

INTRODUCED BY DRUSILLA MODJESKA

Text Classics

Visitants Text Classics

Helen Garner

Visitants Text Classics:

Visitants Randolph Stow, 2015-08-26 I want to die I do not want to be mad It is like my body is a house and some visitor has come and attacked the person who lived there After an Australian patrol officer commits suicide on a remote New Guinea island in 1959 five witnesses are called to a government inquiry Each has a disturbing story to tell strand by strand the mystery of the officer's past is unravelled But what of other visitants like the unidentified flying object and the cargo cult it has inspired on the island Informed by Randolph Stow's experiences Visitants is an original astonishing investigation of colonialism Julian Randolph Mick Stow was born in Geraldton Western Australia in 1935 He attended local schools before boarding at Guildford Grammar in Perth where the renowned author Kenneth Mackenzie had been a student While at university he sent his poems to a British publisher The resulting collection Act One won the Australian Literature Society s Gold Medal in 1957 as did the prolific young writer s third novel To the Islands the following year To the Islands also won the 1958 Miles Franklin Literary Award Stow reworked the novel for a second edition almost twenty five years later but never allowed its two predecessors to be republished He worked briefly as an anthropologist s assistant in New Guinea an experience that subsequently informed Visitants one of three masterful late novels then fell seriously ill and returned to Australia In the 1960s he lectured at universities in Australia and England and lived in America on a Harkness fellowship He published his second collection of verse Outrider the novel Tourmaline on which critical opinion was divided and his most popular fiction The Merry Go Round in the Sea and Midnite For years afterwards Stow produced mainly poetry libretti and reviews In 1969 he settled permanently in England first in Suffolk then in Essex where he moved in 1981 He received the 1979 Patrick White Award Randolph Stow died in 2010 aged seventy four A private man a prodigiously gifted yet intermittently silent author he has been hailed as the least visible figure of that great twentieth century triumvirate of Australian novelists whose other members are Patrick White and Christina Stead Praise for Visitants A brilliant ambitious novel Sydney Morning Herald Tautly and vibrantly written and brilliantly evocative of its Trobriand Islands setting Australian Book Review Stow is an exceptional writer truly gifted at capturing the natural environment as well as the essential physical and psychological characteristics of his characters What makes his work memorable however is his examination of human connections Beautiful Salty Popcorn A Kindness Cup Thea Astley, 2018-04-30 I told them to go into the scrub and disperse the tribe Disperse That is a strange word What do you mean by dispersing Firing at them Two decades after a massacre of local Aboriginal people the former residents of a Queensland town have reunited to celebrate the progress and prosperity of their community Tom Dorahy returning to his hometown is having none of it he wants those responsible to own up to their actions A reckoning with oppression guilt and the weight of the past A Kindness Cup is one of Thea Astley's greatest achievements Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925 Her first novel Girl with a Monkey was published in 1958 and her third The Well Dressed Explorer 1962 won the Miles Franklin Literary Award Many notable books followed among them the

groundbreaking A Kindness Cup 1974 which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians and It s Raining in Mango 1987 Her last novel was Drylands 1999 her fourth Miles Franklin winner Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor a complex ironic style and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century Astley died in 2004 Smart compassionate New York Times One of the earliest and most empathetic postwar engagements by a white Australian writer with the horrors of nineteenth century racial violence Australian Book Review This timely and attractively priced reissue is a welcome chance to reconsider Astley s rich oeuvre Astley's work is characterised by her irony and unflinching scrutiny of social injustice In A Kindness Cup she was at the top of her impressive form This short novel is one of Australia s finest Stuff NZ The Little Hotel Christina Stead, 2016-10-03 One of Australia's greatest novelists puts together a crew as sad funny and perverse as any ever gathered Time After the Second World War bizarre characters from across the ruined continent have gathered at the fourth rate Hotel Swiss Touring by Lake Geneva Some are residents while other quests have come for the season In the claustrophobic atmosphere of the little hotel their eccentricities and their desperation their jealousies and vindictiveness are all too apparent First published in 1973 shortly before Christina Stead's return to Australia The Little Hotel is a sharp witty satire of changing lives in postwar Europe Christina Stead was born in 1902 in Sydney Stead's first books The Salzburg Tales and Seven Poor Men of Sydney were published in 1934 to positive reviews in England and the United States Her fourth work The Man Who Loved Children has been hailed as a masterpiece by Jonathan Franzen among others In total Stead wrote almost twenty novels and short story collections Stead returned to Australia in 1969 after forty years abroad for a fellowship at the Australian National University She resettled permanently in Australia in 1974 and was the first recipient of the Patrick White Award that year Christina Stead died in Sydney in 1983 aged eighty She is widely considered to be one of the most influential Australian authors of the twentieth century This neat little volume will appeal to readers who enjoy historical fiction with a good dose of satire Classic fiction from an award winning Australian author BookMooch How to describe it It s like a meteorite from Krypton landed on Ozlit s bindi eye riddled lawn greenly glowing Or perhaps a mosaic of imagined intimacies Stead is a recording angel of the threadbare European middle class of the postwar years Saturday Paper In this highly confined setting Stead creates a busy mini Europe of petty and poignant crises or perhaps a molehill of The Magic Mountain This is an excellent place for the Stead novice to begin enjoying her artistry STARRED REVIEW Kirkus Reviews Suburbs of Hell Randolph Stow, 2015-08-26 His eyes are on the one eye of the rifle His mouth splits open his brown beard He throws up a hand palm outward in an unwilled futile gesture to ward off death A killer is hounding the seaside town of Old Tornwich Residents are gripped by fear and suspicion and the finger of blame is pointed in all directions But the bodies keep falling and the crimes remain unsolved the culprit at large No mere whodunnit The Suburbs of Hell its story inspired by a real life serial killer is a profoundly disturbing psychological drama with a devastating conclusion the final work of one of

Australia s greatest writers Julian Randolph Mick Stow was born in Geraldton Western Australia in 1935 He attended local schools before boarding at Guildford Grammar in Perth where the renowned author Kenneth Mackenzie had been a student While at university he sent his poems to a British publisher The resulting collection Act One won the Australian Literature Society's Gold Medal in 1957 as did the prolific young writer's third novel To the Islands the following year To the Islands also won the 1958 Miles Franklin Literary Award Stow reworked the novel for a second edition almost twenty five years later but never allowed its two predecessors to be republished He worked briefly as an anthropologist s assistant in New Guinea an experience that subsequently informed Visitants one of three masterful late novels then fell seriously ill and returned to Australia In the 1960s he lectured at universities in Australia and England and lived in America on a Harkness fellowship He published his 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Australian writers of yesterday Many of these authors have been forgotten or perhaps overlooked It's pleasing to see that Text Publishing released this edition in 2015 and continue to foster some of Australia s buried talents by re publishing under Text Classics For fans of the psychological thriller and those readers who enjoy a foray into a metaphorical tale Stow delivers the goods Salty Popcorn Reaching Tin River Thea Astley, 2018-04-30 Tin River is a townlet of terminal attractiveness Tin River is a state of mind Researching in the archives Belle discovers the long dead Gaden Lockyer a colonial pioneer in Jericho Flats and soon becomes obsessed Belle s quest for Lockyer is her way of coming to terms with the past her mother a drummer in her own all women s group her absent American father and her ineffectual husband Seb In Reaching Tin River Thea Astley's satire is at its sharpest and most entertaining Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925 Her first novel Girl with a Monkey was published in 1958 and her third The Well Dressed Explorer 1962 won the Miles Franklin Literary Award Many notable books followed among them the groundbreaking A Kindness Cup 1974 which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians and It's Raining in Mango 1987 Her last novel was Drylands 1999 her fourth Miles Franklin winner Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor a complex ironic style and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century Astley died in 2004 How lucidly Ms Astley evokes for us Australia s rough pioneer history and Belle s love for it You will like this journey I promise and when it is over you will wish it weren t and you will feel cross and want from Ms Astley much much more New York Times Dazzling imagery on every page Beautifully written Publishers Weekly Intelligent fresh and new Kirkus Reviews Myself When Young Henry Handel Richardson, 2019-08-06 The unfinished autobiography of one of the great Australian novelists Henry Handel Richardson the pen name of Ethel F Lindesay Robertson From the author of The Fortunes of Richard Mahoney and The Getting of Wisdom comes this lively and revealing self portrait To the Islands Randolph Stow, 2015-08-26 Behind the uneasy trees rose the hills and of the artist as a young woman beyond them again the country of the lost huge wilderness between this last haunt of civilization and the unpeopled sea Exhausted and losing faith an Anglican minister flees his mission in Australia s northwest for the vast emptiness of the outback In the soul country of the desert the old man searches for the islands of the Aboriginal dead reflecting on past transgressions and on his life s work A Lear like tale of madness and destruction published when Randolph Stow was only twenty two To the Islands is compelling and wise a poetic masterpiece Julian Randolph Mick Stow was born in Geraldton Western Australia in 1935 He attended local schools before boarding at Guildford Grammar in Perth where the renowned author Kenneth Mackenzie had been a student While at university he sent his poems to a British publisher The resulting collection Act One won the Australian Literature Society's Gold Medal in 1957 as did the prolific young writer's third novel To the Islands the following year To the Islands also won the 1958 Miles Franklin Literary Award Stow reworked the novel for a second edition almost twenty five years later but never allowed its two predecessors to be republished He worked briefly as an anthropologist s assistant in New Guinea an experience that subsequently informed Visitants one of three masterful late novels then fell seriously ill and returned to Australia In the 1960s he lectured at universities in Australia and England and lived in America on a Harkness fellowship He published his second collection of verse Outrider the novel Tourmaline on which critical opinion was 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1996 When I hear the word culture I think excellence and I think access I wasn t sure where this was going but at least he wasn t reaching for his revolver Murray Whelan hero of Stiff is back at his richly futile best in The Brush Off When the body of an artist is fished from the moat outside the National

Gallery Murray political minder brushed off lover and art buff on the make goes looking for the big picture If he can put the fix in he might have a chance of staying employed The second adventure in Shane Maloney's series brilliantly mixes high art with low blows Born in Hamilton in western Victoria in 1953 Shane Maloney is one of Australia's most popular novelists His award winning and much loved Murray Whelan series Stiff The Brush Off Nice Try The Big Ask Something Fishy and Sucked In has been published around the world Before becoming a writer Shane Maloney booked rock bands promoted public radio conducted public relations for the Boy Scouts Association ran the Melbourne Comedy Festival and became a swimming pool lifequard There is no evidence that anyone drowned on his watch In 1996 The Brush Off won the Ned Kelly Prize for Crime Fiction In 2004 Stiff and The Brush Off were made into telemovies starring David Wenham as Murray Whelan In 2009 Shane Maloney was presented with the Crime Writers Association of Australia Lifetime Achievement Award He lives in Melbourne The Brush Off brilliantly mixes the comic and the tragic this amusing thriller has you laughing at the moments where a gasp may be more appropriate Rolling Stone Maloney is top shelf Australian A succulent consistently funny detective story The plot is something like John Cleese might dream up if he was drunk with Dashiell Hammett Age **Elderflower** Randolph Stow, 2015-08-26 He thought of his dream of how he had looked up out of his hole his pit his wolf pit and seen the foreign leaves which had formed themselves into a face Laid low by a tropical disease and an accompanying malaise Crispin Clare returns to his ancestral home in East Anglia Local folklore seeps into his fever dreams and into his writing and the lines between reality and myth soon start to blur In this finely woven tale of illness and recovery family and fable Randolph Stow creates a unique imaginative landscape populated by figures from old English myths and legends and from Clare's present Julian Randolph Mick Stow was born in Geraldton Western Australia in 1935 He attended local schools before boarding at Guildford Grammar in Perth where the renowned author Kenneth Mackenzie had been a student While at university he sent his poems to a British publisher The resulting collection Act One won the Australian Literature Society s Gold Medal in 1957 as did the prolific young writer's third novel To the Islands the following year To the Islands also won the 1958 Miles Franklin Literary Award Stow reworked the novel for a second edition almost twenty five years later but never allowed its two predecessors to be republished He worked briefly as an anthropologist s assistant in New Guinea an experience that subsequently informed Visitants one of three masterful late novels then fell seriously ill and returned to Australia In the 1960s he lectured at universities in Australia and England and lived in America on a Harkness fellowship He published his second collection of verse Outrider the novel Tourmaline on which critical opinion was divided and his most popular fiction The Merry Go Round in the Sea and Midnite For years afterwards Stow produced mainly poetry libretti and reviews In 1969 he settled permanently in England first in Suffolk then in Essex where he moved in 1981 He received the 1979 Patrick White Award Randolph Stow died in 2010 aged seventy four A private man a prodigiously gifted yet intermittently silent author he has been hailed as the least visible figure of that great twentieth century triumvirate of

Australian novelists whose other members are Patrick White and Christina Stead Praise for The Girl Green as Elderflower As eccentric as it is magnificently achieved Geordie Williamson His novels and poetry embody a uniquely rich and strange account of the land and people of Australia that we can ill afford to lose Australian Book Review The Beauties and Furies Christina Stead, 2016-10-03 It is 1934 and Elvira Western has left London and her dull marriage to Paul a doctor for Paris and her waiting lover Oliver a student radical But drab hotels and interminable discussions of politics are not her idea of romance and soon Elvira is wishing she could leave the city of many beauties and furies and return home Christina Stead s second novel dramatises a love triangle against a backdrop of political upheaval Its publication in 1936 prompted a writer for the New Yorker to call Stead the most extraordinary woman novelist since Virginia Woolf Christina Stead was born in 1902 in Sydney Stead's first books The Salzburg Tales and Seven Poor Men of Sydney were published in 1934 to positive reviews in England and the United States Her fourth work The Man Who Loved Children has been hailed as a masterpiece by Jonathan Franzen among others In total Stead wrote almost twenty novels and short story collections Stead returned to Australia in 1969 after forty years abroad for a fellowship at the Australian National University She resettled permanently in Australia in 1974 and was the first recipient of the Patrick White Award that year Christina Stead died in Sydney in 1983 aged eighty She is widely considered to be one of the most influential Australian authors of the twentieth century Stead is of that category of fiction writer who restores to us the entire world in its infinite complexity and inexorable bitterness and never asks if the reader wishes to be so furiously enlightened and instructed but takes it for granted that this is the function of fiction Angela Carter London Review of Books It's not easy to explain how much pleasure there was in reading Christina Stead's second novel The Beauties and Furies It is such a dynamic novel rich with wonderfully complex characters and a compelling storyline The Beauties and Furies is a brilliant novel ANZ Lit Lovers Stead paints an enticing kinetic picture of Parisian caf life and rented lodgings friendly prostitutes and dissipated journalists a sort of update of A Moveable Feast spiced with the rising threat of fascism She also shows the influence as the helpful introduction notes of Joyce's Ulysses with a resourceful lexicon of wordplay stream of consciousness and bravura passages that stand out from her conventional prose the way Marpurgo's evil overshadows the small sins of adultery A welcome reissue of an intriguing atmospherically rich work Kirkus Reviews starred review Whispering in the Wind Alan Marshall, 2018-09-03 Peter sets out into the Australian bush on his pony that leaps like lightning to find a princess to rescue from a dragon something only a brave and good person can attempt Along the way he meets a trusty companion a kangaroo with a bottomless pouch and together they follow the directions of the helpful Willy Willy Man across the landscape With a trip to the moon with the Pale Witch to sweep it clear of Russian and American cameras a journey across the Plain of Clutching Grass a visit to a giant's castle and a battle with the Doubt Cats Peter's bravery and kindness are put to the test This humorous and enchanting Australian fairy tale will enthrall readers of all ages Alan Marshall born in 1902 was an Australian writer story teller humanist and social documenter Marshall received

the Australian Literature Society Short Story Award three times He died in 1984 **Fishing in the Stvx** Ruth Park, 2019-03-05 Following on from A Fence Around the Cuckoo this is the second volume of autobiography by one of Australia s best storytellers Ruth Park author of The Harp in the South and the Miles Franklin winning Swords and Crowns A Stairway to Paradise Madeleine St John, 2018-10-01 Alex and Andrew are friends And Barbara Barbara is a goddess Here is the eternal triangle the story of three people in an unhappy tangle of emotions none able to articulate the precise quality of their longing and dissatisfaction Are any of them truly interested in reaching the paradise they claim to be seeking or are they actually trying to avoid it In St John s hands what is commonplace is transformed and transcendent This is the work of an extraordinary writer MADELEINE ST JOHN was born in Sydney in 1941 Her father Edward was a barrister and Liberal politician Her mother Sylvette committed suicide in 1954 when Madeleine was twelve Her death she later said obviously changed everything St John studied Arts at Sydney University where her contemporaries included Bruce Beresford Germaine Greer Clive James and Robert Hughes In 1965 she married Chris Tillam a fellow student and they moved to the United States where they first attended Stanford and later Cambridge From Cambridge St John relocated to London in 1968 with the hope that Chris would follow The couple did not reunite and the marriage ended St John settled in Notting Hill She worked at a series of odd jobs and then in 1993 published her first novel The Women in Black the only book she set in Australia When her third novel The Essence of the Thing 1997 was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize she became the first Australian woman to receive this honour St John died in 2006 She had been so incensed after seeing errors in a French edition of one of her novels that she stipulated in her will that there were to be no more translations of her work Not much in the way of folly escapes Madeleine St John and the oubliette she opens into the darker reaches of the spirit is unsettling The Times St John proves herself a comic humane observer Newsday Madeleine St John is brilliant on the elliptical way lovers talk to each other Daily Telegraph Me and Mr Booker Cory Taylor, 2017-07-03 I know what Mr Booker would say on the topic of experience He would say what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts Martha could have said no when Mr Booker tried to kiss her But Martha is sixteen she lives in a dull town her father is mad her home is stifling Of course she would kiss the charming Englishman who brightened her world with whiskey and cigarettes adventure and sex whatever the consequences Me and Mr Booker Cory Taylor's acclaimed debut is a novel about feeling old when you re young and acting young when you re not Cory Taylor was born in Queensland in 1955 She was an award winning novelist and screenwriter who also published short fiction and children's books Her first novel Me and Mr Booker won the Commonwealth Writers Prize Pacific Region in 2012 and her second novel My Beautiful Enemy was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award in 2014 She died on 5 July 2016 a couple of months after Dying A Memoir was published Cory Taylor's characters are magnificently created Australian A vibrant questioning and unpredictable read West Australian Me and Mr Booker is sharply observed and blackly comic but it is also a tender depiction of love sex power and one girl s heartbreaking step into adulthood Australian

Bookseller Publisher Cory Taylor s Me and Mr Booker has the heart of Lolita and the soul of Catcher In The Rye this is one of the most assured debut novels I have ever read These characters feel so real that they become almost family Refreshing surprising sexy and ultimately very moving Krissy Kneen Elegant and controlled and wickedly funny David Vann **Up the Cross** Robin Dalton, 2015-11-18 My great Aunt Juliet was knocked over and killed by a bus when she was eighty five The bus was travelling very slowly in the right direction and could hardly have been missed by anyone except Aunt Juliet who must have been travelling fairly fast in the wrong direction Growing up in the 1930s in a grand old home in Sydney s bohemian Kings Cross Robin Dalton experienced a childhood of curiosity and wonder Raised by a bevy of idiosyncratic aunts and a revolving door of unconventional housequests Dalton recalls a time when children had real adventures in a world not easy but perhaps less complicated than today s With a gentle warmth and wicked wit Robin Dalton brings to life all the colour glamour and charm of Australian society between the wars Steeped in nostalgia Aunts Up the Cross is a delightfully funny memoir of family childhood and an Australia of yesteryear Robin Dalton was born in Sydney and lived in London from 1946 She was a television performer an intelligence agent a literary agent and a film producer Madame Souzatska starring Shirley Maclaine Oscar and Lucinda starring Cate Blanchett as well as an author Her 1965 account of her childhood in Kings Cross Aunts up the Cross remains an Australian classic The previously unpublished My Relations was released in 2015 She died in 2022 at the age of 101 Hysterically funny Jennifer Byrne A hugely energetic gallop nicely complemented by Dinah Dryhurst s spikey spirited illustrations Dalton lived a technicolour guite glorious life which you ll enjoy being diverted by New Zealand Herald A guirky and hilarious childhood memoir I haven t laughed so much in years Tim Flannery The Books We Loved 2016 Sydney Morning Herald Honour & Other People's Children Helen Garner, 2018-07-02 Two novellas about the deep connections we forge with the people we love and the pain of breaking those connections In Honour Kathleen and Frank are amicably separated in contact through shared parenting of their young daughter Flo But when Frank finds a new partner and wants a divorce Kathleen is hurt And Flo can t understand why they all can t live together In Other People's Children Ruth and Scotty live in a big share house that s breaking up Scotty is trying to hold on remembering the early days of telling life stories and laughter and singing and when the kids were everyone s kids But now the bitterness has crept in and their friendship is broken Ruth is ready to move on and she ll take her kids with her Helen Garner writes novels stories screenplays and works of non fiction In 2006 she received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature and in 2016 she won the prestigious Windham Campbell Prize for non fiction and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award Her book of essays Everywhere I Look won the 2017 Indie Book Award for Non Fiction Garner is scrupulous painstaking and detailed with sharp eyes and ears She is everywhere at once watching and listening a recording angel at life s secular apocalypses her unillusioned eye makes her clarity compulsive James Wood New Yorker She drills into experience and comes up with such clean precise distillations of life once you read them they enter into you Successive generations of writers have felt the keen

influence of her work and for this reason Garner has become part of us all Weekend Australian Helen Garner's collections of fiction and non fiction corroborate her reputation as a great stylist and a great witness Peter Craven Australian Multiple Effects of Rainshadow Thea Astley, 2018-04-30 There are distant shouts rifle shots the pounding of feet across the bridge the sound of running A woman's scream carves the night then bubbles away In 1930 the superintendent of a mission on a Queensland island driven mad by his wife s death goes on a murderous rampage Fearing for their lives the other whites arm a young Indigenous man and order him to shoot Uncle Boss dead The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow traces the lead up to this bloody showdown and the repercussions in the years after for Aboriginal people and the colonial overseers Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925 Her first novel Girl with a Monkey was published in 1958 and her third The Well Dressed Explorer 1962 won the Miles Franklin Literary Award Many notable books followed among them the groundbreaking A Kindness Cup 1974 which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians and It's Raining in Mango 1987 Her last novel was Drylands 1999 her fourth Miles Franklin winner Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor a complex ironic style and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century Astley died in 2004 A lifelong chain smoker famed for her sharp wit Thea Astley died in 2004 the year after her husband died She remains one of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century Passion brilliance and originality Sydney Morning Herald Formidable Uniquely provocative acerbic and glittering Australian Memoirs of Many in One Patrick White, 2019-06-04 An essential late novel from one of the foremost novelists of the twentieth century now a part of the Text Classics series **A Change in the Lighting Amy** Witting, 2017-05-01 When her husband of three decades announces he has a younger lover and wants a divorce Ella Ferguson realises how protected her life has been she has seen no evil heard no evil and spoken no evil Alone enraged she must come to terms with her failed marriage and her relationships with her adult children A Change in the Lighting Amy Witting s third novel is the compelling story of a woman cast adrift Amy Witting was born in Annandale an inner suburb of Sydney in 1918 She attended Sydney University then taught French and English in state schools Beginning late in life she published six novels including The Visit I for Isobel Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop and Maria's War two collections of short stories two books of verse Travel Diary and Beauty Is the Straw and her Collected Poems She had numerous poems and short stories published in magazines such as Quadrant and the New Yorker Witting was awarded the 1993 Patrick White Prize Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop won the Age Book of the Year Award Amy Witting died in 2001 A wry and powerful novel of family entanglements Sydney Morning Herald A Little Tea, a Little Chat Christina Stead, 2016-10-03 New York on the cusp of World War II Robert Grant a middle aged businessman lives life by his own rules His chief hobbies are moneymaking and seduction he is always on the hunt for the next woman to beguile and betray That is until he meets his match Barbara the blondine a woman he cannot best A sardonic commentary on sexual relations and war as potent as when it was first

published in 1948 A Little Tea a Little Chat holds up a mirror to the corruption and cravenness of our late capitalist moment Christina Stead was born in 1902 in Sydney Stead s first books The Salzburg Tales and Seven Poor Men of Sydney were published in 1934 to positive reviews in England and the United States Her fourth work The Man Who Loved Children has been hailed as a masterpiece by Jonathan Franzen among others In total Stead wrote almost twenty novels and short story collections Stead returned to Australia in 1969 after forty years abroad for a fellowship at the Australian National University She resettled permanently in Australia in 1974 and was the first recipient of the Patrick White Award that year Christina Stead died in Sydney in 1983 aged eighty She is widely considered to be one of the most influential Australian authors of the twentieth century Christina Stead is really marvellous Saul Bellow A sprawling character study Callous comical loathsome and tiresome Grant also as the David Malouf introduction notes can sometimes stir sympathy thanks to Stead s artistry Kirkus reviews starred review

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