sell stolen artifacts after travelling through a forbidden 'Zone'. Tarkovsky's film *Stalker* was based on the novel *Roadside Picnic* by, for 10 points, which Russian brothers who created the Noon Universe?

ANSWER: The Strugatsky brothers, Arkady and Boris

9) After this person's death, the translator Claude Durand helped an author rescue three manuscripts, which were translated into French by his country's most famous violinist. A character modelled on this person narrates 'The Guide', the fifth section of a novella which narrativises the 'death in December' of this person's

confidant. That novella follows one in which a May Day event dedicated to a character modelled on this person is visited by an television journalist who constantly thinks about Suzana. An Ancient Egyptian allegory intended to mock one of this person's construction projects is the subject of the novel (*) *The Pyramid*. The author of the aforementioned novellas, *The Successor* and *Agamemnon's Daughter*, first came to prominence under this person's rule for a 1960 novel in which Italian and German generals track down the bodies of the soldiers of a 'dead army'. For 10 points, name this Communist dictator often satirised in the novels of Ismail Kadare.

ANSWER: Enver **Hoxha**

10) This novel reproduces a diagram in which the 'soft leather seating' of an area called 'the Slum' is shown in a diagram of the Colza Hotel's bar. An organisation which drew its name from this novel salvaged the reputation of the still-living Felipe Alfau fifty years after his only novel was published. A character in this novel uses a time machine mainly so he can produce decades-aged whiskey in a few hours. After he fakes his death to avoid conscription, (*) James Joyce appears in this novel as a bartender in a small pub. This novel gives its name to an Illinois-based 'Press' that publishes avant-garde fiction. This novel centres on a plot to use the chemical 'DMP' to remove all the world's oxygen, enacted by the mad scientist De Selby. For 10 points, name this final novel written by Flann O'Brien.

ANSWER: *The **Dalkey Archive*** [or the **Dalkey Archive** Press]

11) The narrator of one novel quotes 'a statement ending with an exclamation mark' from Buffon that claims a quantity of these things 'twenty times the volume of the Earth' could be produced. The narrator imagines a group of people gathering these things as 'in a place where they have the world behind them, and before them nothing but emptiness'. A comic scene at a run-down hotel in which one of these things that 'has doubtless laid entombed... for years' 'proved to be nothing but an empty shell' is analysed in a *New Yorker* article about its author 'as Humorist' by James Wood. It's not (*) silkworms, but the narrator recalls watching a childhood film about how these things are gathered in a photo-illustrated chapter which compares the decline in their numbers in Northern Europe to the Holocaust. For 10 points, a chapter of Sebald's *The Rings of Saturn* details the industry in which what foodstuff is gathered in the North Sea?

ANSWER: **Fish** [or **herring**, or **cod**]

12) This is the last word in the English title of a novel whose protagonist wishes that, rather than her pet rabbit being served at Christmas dinner, her brother dies instead, only for her brother to die in a skating accident. This is the last word in the title of a recent novel that narrates the ten-year-old Jas's life in a strict Reformed household. This year's International Booker shortlist includes that Dutch novel by Marieke Rijkneveld, titled for *The* (*) *Discomfort* of this thing. These things title a novel in which the protagonist, who complains that he spends his days 'taking cards out of a file', narrates each of the last ten days of December 1946. These periods title a debut 1947 novel about the office clerk Frits von Egters by one of the 'great three' Dutch postwar authors. For 10 points, the best-known novel by Gerard Reve is titled for which time periods?

ANSWER: **Evenings** [or **Avonden**]

13) Description acceptable. While thinking about this person at the end of one work, the narrator describes death as 'a jacket that slips off a clothes hanger and falls to the ground'. This person, who during the winter months focuses on being one of his country's leading philatelists, was first fictionalised in the novel *Out of the World*. This person is introduced swinging a pickaxe early in the main work in which they appear, when the narrator rushes outside to tell them that they saw a face in the sea on a news broadcast. After the narrator travels with his (*) brother to the place this man had been living, he is disgusted to find it covered in excrement and empty bottles. This man's death from alcoholism is the title *Death in the Family* in the first volume of a Hitler-infused autofiction series. For 10 points, describe this person who terrorises the protagonist of *My Struggle* in his youth.

ANSWER: Karl Ove Knausgaard's father [or Kai Age Knausgaard; prompt on Knausgaard]

14) For much of the late 20th century, this island's highest official was a pacifist playwright who wrote about his mother's friendship with Noel Coward in *Marvellous Party*. One author became associated with this island after his prose in one novel massively affected John Wynne-Tyson, as part of which he began to jokingly induct his friends, including WG Sebald and Guillermo Cabrera Infante, into its aristocracy. That author described how their acquaintance with the eccentric John (*) Gawsorth led to him becoming associated with this island in a novel which also explains how real-life Oxford professors identified themselves in his entirely fictional novel *All Souls*. For 10 points, the 'false novel' *The Dark Back of Time* describes how the Spanish novelist Javier Marias became leader of which small Caribbean island micronation?

ANSWER: Kingdom of Redonda

15) In a speech about this man, one author declared 'I don't know the truth. But I look. I listen. I feel. I remember.' In an interview in which they claimed 'not one word I wrote can be condemned; that is literature', an author retorted that they had 'not once bowed down before [this man] - not internally, not externally'. That author first gained the positive attention of this man after publishing the travelogue *A Journey to the Rivers*. This man was described as 'rather tragic' in a notorious speech given at his (*) funeral in 2006. A *New York Times* article deemed one author 'the Bob Dylan of genocide deniers' in an article that struggles to reconcile this man's crimes with that author's writing about a 'goalie's anxiety'. The 2019 Nobel Prize for Literature was fraught with controversy on account of Peter Handke's support for, for 10 points, which Serbian leader?

ANSWER: Slobodan Milosevic

16) One of these authors claimed 'it will be a classic' about their lecture about the other, whom they dismissed as 'as intellectually undistinguished as it is possible to be'. Anthony Powell, who formed a 'hate triangle' by despising both of these other authors, merged their personalities to form the socialist writer Quiggin in *A Dance to the Music of Time*. The covers of two books by these two authors usually feature respectively apple and orange slices interleaved, and a half-apple and orange tied together; those books' titles differ only in a question mark. In a lecture subtitled for the 'significance' of one of these authors, delivered at the other's longtime haunt of (*) Downing College, Cambridge, one of them mocked the other's comparison of knowing the second law of thermodynamics and having read Shakespeare. One of these two authors savaged the other's series *Strangers and Brothers* in their journal *Scrutiny*. For 10 points, which author's lecture *The Two Cultures* was savaged by which other author of *The Great Tradition*?

ANSWER: FR Leavis and CP Snow

17) This character muses how 'the clangor of the world is muffled' 'in the thick, soft whiteness' while buying a jar of goose fat. This character, who ends a novel by 'learning to be dead', is described as 'feeling as he does in the Louvre' while contemplating the various origins of the cheeses in a shop. In the first scene in which they appear, this character goes to the beach and struggles to express in language how he 'sees' a wave. Sections titled for this character's 'vacation', 'in the city', and 'silences' separates the novel in which they appear into (*) three sections. This character, who ponders in detail the plants in his garden in the section 'The Infinite Lawn', or 'Il Prato Infinito', titles a novel divided into three sections of three chapters, each with three scenes. For 10 points, name this title character who makes various philosophical observations in Italo Calvino's last published novel.

ANSWER: Mr Palomar

18) This novel's protagonist becomes increasingly passive-aggressive with his ex, the author of *The Wilderness of Youth*, who is nicknamed 'Virginia Woolf'. This novel's protagonist rushes through the 'Inner City' towards its end, insisting that he must write about another character's dream 'before it's too late'. A

character in this novel repeatedly fishes for compliments by noting that the pike she is serving is from Lake Balaton, ignoring how obnoxiously drunk her husband, a 'composer in the wake of Webern', is getting. This novel's narrator, who, after going to (*) Joana's funeral, spends most of the narrative 'sitting in the wing-chair', rants misanthropically about waiting for an esteemed actor to turn up from a performance of *The Wild Duck* at the Burgtheater. For 10 points, name this novel whose protagonist attends the Auersberger's awful 'artistic dinner', by Thomas Bernhard.

ANSWER: Woodcutters [or Cutting Timber: An Irritation, or Hölzfallen]

19) Last Thursday, this publisher mocked a completely inane article on MailOnline, coincidentally by a reporter called James Wood, that nonsensically complained one of its novels contained 'just eight small paragraphs'. This publisher often likens itself to 'the Jacobins' in the context of publishing as 'the French Revolution'. This publisher, which was launched by founder Jacques Testard by publishing the one-sentence novel *Zone*, has infamously twice bought the rights to an author's work in English for almost nothing just before they won the Nobel Prize. The iconic covers of this publisher's novels are always simple white text on a solid (*) blue background, including the English version of a recent novel consisting of 119 vignettes about travelling. For 10 points, name this publisher in English of Svetlana Alexievich and Olga Tokarczuk, which takes its name from a Werner Herzog film.

ANSWER: Fitzcarraldo Editions

20) This writer claimed that literature should be "written in a language substantially different from that of the writer" in a late essay collection. The protagonist salvages his hand-to-mouth life by marrying Irene and joining the Communists before abruptly dying, in a novel by this writer of *Heretical Empiricism*. The leader of the title gang ends up prostituting himself in the gardens of the Villa Borghese in this writer's first novel, which Ann Goldstein translated as *The (*) Street Kids*. This writer combined elements from their early novels *A Violent Life* and *The Ragazzi* for a work whose title character dies in a motorbike crash after pimping out Stella and Maddalena. For a 'Trilogy of Life', this writer adapted the *Decameron*, the *Canterbury Tales* and the *Arabian Nights* into screenplays. For 10 points, name this writer of the screenplay for his own film *Accattone*.

ANSWER: Pier Paolo Pasolini

TB) An incredibly wrought passage in this series describes a young boy disastrously knocking over a display case in a hair salon. The name of the protagonist of this series is only mentioned once in each entry, for instance in passing by their mortgage advisor or by their son in a phone conversation. In this series, the protagonist is handed an envelope containing a photo of their family from years prior by their friend Paniotis. Early in this series, the protagonist goes open-water (*) swimming with a twice-divorcé they only call 'The Neighbour', whom they met on a plane. The first novel in this series mainly consists of long conversations during a summer writing workshop in Athens, which is taught by the protagonist Faye. For 10 points, name this trilogy that includes *Transit* and *Kudos*, written by Rachel Cusk.

ANSWER: Outline trilogy

