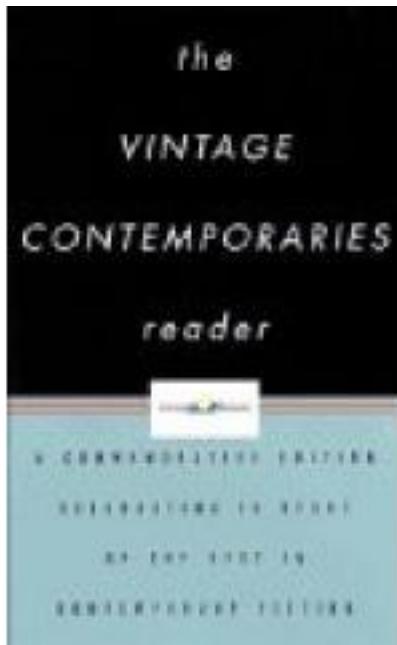


Vintage Contemporaries Reader



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In 1984 a group of young editors at Vintage Books launched an innovative series called Vintage Contemporaries. The first lists included such classics as Jay McInerney's Bright Lights, Big City; Raymond Carver's Cathedral; and Ann Beattie's Love Always. In the years since, Vintage Contemporaries has become the leading publisher of modern fiction, presenting the best, the brightest, and the most original authors around.

Culled from the finest the series has to offer, here are stories and excerpts from some of our most accomplished and creative writers. This anthology includes an excerpt from Frederick Exley's classic journey into the dark side of the American dream, *A Fan's Notes*; three wonderful vignettes from *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros; Mark Leyner's uproariously funny and inexhaustibly inventive account of an outrageously successful author named Mark Leyner from *Et Tu, Babe*; Mona Simpson's moving and lyrical tale of a precocious girl's cross-country odyssey with her eccentric mother from *Anywhere But Here*; a miraculous tale of a middle-aged divorced man at the crossroads of life from Richard Ford's *The Sportswriter*; and many, many more.

The *Vintage Contemporaries Reader* is a treasure trove of some of the most stunning writing in America today, showing not only what *Vintage Contemporaries* has become over the last fourteen years but also what the state of the art looks like on the eve of the twenty-first century.

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