

back to blood by tom wolfe

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe: A Deep Dive into Miami's Melting Pot

back to blood by tom wolfe is a novel that plunges readers into the vibrant, chaotic, and multi-layered world of Miami. Known for his sharp social commentary and masterful storytelling, Tom Wolfe uses this book to explore the complex intersections of culture, race, and power in one of America's most diverse cities. If you're curious about how Wolfe captures the essence of Miami's unique social fabric, this article will guide you through the novel's themes, characters, and the broader significance of his work.

Understanding Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe

Tom Wolfe's *Back to Blood* is not your typical novel. It is a sprawling narrative that delves into the lives of various characters representing the rich tapestry of Miami's population. From Cuban immigrants and Haitian exiles to the city's elite and working-class citizens, Wolfe paints a vivid picture of a city that is always in flux.

The Setting: Miami as a Living Character

One of the standout features of *Back to Blood* by Tom Wolfe is how Miami itself becomes a character in the story. The city's colorful neighborhoods, bustling streets, and cultural clashes provide the backdrop for much of the drama. Wolfe's detailed descriptions bring to life the sensory overload of Miami—the heat, the music, the tension—that shapes the experiences of everyone living there.

Thematic Exploration of Race and Identity

Race and identity are central themes throughout the novel. Wolfe tackles the complexities of ethnicity and cultural pride, showing how these factors influence social dynamics and individual destinies. The book examines the tensions between different communities, such as Cuban Americans and African Americans, and how these relationships evolve amid economic and political pressures.

Characters and Plot Dynamics in Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe

The novel follows multiple storylines, weaving together a tapestry of perspectives that highlight the city's diversity.

Key Characters

- **Joe:** A Cuban-American detective whose personal and professional life reflects the challenges of assimilation and prejudice.
- **Ricky:** A Haitian immigrant struggling to find his place amid cultural and racial barriers.
- **Elsa:** A wealthy woman whose interactions with Miami's underclass expose the disparities and hypocrisies of wealth.

Each character's story intersects with the others, creating a narrative that is as much about individual ambition and struggle as it is about collective identity and societal change.

Plot Highlights

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe uses a mix of mystery, drama, and social satire. The plot includes a murder investigation that ties many characters together, providing suspense and a vehicle for exploring Miami's underbelly. Wolfe's writing style combines humor and gravitas, making the story both entertaining and thought-provoking.

The Writing Style and Wolfe's Signature Approach

Tom Wolfe is renowned for pioneering the New Journalism movement, blending literary techniques with journalistic rigor. In Back to Blood, he continues this tradition with vivid descriptions, sharp dialogue, and meticulous attention to detail.

Immersive Storytelling

The novel's immersive storytelling draws readers into Miami's diverse world, capturing everything from the slang of the streets to the nuances of cultural rituals. Wolfe's prose is energetic and precise, making the city's vibrancy leap off the page.

Social Commentary Through Fiction

Wolfe's keen eye for social dynamics shines throughout the book. He critiques issues such as immigration policy, racial prejudice, and class struggle without resorting to clichés or oversimplifications. This makes Back to Blood a valuable read for anyone interested in the socio-political fabric of modern America.

Why Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe Resonates Today

Though published in 2012, the themes of *Back to Blood* remain relevant. In an era where discussions about race, immigration, and cultural identity dominate public discourse, Wolfe's novel offers a nuanced exploration that transcends stereotypes.

Insights into Immigration and Assimilation

The book provides a lens into the immigrant experience, highlighting both the opportunities and obstacles faced by newcomers to the U.S. Wolfe's portrayal of Miami's immigrant communities sheds light on the complexities of assimilation and cultural retention.

Reflection on Urban Diversity and Conflict

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe is a reminder of how diversity can be both a strength and a source of tension within urban centers. The novel encourages readers to consider how cities like Miami negotiate identity, power, and coexistence.

Tips for Readers Interested in Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe

If you're planning to read *Back to Blood*, here are some pointers to enhance your experience:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Miami's History:** Understanding the city's background, especially its Cuban exile community and immigration waves, will enrich your appreciation of the novel's context.
2. **Pay Attention to Character Voices:** Wolfe's characters often speak in distinct dialects and styles, reflecting their cultural roots and social status.
3. **Embrace the Social Commentary:** Beyond the plot, the book offers thoughtful critiques of contemporary issues—consider these as part of the reading journey.

Comparisons to Other Works by Tom Wolfe

Back to Blood differs from some of Wolfe's earlier works like *The Bonfire of the Vanities* or *A Man in Full* by focusing more explicitly on multicultural urban life. Yet, it retains his signature humor, sharp observation, and commitment to exploring America's social realities.

The Evolution of Wolfe's Narrative Style

While Wolfe's earlier books often centered on white-collar characters and social elites, *Back to Blood* expands his scope to include marginalized voices and immigrant stories. This shift demonstrates his adaptability and enduring relevance as a social novelist.

Reading *Back to Blood* by Tom Wolfe offers a richly textured portrait of Miami that goes beyond stereotypes and surface-level impressions. The novel's blend of engaging storytelling and incisive social critique makes it a compelling read for anyone interested in contemporary American life and culture. Whether you're drawn to stories about immigration, race, or urban dynamics, Wolfe's novel provides a powerful window into these ongoing conversations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Back to Blood' by Tom Wolfe?

The main theme of *'Back to Blood'* is the exploration of Miami's diverse and multicultural society, focusing on issues of race, class, and identity.

Who are the central characters in 'Back to Blood' and what roles do they play?

The central characters include a Cuban-American detective, a wealthy real estate developer, and various immigrants, each representing different facets of Miami's social and cultural landscape.

How does Tom Wolfe portray Miami in 'Back to Blood'?

Tom Wolfe portrays Miami as a vibrant, dynamic city marked by cultural clashes, ambition, and the complexities of immigrant life.

What narrative style does Tom Wolfe use in 'Back to Blood'?

Tom Wolfe employs his signature journalistic and satirical narrative style, combining detailed social observation with sharp wit.

When was 'Back to Blood' published?

'Back to Blood' was published in 2012.

How does 'Back to Blood' address the issue of immigration?

The novel addresses immigration by depicting the struggles, hopes, and conflicts experienced by various immigrant communities in Miami.

Is 'Back to Blood' based on real events or purely fictional?

While the characters and storylines are fictional, 'Back to Blood' is heavily informed by real social dynamics and cultural realities of Miami.

What has been the critical reception of 'Back to Blood'?

The critical reception was mixed, with praise for Wolfe's detailed social commentary but some criticism regarding the novel's length and complexity.

How does 'Back to Blood' compare to Tom Wolfe's earlier works?

'Back to Blood' continues Wolfe's tradition of social critique and keen observation, though it is his first novel in over two decades and focuses more on multicultural urban life.

Additional Resources

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe: An In-Depth Exploration of Wolfe's Return to Fiction

back to blood by tom wolfe marks the return of one of America's most distinctive literary voices after a long hiatus. Published in 2012, this novel was eagerly anticipated as Wolfe's first fictional work in over a decade since his acclaimed "A Man in Full." The book delves into the complexities of Miami's multicultural landscape, weaving a narrative that scrutinizes themes of race, class, and identity with Wolfe's characteristic sharp social commentary. As a late-career novel by an established author, Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe invites both praise and critique, making it a significant subject for literary analysis and discussion.

Contextualizing Back to Blood in Tom Wolfe's Career

Tom Wolfe, renowned for pioneering New Journalism and his sharp satirical style, has long been celebrated for capturing the nuances of American culture. His early works, such as "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" and "The Right Stuff," established him as a keen observer of social trends, while his novels like "The Bonfire of the Vanities" offered biting critiques of urban life and materialism. Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe continues this tradition but focuses explicitly on the melting pot of Miami – a city emblematic of modern multicultural America.

Unlike his earlier urban-centric novels set in New York, Back to Blood explores Miami's unique demographic fabric, where Cuban immigrants, Haitian communities, wealthy retirees, and diverse working-class populations intersect. Wolfe's choice of Miami is deliberate, positioning the city as a microcosm of broader racial and social tensions in the United States.

Plot Overview and Narrative Style

At its core, *Back to Blood* is a sprawling multi-character narrative that intertwines the lives of individuals from various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. The story revolves around Miguel "Mike" Lopez, a Cuban-American detective navigating the intricacies of Miami's police department and the city's underbelly. Through Mike's journey, Wolfe introduces readers to an array of characters, including wealthy real estate developers, immigrant workers, and ambitious media figures, each representing different facets of Miami's societal mosaic.

Wolfe's narrative style in *Back to Blood* is consistent with his earlier works – rich in detail, expansive in scope, and peppered with satirical observations. The prose is vibrant and sometimes hyperbolic, aiming to capture the essence of Miami's flamboyance and cultural clashes. However, the novel's length and complexity have drawn mixed reactions, with some readers finding the extensive character lists and digressions challenging to navigate.

Thematic Exploration: Race, Immigration, and Identity

One of the most prominent themes in *Back to Blood* by Tom Wolfe is the exploration of race and immigration. Wolfe scrutinizes the tensions between longstanding American communities and the influx of new immigrant populations, particularly focusing on Cuban and Haitian experiences in Miami. The novel examines how these groups struggle for recognition, economic opportunity, and cultural preservation amid a competitive and often hostile environment.

Wolfe's portrayal of racial dynamics is unflinching and sometimes controversial. He exposes prejudices on all sides, from institutional racism within law enforcement to cultural stereotypes perpetuated by media and society. This balanced yet provocative approach encourages readers to reflect on the persistent challenges of integration and coexistence in multicultural societies.

Characterization and Social Commentary

The characters in *Back to Blood* are carefully constructed to embody various societal archetypes and conflicts. Mike Lopez, as a Cuban-American detective, symbolizes the hybrid identity caught between assimilation and cultural heritage. Other characters, such as wealthy real estate magnates and struggling immigrant workers, illustrate the stark economic disparities prevalent in Miami.

Wolfe's social commentary often takes the form of ironic and exaggerated depictions, a hallmark of his satirical style. Through detailed descriptions of lifestyles, dialogue, and interactions, he exposes the absurdities and contradictions inherent in racial politics and social stratification. This approach invites readers to engage critically with the societal issues presented, rather than passively consuming the narrative.

Critical Reception and Public Response

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe received a polarized reception upon release. Critics praised the novel for its ambitious scope and Wolfe's vivid portrayal of Miami's cultural landscape. Many acknowledged the author's skill in capturing the city's vibrant energy and social complexities. The book's detailed exploration of race and immigration was also noted as timely and relevant, especially in the context of America's increasing diversity.

However, the novel also faced criticism for its length and stylistic choices. Some reviewers found the prose overly verbose and the plot meandering, which detracted from the overall impact. Additionally, the extensive use of stereotypes and Wolfe's sometimes heavy-handed satire led to debates about the novel's sensitivity and accuracy in portraying minority communities.

Commercially, *Back to Blood* did not achieve the blockbuster success of earlier Wolfe novels but maintained a solid readership among fans of literary fiction and social critique. Its reception highlights the challenges veteran authors face when returning to fiction after long absences, especially when tackling complex, contemporary issues.

Comparative Analysis with Wolfe's Previous Works

When compared to Wolfe's prior novels, *Back to Blood* shares thematic continuities but differs in scope and focus. Unlike "*The Bonfire of the Vanities*," which centers on New York's financial elite, *Back to Blood* broadens its canvas to include a more diverse range of social classes and ethnicities. This shift reflects Wolfe's evolving interest in America's changing demographic landscape.

Stylistically, the novel retains Wolfe's signature exuberance and attention to detail but adopts a more sprawling narrative structure. This can be seen as both a strength and a weakness: it allows for a rich, multifaceted portrayal of Miami but sometimes fragments the storyline, affecting narrative cohesion.

Significance in Contemporary American Literature

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe occupies a distinctive place in contemporary American literature. It attempts to capture the complexities of a multicultural society grappling with questions of identity, belonging, and power. In doing so, Wolfe contributes to ongoing literary conversations about race relations and immigration, topics that remain central to America's social and political discourse.

Moreover, the novel serves as an example of how established authors navigate evolving cultural landscapes and reader expectations. Wolfe's willingness to engage with contentious social issues, despite the risk of controversy, underscores the role of literature as a medium for social examination and critique.

Back to Blood by Tom Wolfe ultimately stands as a testament to the author's enduring commitment to exploring the American experience in all its contradictions and vibrancy. While it may not have achieved unanimous

acclaim, its ambitious scope and provocative themes ensure its relevance for readers interested in the intersection of culture, race, and society in modern America.

Back To Blood By Tom Wolfe

back to blood by tom wolfe: Der Gelegenheitskritiker Klaus Siblewski, 2017-09-19 Was Sie schon immer über Literatur wissen wollten und nicht zu fragen wagten. K. ist ein Gelegenheitskritiker, einer aus der zweiten Reihe, der aber für eine Reihe namhafter Rundfunkanstalten über wichtige Bücher schreibt. Die Gespräche, die er mit Redakteuren über die Neuerscheinungen von Martin Walser, Martin Mosebach, Thomas Hettche, Fritz J. Raddatz und vielen anderen führt, sind unverblümt, witzig und direkt. Doch gleichzeitig ist K. zunehmend mit Überlebensfragen beschäftigt und zieht von Stuttgart nach Leipzig, da die Mieten günstiger sind. Doch der Kampf um die Sendeplätze für Buchkritiken wird härter ... Ist K. selbst unfähig zur Fortsetzung seiner Arbeit geworden, oder ... ist er ein Opfer einer Buchkritik, die sich selber abschafft?

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back to blood by tom wolfe: Der neue Tugendterror Thilo Sarrazin, 2021-01-21 Wer bestimmt, was gesagt werden darf - und worüber geschwiegen werden muss? Meinungsfreiheit ist hierzulande durch das Grundgesetz garantiert. Aber wie sieht es damit im Alltag aus? Dort begegnen wir immer wieder Denk- und Redeverbote und sind recht schnell an den Grenzen des Sagbaren angelangt. Thilo Sarrazin analysiert den grassierenden Meinungskonformismus und stellt fest: Wer Dinge ausspricht oder Zusammenhänge herstellt, die nicht ins gerade vorherrschende Weltbild passen, der wird gerne als Provokateur oder Nestbeschmutzer ausgegrenzt.

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back to blood by tom wolfe: Listas Christin Lemke, 2019-04-17 99 Listen für ein besseres Leben sind 99 Inspirationen, das eigene Leben zu gestalten und zu bereichern. Manche Listen können als ernsthafte Denkanregungen verstanden werden, andere sind leichter Natur und zaubern ein Lächeln auf das Gesicht. Von guten Gedanken zum Einschlafen über fernöstliche Liebe bis zum richtigen Verhalten für Führungskräfte, von den besten Gefühlen bis zu Tipps, was Männer oder was Frauen nicht tun sollten.

back to blood by tom wolfe: The Poetics and Politics of Hospitality in U.S. Literature and Culture , 2020-06-15 The Poetics and Politics of Hospitality in U.S. Literature and Culture explores hospitality in a range of cultural expressions from a variety of approaches. The authors analyze and discuss forms of hospitality in canonical literature, ethnic literatures, language or movies. These span from the classical to the contemporary and include a focus on language, power, hybridism, and sociology. The common theme in these contributions is that of American identity. By looking at a diversity of representations of American culture, using a multiplicity of approaches, the authors convey the richness of American hospitality as a vital aspect of its culture.

back to blood by tom wolfe: Contemporary East Asia and the Confucian Revival Jana S. Rošker, Nataša Visočnik, 2015-10-28 The so-called Confucian revival which came to prominence at the end of the twentieth-century, and which is manifested in the philosophical stream of Modern Confucianism, is one of the most significant elements within new Asian modernisation ideologies. By providing new insights into the culturally conditioned structure of Asian societies, this book contributes to the improvement of political, economic and cultural relations between Western and East Asian countries. Most classical Western modernisation theories have assumed that Confucianism would have to be abandoned if East Asia wanted to dev.

back to blood by tom wolfe: Im Kopf von Maxim Biller Kai Sina, 2020-08-20 Die erste, vielstimmige Gesamtschau zum Werk des großen Erzählers und Essayisten. Maxim Biller schreibt seit dreißig Jahren an einem Werk, dessen Vielstimmigkeit in der deutschsprachigen Literatur nach 1945 ohne Vorbild ist. Höchste Zeit für eine kritische Gesamtschau! Billers bisheriges Werk umfasst diverse Gattungen, Stil- und Tonlagen – vom großen Zeitroman über die psychologisch komplexe Erzählung und das kritische Gegenwartstheater bis zur harten, streitbaren Intervention. Unterschiedlichste Traditionen versammeln sich zu einem weltliterarischen Gespräch: Philip Roth und Saul Bellow begegnen Jaroslav Hašek und Franz Kafka, Schreibweisen der internationalen Moderne vereinigen sich mit der literarischen Ästhetik der Nachkriegszeit, die große Weimarer Ära der jüdischen Kritik trifft auf die Schule des New Journalism. Der von Kai Sina herausgegebene Band berücksichtigt das Werk in sämtlichen Facetten und vereint selbst vielfältige Ansätze aus Wissenschaft, Journalismus, Literatur. Um Billers Stil geht es genauso wie um die großen Themen, die sein Werk umkreist: die langen Schatten der deutschen Vergangenheit und der stalinistischen Gewaltherrschaft, um Familiengeheimnisse und das Schicksal der eigenen Biografie. Es ist ein Buch für alle, die Maxim Billers Werk schätzen, aber auch für jene, die einen ersten Einstieg in seine literarische Welt suchen.

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weiteren problematischen Aspekten, mit konkreten Fällen und mit fragwürdigem Geschäftsgebaren im Kunstmarkt auseinander.

back to blood by tom wolfe: Dringliche Angelegenheiten Paula Rodríguez, 2023-08-21 Hugo muss untertauchen, und zwar sofort. Er wird wegen Mordes gesucht, sein Zug ist entgleist, und am Unfallort wird es von Polizisten gleich nur so wimmeln. Mit einem zerknickten Heiligenbildchen als Beistand ergreift Hugo die Flucht. Bald ist ihm der eigenwillige Polizist Domínguez auf den Fersen, der es mit Moral und Vorschriften nicht so genau nimmt. Womit er nicht gerechnet hat: Der Fall wird zum Medienereignis, und plötzlich schaut ihm das halbe Land über die Schulter. Allen voran Hugos sehr katholische Schwägerin, die öffentlichkeitswirksam für die Seele des Unglücklichen betet. Ein Schlamassel, aus dem der Tod für alle Beteiligten der einfachste Ausweg zu sein scheint. Ein rasantes Verbrecherstück, das mit bitterbösem Humor feststellt: Unschuldig ist wirklich niemand.

back to blood by tom wolfe: The Complete Short Stories Of Thomas Wolfe Thomas Wolfe, 1989-05 These fifty-eight stories make up the most thorough collection of Thomas Wolfe's short fiction to date, spanning the breadth of the author's career, from the uninhibited young writer who penned *The Train* and *the City* to his mature, sobering account of a terrible lynching in *The Child by Tiger*. Thirty-five of these stories have never before been collected. Lightning Print On Demand Title

back to blood by tom wolfe: *Thomas Wolfe: Of Time and the River, You Can't Go Home Again & Look Homeward, Angel* Thomas Wolfe, 2023-12-26 In his compelling trio of works, **Look Homeward, Angel**, **Of Time and the River**, and **You Can't Go Home Again**, Thomas Wolfe navigates the complexities of identity, memory, and the inexorable passage of time. Wolfe's literary style is marked by its lyrical prose and stream-of-consciousness narrative, immersing the reader in the protagonist's introspective journey through the landscapes of his youth and the inevitable pull of home. This thematic exploration is set against the backdrop of early 20th-century America, a period characterized by profound social change and the quest for personal meaning amid external chaos. Thomas Wolfe, born in 1900 in Asheville, North Carolina, was acutely influenced by the southern landscape and his own tumultuous experiences as a young man. These elements imbue his writings with an authenticity reflective of the struggles of self-discovery and familial ties. Wolfe's passion for storytelling was nurtured by a rich literary environment, as he was mentored by contemporaries like F. Scott Fitzgerald and embraced the modernist techniques that shaped his distinctive voice. This anthology is recommended for readers seeking a deeper understanding of American literature's evolution and the complexities of human experience. Wolfe's profound insights and evocative language offer a cogent exploration of nostalgia and the search for belonging, making these works essential for anyone intrigued by the intersections of memory, place, and identity.

back to blood by tom wolfe: Postmodern Racial Dialectics Richard A. Jones, 2015-12-07 *Postmodern Racial Dialectics* is a collection of ten essays on African American philosophy. Addressing issues as disparate as why there are no graduate programs in philosophy at the more than one hundred traditionally black colleges and universities in the U.S.—to conceptions of Black utopianism—to the nature of postmodern revolutions, these essays are beyond the bounds of traditional racial discourse. The essays are dialectical in the sense that they are conversations between personal histories, between ideologies, and between changing ways that the races talk to one another. The book is postmodern in that it is beyond modernity's linear logic. *Postmodern Racial Dialectics* is also a political entreaty for African Americans to be wary of conventional ways of thinking, and to begin thinking transgressively beyond narrowly prescribed conceptions from both sides of the color line.

back to blood by tom wolfe: The Beholden State Brian C. Anderson, 2013-06-06 California is at a tipping point. Severe budget deficits, unsustainable pension costs, heavy taxes, cumbersome regulation, struggling cities, and distressed public schools are but a few of the challenges that policymakers must address for the state to remain a beacon of business innovation and economic opportunity. City Journal has for years been cataloging the political and economic issues of our nation's largest metropolitan areas, and in this collection compiled and introduced by City Journal

editor Brian C. Anderson, the cracks in California's flawed policy plans are displayed in detail, and analyzed by a diverse set of experts in the state's design. The list of contributors includes: Steven Malanga, William Voegeli, Joel Kotkin, Wendell Cox, Arthur B. Laffer, Steven Greenhut, Victor Davis Hanson, Heather Mac Donald, John Buntin, Ben Boychuk, Tom Gray, Andrew Klavan, Troy Senik, Larry Sand, Michael Anton, and Guy Sorman. While there is plenty of literature on California's history, topography, and attractions, *The Beholden State: California's Lost Promise and How to Recapture It* is the first book examining in rigorous detail how a place seen just a generation ago as the dynamic engine of the American future could, through bad policy ideas, find itself with among the highest unemployment rates and poorest educational outcomes in the country. The book is as thoroughly analytical as it is pragmatically proscriptive, complete with policy solutions mapping the way forward for a struggling state.

back to blood by tom wolfe: Bruckmann Reiseführer Florida: Zeit für das Beste Sabine Rheker-Weigt, Dirk Rheker, Christian Heeb, 2019-10-09 Handverlesene Autoren-Tipps und Empfehlungen für eine individuelle Reiseplanung, über 400 inspirierende Fotos und eine praktische Faltkarte zum Herausnehmen sorgen nicht nur für eine stressfreie Planung, sondern auch für einen entspannten Urlaub in Florida. Top-Attraktionen wie die Florida Keys, Sun & Fun in Miami, die Gold Coast mit endlosen Stränden, Disneyland in Orlando, der Weltraumbahnhof Cape Canaveral und das Abenteuer Everglades warten auf Besucher im Sunshine State. Dieser USA-Reiseführer macht Lust auf Floridas Weltklasse-Destinationen. So entdecken Sie neben den Highlights auch jede Menge Geheimtipps, die Ihren Urlaub unvergesslich machen. Und es bleibt dabei immer Zeit für authentische Restaurants oder Hotels und die besten Shopping-Hotspots.

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back to blood by tom wolfe: Envisioning Howard Finster N. J. Girardot, 2015 The Reverend Howard Finster (1916-2001) was called the backwoods William Blake and the Andy Warhol of the South, and he is considered the godfather of contemporary American folk and visionary art. This book is the first interpretive analysis of the intertwined artistic and religious significance of Finster's work within the context of the American outsider art tradition. Finster began preaching as a teenager in the South in the 1930s. But it was not until he received a revelation from God at the age of sixty that he began to make sacred art. A modern-day Noah who saw his art as a religious crusade to save the world before it was too late, Finster worked around the clock, often subsisting on a diet of peanut butter and instant coffee. He spent the last years of his life feverishly creating his environmental artwork called Paradise Garden and what would ultimately number almost fifty thousand works of bad and nasty art. This was visionary work that obsessively combined images and text and featured apocalyptic biblical imagery, flying saucers from outer space, and popular cultural icons such as Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Henry Ford, Mona Lisa, and George Washington. In the 1980s and 90s, he developed cult celebrity status, and he appeared in the Venice Biennale and on

the Tonight Show. His work graced the album covers of bands such as R.E.M. and Talking Heads. This book explores the life and religious-artistic significance of Finster and his work from the personal perspective of religion scholar Norman Girardot, friend to Finster and his family during the later years of the artist's life.

back to blood by tom wolfe: The Digested Twenty-first Century John Crace, 2014-04-10
John Crace's Digested Read first appeared in February 2000 and has been running ever since. Each week Crace reduces a new book – anything from a Booker Prize winner to a Nigella cookery book is fair game – to 700 words in a parody of the plot, style, dialogue and themes. Or lack of them. The Digested Read has not just become an institution for readers; it is read and enjoyed by publishers and authors too. So long as it is not their book being digested. A few years ago Crace wrote Brideshead Abbreviated, A Digested Read of the 20th Century. This is the 21st Century. So far.

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