

Free pdf Hollywood gore vidal .pdf

novelist culture critic essayist historian comic satirist image maker actor homosexual bisexual controversial confrontational finding words to describe gore vidal is never difficult and yet an accurate picture of this multifaceted chameleon has eluded us until now this book provides a biography of a literary icon almost sixty years ago gore vidal burst onto the literary landscape with his world war ii novel williwaw he never looked back to date he has published twenty nine novels one short story collection six theatrical plays and numerous books of nonfiction his novel the city and the pillar was a groundbreaking work in the history of homosexual literature in myra breckinridge vidal created a ribald parody of sexual morality and identity in 1967 vidal published washington d c it would be the first of seven novels that have come to be known as the american chronicles a sprawling history of the empire filled with a cast of the most significant social literary and political figures of the united states conversations with gore vidal features provocative and intriguing interviews with one of america s most prolific authors vidal was an enfant terrible in the 1940s and a marginalized homosexual in the 1950s as edgar box he wrote mysteries and as a screenwriter he penned the script for ben hur in 1960 he ran for congress in the 1990s he appeared in films such as gattaca bob roberts and shadow conspiracy his essay collection united states essays 1952 1992 which features 114 pieces on everything from howard hughes to french literature won the national book award vidal proves himself here to be a witty acerbic cantankerous conversationalist one who is willing to and often eager to defy conventional wisdom and lacerate the tired clichés inherent in both politics and literature a defiant political insider who is related to both the gores and the kennedys he is a proud leftist who nevertheless does not hesitate to slash at party orthodoxy when he deems it necessary richard peabody and lucinda ebersole are the editors of the literary journal gargoyle based in washington d c longtime fans gain a one volume collection of the classic quintessential writings of gore vidal including previously uncollected essays and unpublished letters a critical survey of vidal s work treating all of the novels the short stories and plays as well vidal s greatness says the author lies in his talent for the small scale for the anecdote the scene the sentence all created to the counterpoint of the risqué and the elegant a revealing biographical sketch is followed by an analysis of the vidalian style and then by an overall reassessment of the early successes and the later works gore vidal is one of the most significant american writers of the second half of the twentieth century having produced a large number of best selling novels essays plays and pamphlets which have impacted on major political and social debates for fifty years he is both a serious writer and a television and movie celebrity whose increasingly acerbic picture of the united states guarantees he is both revered and reviled gore vidal s america examines the ways in which vidal s writings on history politics sex and religion throw into focus our understandings of the united states but also recognizes his versatility and inventiveness as a creative writer some of whose novels julian myra breckinridge lincoln duluth are among the important literary works of their time ranging from vidal s early defence of homosexuality in the city and the pillar 1948 to his most recent writings on the war in iraq this book provides a unique perspective on the evolution of post world war ii american society politics and literature as altman writes difficult not to see in the results of the 2004 elections where the republican right gained in both the white house and the senate proof of vidal s worse fears namely that the impact of imperial adventure big money and religious moralism would increasingly imperil the american republic the late gore vidal occupied a unique position within american letters born into a political family he ran for office several times but was consistently critical of his nation s political system and its leaders a prolific writer in several genres he was also widely known particularly in the united states on the basis of his frequent appearances in the various electronic media in this groundbreaking work examining the central theme of power throughout vidal s writings heather neilson focuses primarily on vidal s historical fiction in his novels depicting american history and those set in ancient times vidal evokes a world in which deliberately propagated falsehood disinformation becomes established as truth neilson engages with vidal s representations of political and religious leaders and with his deeply ambivalent fascination with the increasingly inescapable influence of the media she asserts that vidal s oeuvre has a

shakespearean resonance in its persistent obsession with the question of what constitutes legitimate power and authority i exist to say no that isn't the way it is or what you believe to be true is not true for the following reasons i am a master of the obvious i mean if there's a hole in the road i will viciously outrageously say there's a hole in the road and if you don't fill it in you'll break the axle of your car one is not loved for being helpful gore vidal one of america's foremost essayists screenwriters and novelists died july 31 2012 he was in addition a terrific conversationalist dick cavett once described him as the best talker since oscar wilde and vidal was never more eloquent or caustic than when let loose on his favorite topic the history and politics of the united states this book is made up from four interviews conducted with his long time interlocutor the writer and radio host jon wiener in which vidal grapples with matters evidently close to his heart the history of the american empire the rise of the national security state and his own life in politics both as a commentator and candidate the interviews cover a twenty year span from 1988 to 2008 when vidal was at the height of his powers his extraordinary facility for developing an argument tracing connections between past and present and drawing on an encyclopedic knowledge of america's place in the world are all on full display and of course it being gore vidal an ample sprinkling of gloriously acerbic one liners is also provided timothy later st timothy is in his study in thessalonika where he is bishop of macedonia it is a d 96 and timothy is under terrific pressure to record his version of the sacred story since far in the future a cyberpunk the hacker has been systematically destroying the tapes that describe the good news and timothy's gospel is the only one immune to the hacker's deadly virus meanwhile thanks to a breakthrough in computer software an nbc crew is racing into the past to capture live from the suburb of golgotha the crucifixion for a tv special guaranteed to boost the network's ratings in the fall sweeps as a stream of visitors from twentieth century america channel in to the first century holy land mary baker eddy shirley maclaine oral roberts and family timothy struggles to complete his story but is timothy's text really hacker proof and how will he deal with the truth about jesus eating disorder above all will he get the anchor slot for the big show at golgotha without representation by a major agency like caa 1 896 years in the future tune in this comprehensive bibliography of gore vidal charts his career and covers the span of his sixty years of writing from his first novel williwaw to his 2006 memoir point to point navigation gore vidal known for such best sellers as the city and the pillar burr lincoln and myra breckinridge is a household name the controversial vidal ran for congress in 1960 and set sparks flying with his public debates challenging william f buckley and norman mailer although one of america's most admired and prolific writers vidal has been steadfastly ignored or impugned by many critics this is partly owing to the vast scope of his writings which include more than twenty novels half a dozen plays dozens of screenplays countless essays and book reviews political commentary and short stories how do the critics approach such a writer there has also been backlash against vidal whose radical polemics and undisguised contempt for those whom he has called the hacks and hicks of academe have hardly endeared him to the critical establishment gore vidal writer against the grain is the first collection of critical essays to approach this important american writer in an attempt to rectify the unwarranted underestimation of his work jay parini has drawn from the best of previously published criticism and commissioned fresh articles by leading contemporary critics to construct a comprehensive portrait of vidal's multifaceted and memorable career writers as diverse as harold bloom stephen spender catharine r stimpson richard poirier and italo calvino examine vidal's work in their own highly individual ways and each finds a different vidal to celebrate chide recollect or view close up also included is a recent interview with parini in which vidal discusses his career and his troubled relationship with the reviewers the vidal that finally emerges from these essays is a writer of undeniable weight and importance as readers will agree gore vidal writer against the grain establishes his rightful role as one of the premier novelists and leading critical observers of this century a critical discussion of the author his work and beliefs when a mortician appears on television to declare that death is infinitely preferable to life he sparks a religious movement that quickly leaves christianity and most of islam in the dust gore vidal's deft and daring blend of satire and prophecy first published in 1954 eerily anticipates the excesses of jim jones david koresh and the heaven's gate suicide cult printed gore vidal novelist playwright critic screenwriter memoirist indefatigable political commentator and controversialist is america's premier man of letters no other living writer brings more sparkling wit

vast learning indelible personality and provocative mirth to the job of writing an essay this long needed volume comprises some twenty four of his best loved pieces of criticism political commentary memoir portraiture and occasionally unfettered score settling it will stand as one of the most enjoyable and durable works from the hand and mind of this vastly accomplished and entertaining immortal of american literature a generous entertaining intimate look at gore vidal a man who prided himself on being difficult to know detached and ironic a master of the pointed put down of the cutting quip enigmatic impossible to truly know this is the calcified public image of gore vidal one the man himself was fond of reinforcing i m exactly as i appear he once said of himself there is no warm lovable person inside beneath my cold exterior once you break the ice you find cold water michael mewshaw s sympathy for the devil a memoir of his friendship with the stubbornly iconoclastic public intellectual is a welcome corrective to this tired received wisdom a complex nuanced portrait emerges in these pages and while gore can indeed be brusque standoffish even cruel mewshaw also catches him in more vulnerable moments the gore vidal the reader comes to know here is generous and supportive to younger less successful writers he is also especially toward the end of his life disappointed even lonely sparkling often hilarious and filled with spicy anecdotes about expat life in italy sympathy for the devil is an irresistible inside account of a man who was himself faults and all impossible to resist as enlightening as it is entertaining it offers a unique look at a figure many only think they know this explosively entertaining memoir abounds in gossip satire historical apercus and trenchant observations vidal s compelling narrative weaves back and forth in time providing a whole view of the author s celebrated life from his birth in 1925 to today and features a cast of memorable characters including the kennedy family marlon brando anais nin and eleanor roosevelt an intimate authorized yet totally frank biography of gore vidal 1925 2012 one of the most accomplished visible and controversial american novelists and cultural figures of the past century the product of thirty years of friendship and conversation jay parini s empire of self digs behind the glittering surface of gore vidal s colorful career to reveal the complex emotional and sexual truths underlying his celebrity strewn life but there is plenty of glittering surface as well a virtual who s who of the twentieth century from eleanor roosevelt and amelia earhart through the kennedys johnny carson leonard bernstein and the crème de la crème of hollywood also a generous helping of feuds with the likes of william f buckley norman mailer truman capote and the new york times among other adversaries the life of gore vidal teemed with notable incidents famous people and lasting achievements that call out for careful evocation and examination jay parini crafts vidal s life into an accessible entertaining story that puts the experience of one of the great american figures of the postwar era into context introduces the author and his works to a generation who may not know him and looks behind the scenes at the man and his work in ways never possible before his death provided with unique access to vidal s life and his papers parini excavates many buried skeletons yet never loses sight of his deep respect for vidal and his astounding gifts this is the biography gore vidal novelist essayist dramatist screenwriter historian wit provocateur and pioneer of gay rights has long needed in a witty and elegant autobiography that takes up where his bestselling palimpsest left off the celebrated novelist essayist critic and controversialist gore vidal reflects on his remarkable life writing from his desks in ravello and the hollywood hills vidal travels in memory through the arenas of literature television film theatre politics and international society where he has cut a wide swath recounting achievements and defeats friends and enemies made and sometimes lost from encounters with amongst others jack and jacqueline kennedy tennessee williams eleanor roosevelt orson welles johnny carson francis ford coppola to the mournful passing of his longtime partner howard auster vidal always steers his narrative with grace and flair entertaining provocative and often moving point to point navigation wonderfully captures the life of one of twentieth century america s most important writers mr vidal demonstrates a political imagination and insider s sagacity equaled by no other practicing fiction writer i can think of and like the earlier novels in his historical cycle empire is a wonderfully vivid documentary drama the new york times book review in this extraordinarily powerful epic gore vidal recreates america s gilded age a period of promise and possibility of empire building and fierce political rivalries in a vivid and beathtaking work of fiction where the fortunes of a sister and brother intertwine with the fates of the generation their country and some of the greatest names of their day including president mckinley theodore roosevelt

william jennings bryan william and henry james the astors the vanderbilts and the whitneys gore vidal sweeps us from the nineteenth century into the twentieth from the salvaged republic of lincoln to a nation boldly reaching for the world gore vidal who died at the end of july 2012 is widely acknowledged as one of america's foremost novelists essayists and screenwriters but vidal was also a terrific conversationalist and never more eloquent or caustic when let loose on his favorite topic the history and politics of the united states this book is made up from interviews conducted with his long time interlocutor the writer and radio host jon wiener in which vidal grapples with matters evidently close to his heart the history of the american empire the rise of the national security state and his own life in politics both as a commentator and candidate the interviews cover a twenty year span from 1988 to 2008 when vidal was at the height of his powers his facility for developing a highly cogent historically informed argument is on full display and of course it being gore vidal an ample sprinkling of gloriously acerbic one liners is also provided p 4 of cover this book examines gore vidal's lifelong engagement with the ancient world incorporating material from his novels essays screenplays and plays it argues that his interaction with antiquity was central to the way in which he viewed himself his writing and his world divided between the three primary subjects of his writing sex politics and religion this book traces the lengthy dialogue between vidal and antiquity over the course of his sixty year career broughall analyses vidal's portrayals of the ancient past in novels such as julian 1964 creation 1981 and live from golgotha 1992 he also shows how classical literature inspired vidal's other fiction such as the city and the pillar 1948 myra breckinridge 1968 and his narratives of empire 1967 2000 novels beyond his fiction broughall examines the ways in which antiquity influenced vidal's careers as a playwright an essayist and a satirist and evaluates the influence of classical authors and their works upon him of interest to students and scholars in classical studies reception studies american politics and literature and the work of gore vidal this volume presents an original perspective on one of the most provocative writers and intellectuals in post war american letters it offers new insights into vidal's attitudes influences and beliefs and throws fresh light upon his patrician self fashioning and his mercurial output baker and gibson show that while vidal's novels are tremendously entertaining they are also serious examinations of a recurring theme the decline of the west in general and the decline of the united states in particular gore vidal has been described as america's finest essayist he is also one of america's finest sex writers here 14 essays and three interviews on sex and gender including a candid conversation with larry kramer an intimate yet frank biography of gore vidal one of the most accomplished visible and controversial american novelists and cultural figures of the past century the product of thirty years of friendship and conversation jay parini's biography probes behind the glittering surface of vidal's colourful life to reveal the complex emotional and sexual truth underlying his celebrity strewn life but there is plenty of glittering surface as well a virtual who's who of the american century from eleanor roosevelt on down the life of gore vidal was an amazingly full one a life of colourful incident famous people and lasting achievements that calls out for careful evocation and examination through jay parini's eyes and words comes an accessible entertaining story that puts the life and times of one of the great american figures of the post war era into context that introduces the author to a generation who didn't know him before and looks behind the scenes at the man and his work in frank ways never possible before his death parini provided with unique access to vidal's life and his papers excavates buried skeletons but never loses sight of his deep respect for vidal and his astounding gifts this stunning and illuminating portrait of national politics from the new deal to the mccarthy era superbly blends historical figures with fictional characters we follow the lives of blaise sanford the ruthless washington newspaper tycoon his son peter a liberal editor both fascinated and repelled by the imperial city peter's beautiful and self destructive sister enid her husband clay overbury a charismatic and ambitious politician and james burden day the powerful conservative senator with characteristic wit and insight vidal chronicles life in the nation's capital at a time when these men and others transformed america into possibly the last empire on earth as a writer of sophisticated historical fiction satirical fantasies and incisive essays on the political and cultural condition of america gore vidal's reputation is well established this study explores gore vidal's use of classical scepticism in his historical novels and in his politics while a great deal has been written about vidal there has not yet been published a serious analysis of his philosophical approach to the reading

and interpretation of history and how this in turn informs the writing of his historical fiction what this study offers is a full understanding of how vidal's sceptical and dissenting views reflect the mind of a politically committed and serious thinker and in turn how these views directly inform the creation of a body of writing that is as intellectually challenging as it is engagingly varied in form and character the essays collected here all appeared in the nation magazine between 1958 and 2005 the early literary ones reflected vidal's status as a rising young novelist of the postwar generation and as he expanded confidently into nonfiction his essays range widely over politics religion society manners and morals we see him emerge as the pre eminent essayist of his generation winning a 1993 nation book award for a collection of nonfiction works vidal's nation years his golden age at the magazine really commenced in 1981 when victor navasky invited him to become a contributing editor gore's first contribution some jews and the gays would be his most explosive one this collection exemplifies his critical vision in great works like requiem for the american empire monotheism and its discontents notes on our patriarchal state and the delightful birds and the bees with its monica lewinsky era sequel the birds and the bees and clinton prepare to have your preconceptions challenged prepare also to smile or laugh out loud vidal's visual memoir of his remarkable and famously well lived life focuses on a collection of photographs letters manuscripts and other selections from his vast personal archives written with his legendary wit and literary elegance this book reveals not only the personal reflections of one of the last of the great generation of american writers but is a captivating social history of the 20th century told by one of its greatest raconteurs from the poignant realisation as an adult of the cruel brutality of childhood in the robin man then comes face to face with himself as a boy in a moment of green laurel both stories combining the nostalgia and fear that haunt us all in old age meanwhile in erlinda and mr coffin southern etiquette is unashamedly turned upside down in a tale of amateur theatricals reminiscent of dickens and victorian melodrama yet it is in three stratagems the zenner trophy pages from an abandoned journal and the ladies in the library with more than a hint of thomas mann's death in venice in the latter that we see vidal as we know him best cynical and provocative in these subtle tales of what was known in those days as sexual inversion a study guide for gore vidal's visit to a small planet excerpted from gale's acclaimed drama for students this concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more for any literature project trust drama for students for all of your research needs since his first novel with a homosexual topic the city and the pillar appeared in 1948 gore vidal has been seen as an enfant terrible of american letters through his ongoing writing career he has examined homo sexuality in the context of cultural religious and socio political developments so that it is fascinating to revisit his critical sometimes cynical and always wittily presented ideas which were formed at a time when gay liberation gay literature and gay identity were still unheard of and to discover the meaning these ideas still hold for us today a collection of seventeen essays written between 1973 and 1976 dealing with fiction politics and the world in general for readers who can't get enough of the hit Broadway musical hamilton gore vidal's stunning novel about aaron burr the man who killed alexander hamilton in a duel and who served as a successful if often feared statesman of our fledgling nation here is an extraordinary portrait of one of the most complicated and misunderstood figures among the founding fathers in 1804 while serving as vice president aaron burr fought a duel with his political nemesis alexander hamilton and killed him in 1807 he was arrested tried and acquitted of treason in 1833 burr is newly married an aging statesman considered a monster by many but he is determined to tell his own story and he chooses to confide in a young new york city journalist named charles schermerhorn schuyler together they explore both burr's past and the continuing civic drama of their young nation burr is the first novel in gore vidal's narratives of empire series which spans the history of the united states from the revolution to post world war ii with their broad canvas and sprawling cast of fictional and historical characters these novels present a panorama of american politics and imperialism as interpreted by one of our most incisive and ironic observers the first popular book length study of gore vidal's novels history is gossip says a protagonist in washington d c but the trick is determining which gossip is history it is a trick that gore vidal has mastered in his ongoing chronicle of that circus of opportunism and hypocrisy called american politics and which he plays with renewed vigour in this expose of the nation's capital young clay overbury senator burden

day s assistant has both a modest background and immense ambitions extremely handsome oozing charm and seemingly dedicated to the senator s cause he is also duplicitous conniving and disloyal but enid canford doesn t think so she marries him so providing the sanford newspaper dynasty with a direct line to the senator her father blaise at first loathing his son in law later learns to love him for all the wrong reasons so begins this tale of lust and ambition set in the republic s high noon from the late 1930s to jo mccarthy s reign of terror gore vidal charts the seamy sleazy side of washington mixing sober history with nakedly gothic melodrama he provides an intoxicating cocktail of blackmail betrayal sexual ambivalence lunacy and conspiracy or in a word politics an american smuggler in egypt finds himself at the mercy of killers femme fatales and an escalating revolution a lost pulp crime novel from one of the legends of the genre lost for more than 60 years and overflowing with political and sexual intrigue thieves fall out provides a delicious glimpse into the mind of legendary writer gore vidal in his formative years by turns mischievous and deadly serious vidal tells the story of a man caught up in events bigger than he is a down on his luck american hired to smuggle an ancient relic out of cairo at a time when revolution is brewing and heads are about to roll one part casablanca and one part torn from the headlines tabloid reportage this novel also offers a startling glimpse of egypt in turmoil written over half a century ago but as current as the news streaming from the streets of cairo today gore vidal was one of america s greatest and most controversial writers the author of twenty three novels five plays three memoirs numerous screenplays and short stories and well over two hundred essays he received the national book award in 1993 in 1953 vidal had already begun writing the works that would launch him to the top ranks of american authors and intellectuals but in the wake of criticism for the scandalous content of his third novel the city and the pillar vidal turned to writing crime fiction under pseudonyms three books as edgar box and one as cameron kay the edgar box novels were subsequently republished under his real name the cameron kay never was lincoln is the cornerstone of gore vidal s fictional american chronicle which includes burr 1876 washington d c empire and hollywood it opens early on a frozen winter morning in 1861 when president elect abraham lincoln slips into washington flanked by two bodyguards the future president is in disguise for there is talk of a plot to murder him during the next four years there will be numerous plots to murder this man who has sworn to unite a disintegrating nation isolated in a ramshackle white house in the center of a proslavery city lincoln presides over a fragmenting government as lee s armies beat at the gates in this profoundly moving novel a work of epic proportions and intense human sympathy lincoln is observed by his loved ones and his rivals the cast of characters is almost dickensian politicians generals white house aides newspapermen northern and southern conspirators amiably evil bankers and a wife slowly going mad vidal s portrait of the president is at once intimate and monumental stark and complex drawn with the wit grace and authority of one of the great historical novelists with a new introduction by the author

Gore Vidal 2012-11-05

novelist culture critic essayist historian comic satirist image maker actor homosexual bisexual controversial confrontational finding words to describe gore vidal is never difficult and yet an accurate picture of this multifaceted chameleon has eluded us until now this book provides a biography of a literary icon

Conversations with Gore Vidal 2005

almost sixty years ago gore vidal burst onto the literary landscape with his world war ii novel williwaw he never looked back to date he has published twenty nine novels one short story collection six theatrical plays and numerous books of nonfiction his novel the city and the pillar was a groundbreaking work in the history of homosexual literature in myra breckinridge vidal created a ribald parody of sexual morality and identity in 1967 vidal published washington d c it would be the first of seven novels that have come to be known as the american chronicles a sprawling history of the empire filled with a cast of the most significant social literary and political figures of the united states conversations with gore vidal features provocative and intriguing interviews with one of america s most prolific authors vidal was an enfant terrible in the 1940s and a marginalized homosexual in the 1950s as edgar box he wrote mysteries and as a screenwriter he penned the script for ben hur in 1960 he ran for congress in the 1990s he appeared in films such as gattaca bob roberts and shadow conspiracy his essay collection united states essays 1952 1992 which features 114 pieces on everything from howard hughes to french literature won the national book award vidal proves himself here to be a witty acerbic cantankerous conversationalist one who is willing to and often eager to defy conventional wisdom and lacerate the tired clichés inherent in both politics and literature a defiant political insider who is related to both the gores and the kennedys he is a proud leftist who nevertheless does not hesitate to slash at party orthodoxy when he deems it necessary richard peabody and lucinda ebersole are the editors of the literary journal gargoyle based in washington d c

The Essential Gore Vidal 1999

longtime fans gain a one volume collection of the classic quintessential writings of gore vidal including previously uncollected essays and unpublished letters

Gore Vidal 1982

a critical survey of vidal s work treating all of the novels the short stories and plays as well vidal s greatness says the author lies in his talent for the small scale for the anecdote the scene the sentence all created to the counterpoint of the risqué and the elegant a revealing biographical sketch is followed by an analysis of the vidalian style and then by an overall reassessment of the early successes and the later works

Gore Vidal's America 2005-10-28

gore vidal is one of the most significant american writers of the second half of the twentieth century having produced a large number of best selling novels essays plays and pamphlets which have impacted on major political and social debates for fifty years he is both a serious writer and a television and movie celebrity whose increasingly acerbic picture of the united states guarantees he is both revered and reviled gore vidal s america examines the ways in which vidal s writings on history politics sex and religion throw into focus our understandings of the united states but also recognizes his versatility and inventiveness as a creative writer some of whose novels julian myra breckinridge lincoln duluth are among the important literary works of their time ranging from vidal s early defence

of homosexuality in the city and the pillar 1948 to his most recent writings on the war in iraq this book provides a unique perspective on the evolution of post world war ii american society politics and literature as altman writes difficult not to see in the results of the 2004 elections where the republican right gained in both the white house and the senate proof of vidal s worse fears namely that the impact of imperial adventure big money and religious moralism would increasingly imperil the american republic

Political Animal 2014-12-01

the late gore vidal occupied a unique position within american letters born into a political family he ran for office several times but was consistently critical of his nation s political system and its leaders a prolific writer in several genres he was also widely known particularly in the united states on the basis of his frequent appearances in the various electronic media in this groundbreaking work examining the central theme of power throughout vidal s writings heather neilson focuses primarily on vidal s historical fiction in his novels depicting american history and those set in ancient times vidal evokes a world in which deliberately propagated falsehood disinformation becomes established as truth neilson engages with vidal s representations of political and religious leaders and with his deeply ambivalent fascination with the increasingly inescapable influence of the media she asserts that vidal s oeuvre has a shakespearean resonance in its persistent obsession with the question of what constitutes legitimate power and authority

Gore Vidal 1876

i exist to say no that isn t the way it is or what you believe to be true is not true for the following reasons i am a master of the obvious i mean if there s a hole in the road i will viciously outrageously say there s a hole in the road and if you don t fill it in you ll break the axle of your car one is not loved for being helpful gore vidal one of america s foremost essayists screenwriters and novelists died july 31 2012 he was in addition a terrific conversationalist dick cavett once described him as the best talker since oscar wilde and vidal was never more eloquent or caustic than when let loose on his favorite topic the history and politics of the united states this book is made up from four interviews conducted with his long time interlocutor the writer and radio host jon wiener in which vidal grapples with matters evidently close to his heart the history of the american empire the rise of the national security state and his own life in politics both as a commentator and candidate the interviews cover a twenty year span from 1988 to 2008 when vidal was at the height of his powers his extraordinary facility for developing an argument tracing connections between past and present and drawing on an encyclopedic knowledge of america s place in the world are all on full display and of course it being gore vidal an ample sprinkling of gloriously acerbic one liners is also provided

I Told You So: Gore Vidal Talks Politics 2013-03-26

timothy later st timothy is in his study in thessalonika where he is bishop of macedonia it is a d 96 and timothy is under terrific pressure to record his version of the sacred story since far in the future a cyberpunk the hacker has been systematically destroying the tapes that describe the good news and timothy s gospel is the only one immune to the hacker s deadly virus meanwhile thanks to a breakthrough in computer software an nbc crew is racing into the past to capture live from the suburb of golgotha the crucifixion for a tv special guaranteed to boost the network s ratings in the fall sweeps as a stream of visitors from twentieth century america channel in to the first century holy land mary baker eddy shirley maclaine oral roberts and family timothy struggles to complete his story but is timothy s text really hacker proof and how will he deal with the truth about jesus eating disorder above all will he get the anchor slot for the big show at golgotha without representation by a major agency like caa 1 896 years in the future tune in

Live from Golgotha 1993-10-01

this comprehensive bibliography of gore vidal charts his career and covers the span of his sixty years of writing from his first novel williwaw to his 2006 memoir point to point navigation

Gore Vidal 2007

gore vidal known for such best sellers as the city and the pillars of the city and myra breckinridge is a household name the controversial vidal ran for congress in 1960 and set sparks flying with his public debates challenging william f buckley and norman mailer although one of america s most admired and prolific writers vidal has been steadfastly ignored or impugned by many critics this is partly owing to the vast scope of his writings which include more than twenty novels half a dozen plays dozens of screenplays countless essays and book reviews political commentary and short stories how do the critics approach such a writer there has also been backlash against vidal whose radical polemics and undisguised contempt for those whom he has called the hacks and hicks of academe have hardly endeared him to the critical establishment gore vidal writer against the grain is the first collection of critical essays to approach this important american writer in an attempt to rectify the unwarranted underestimation of his work jay parini has drawn from the best of previously published criticism and commissioned fresh articles by leading contemporary critics to construct a comprehensive portrait of vidal s multifaceted and memorable career writers as diverse as harold bloom stephen spender catharine r stimpson richard poirier and italo calvino examine vidal s work in their own highly individual ways and each finds a different vidal to celebrate chide recollect or view close up also included is a recent interview with parini in which vidal discusses his career and his troubled relationship with the reviewers the vidal that finally emerges from these essays is a writer of undeniable weight and importance as readers will agree gore vidal writer against the grain establishes his rightful role as one of the premier novelists and leading critical observers of this century

Gore Vidal 1876

a critical discussion of the author his work and beliefs

Gore Vidal 1992

when a mortician appears on television to declare that death is infinitely preferable to life he sparks a religious movement that quickly leaves christianity and most of islam in the dust gore vidal s deft and daring blend of satire and prophecy first published in 1954 eerily anticipates the excesses of jim jones david koresh and the heaven s gate suicide cult print ed

Gore Vidal 1968

gore vidal novelist playwright critic screenwriter memoirist indefatigable political commentator and controversialist is america s premier man of letters no other living writer brings more sparkling wit vast learning indelible personality and provocative mirth to the job of writing an essay this long needed volume comprises some twenty four of his best loved pieces of criticism political commentary memoir portraiture and occasionally unfettered score settling it will stand as one of the most enjoyable and durable works from the hand and mind of this vastly accomplished and entertaining immortal of american literature

Messiah 2016-03-28

a generous entertaining intimate look at gore vidal a man who prided himself on being difficult to know detached and ironic a master of the pointed put down of the cutting quip enigmatic impossible to truly know this is the calcified public image of gore vidal one the man himself was fond of reinforcing i m exactly as i appear he once said of himself there is no warm lovable person inside beneath my cold exterior once you break the ice you find cold water michael mewshaw s sympathy for the devil a memoir of his friendship with the stubbornly iconoclastic public intellectual is a welcome corrective to this tired received wisdom a complex nuanced portrait emerges in these pages and while gore can indeed be brusque standoffish even cruel mewshaw also catches him in more vulnerable moments the gore vidal the reader comes to know here is generous and supportive to younger less successful writers he is also especially toward the end of his life disappointed even lonely sparkling often hilarious and filled with spicy anecdotes about expat life in italy sympathy for the devil is an irresistible inside account of a man who was himself faults and all impossible to resist as enlightening as it is entertaining it offers a unique look at a figure many only think they know

Selected Essays of Gore Vidal 2009-06-16

this explosively entertaining memoir abounds in gossip satire historical aperçus and trenchant observations vidal s compelling narrative weaves back and forth in time providing a whole view of the author s celebrated life from his birth in 1925 to today and features a cast of memorable characters including the kennedy family marlon brando anais nin and eleanor roosevelt

Sympathy for the Devil 2015-01-13

an intimate authorized yet totally frank biography of gore vidal 1925 2012 one of the most accomplished visible and controversial american novelists and cultural figures of the past century the product of thirty years of friendship and conversation jay parini s empire of self digs behind the glittering surface of gore vidal s colorful career to reveal the complex emotional and sexual truths underlying his celebrity strewn life but there is plenty of glittering surface as well a virtual who s who of the twentieth century from eleanor roosevelt and amelia earhart through the kennedys johnny carson leonard bernstein and the crème de la crème of hollywood also a generous helping of feuds with the likes of william f buckley norman mailer truman capote and the new york times among other adversaries the life of gore vidal teemed with notable incidents famous people and lasting achievements that call out for careful evocation and examination jay parini crafts vidal s life into an accessible entertaining story that puts the experience of one of the great american figures of the postwar era into context introduces the author and his works to a generation who may not know him and looks behind the scenes at the man and his work in ways never possible before his death provided with unique access to vidal s life and his papers parini excavates many buried skeletons yet never loses sight of his deep respect for vidal and his astounding gifts this is the biography gore vidal novelist essayist dramatist screenwriter historian wit provocateur and pioneer of gay rights has long needed

Views from a Window 1980

in a witty and elegant autobiography that takes up where his bestselling palimpsest left off the celebrated novelist essayist critic and controversialist gore vidal reflects on his remarkable life writing from his desks in ravello and the hollywood hills vidal travels in memory through the arenas of literature television film theatre politics and international society where he has cut a wide swath recounting achievements and defeats friends and enemies made and sometimes lost from encounters with amongst others jack and jacqueline kennedy tennessee williams eleanor roosevelt orson wellles johnny carson francis ford coppola to the mournful passing of his longtime partner howard auster vidal

always steers his narrative with grace and flair entertaining provocative and often moving point to point navigation wonderfully captures the life of one of twentieth century america s most important writers

Palimpsest 1996-09-01

mr vidal demonstrates a political imagination and insider s sagacity equaled by no other practicing fiction writer i can think of and like the earlier novels in his historical cycle empire is a wonderfully vivid documentary drama the new york times book review in this extraordinarily powerful epic gore vidal recreates america s gilded age a period of promise and possibility of empire building and fierce political rivalries in a vivid and breathtaking work of fiction where the fortunes of a sister and brother intertwine with the fates of the generation their country and some of the greatest names of their day including president mckinley theodore roosevelt william jennings bryan william and henry james the astors the vanderbilts and the whitneys gore vidal sweeps us from the nineteenth century into the twentieth from the salvaged republic of lincoln to a nation boldly reaching for the world

Empire of Self 2015-10-13

gore vidal who died at the end of july 2012 is widely acknowledge as one of america s foremost novelists essayists and screenwriters but vidal was also a terrific conversationalist and never more eloquent or caustic when let loose on his favorite topic the history and politics of the united states this book is made up from interviews conducted with his long time interlocutor the writer and radio host jon wiener in which vidal grapples with matters evidently close to his heart the history of the american empire the rise of the national security state and his own life in politics both as a commentator and candidate the interviews cover a twenty year span from 1988 to 2008 when vidal was at the height of his powers his facility for developing a highly cogent historically informed argument is on full display and of course it being gore vidal an ample sprinkling of gloriously acerbic one liners is also provided p 4 of cover

Point to Point Navigation 2007-10-09

this book examines gore vidal s lifelong engagement with the ancient world incorporating material from his novels essays screenplays and plays it argues that his interaction with antiquity was central to the way in which he viewed himself his writing and his world divided between the three primary subjects of his writing sex politics and religion this book traces the lengthy dialogue between vidal and antiquity over the course of his sixty year career broughall analyses vidal s portrayals of the ancient past in novels such as julian 1964 creation 1981 and live from golgotha 1992 he also shows how classical literature inspired vidal s other fiction such as the city and the pillar 1948 myra breckinridge 1968 and his narratives of empire 1967 2000 novels beyond his fiction broughall examines the ways in which antiquity influenced vidal s careers as a playwright an essayist and a satirist and evaluates the influence of classical authors and their works upon him of interest to students and scholars in classical studies reception studies american politics and literature and the work of gore vidal this volume presents an original perspective on one of the most provocative writers and intellectuals in post war american letters it offers new insights into vidal s attitudes influences and beliefs and throws fresh light upon his patrician self fashioning and his mercurial output

Empire 2000-08-01

baker and gibson show that while vidal s novels are tremendously entertaining they are also serious examinations of a recurring theme the decline of the west in general and the decline of the united states in particular

I Told You So 2012-11-01

gore vidal has been described as america s finest essayist he is also one of america s finest sex writers here 14 essays and three interviews on sex and gender including a candid conversation with larry kramer

Gore Vidal and Antiquity 2022-08-01

an intimate yet frank biography of gore vidal one of the most accomplished visible and controversial american novelists and cultural figures of the past century the product of thirty years of friendship and conversation jay parini s biography probes behind the glittering surface of vidal s colourful life to reveal the complex emotional and sexual truth underlying his celebrity strewn life but there is plenty of glittering surface as well a virtual who s who of the american century from eleanor roosevelt on down the life of gore vidal was an amazingly full one a life of colourful incident famous people and lasting achievements that calls out for careful evocation and examination through jay parini s eyes and words comes an accessible entertaining story that puts the life and times of one of the great american figures of the post war era into context that introduces the author to a generation who didn t know him before and looks behind the scenes at the man and his work in frank ways never possible before his death parini provided with unique access to vidal s life and his papers excavates buried skeletons but never loses sight of his deep respect for vidal and his astounding gifts

Gore Vidal 1997-02-25

this stunning and illuminating portrait of national politics from the new deal to the mccarthy era superbly blends historical figures with fictional characters we follow the lives of blaise sanford the ruthless washington newspaper tycoon his son peter a liberal editor both fascinated and repelled by the imperial city peter s beautiful and self destructive sister enid her husband clay overbury a charismatic and ambitious politician and james burden day the powerful conservative senator with characteristic wit and insight vidal chronicles life in the nation s capital at a time when these men and others transformed america into possibly the last empire on earth

Gore Vidal 1999

as a writer of sophisticated historical fiction satirical fantasies and incisive essays on the political and cultural condition of america gore vidal s reputation is well established this study explores gore vidal s use of classical scepticism in his historical novels and in his politics while a great deal has been written about vidal there has not yet been published a serious analysis of his philosophical approach to the reading and interpretation of history and how this in turn informs the writing of his historical fiction what this study offers is a full understanding of how vidal s sceptical and dissenting views reflect the mind of a politically committed and serious thinker and in turn how these views directly inform the creation of a body of writing that is as intellectually challenging as it is engagingly varied in form and character

Every Time a Friend Succeeds Something Inside Me Dies 2015-08-27

the essays collected here all appeared in the nation magazine between 1958 and 2005 the early literary ones reflected vidal s status as a rising young novelist of the postwar generation and as he expanded confidently into nonfiction his essays range widely over politics religion society manners and morals we see him emerge as the pre eminent essayist of his generation winning a 1993 nation book award for a collection of nonfiction works vidal s nation years his golden age at the magazine really

commenced in 1981 when victor navasky invited him to become a contributing editor gore s first contribution some jews and the gays would be his most explosive one this collection exemplifies his critical vision in great works like requiem for the american empire monotheism and its discontents notes on our patriarchal state and the delightful birds and the bees with its monica lewinsky era sequel the birds and the bees and clinton prepare to have your preconceptions challenged prepare also to smile or laugh out loud

Washington, D. C. 1986

vidal s visual memoir of his remarkable and famously well lived life focuses on a collection of photographs letters manuscripts and other selections from his vast personal archives written with his legendary wit and literary elegance this book reveals not only the personal reflections of one of the last of the great generation of american writers but is a captivating social history of the 20th century told by one of its greatest raconteurs

Gore Vidal's Historical Novels and the Shaping of American Political Consciousness 2005

from the poignant realisation as an adult of the cruel brutality of childhood in the robin man then comes face to face with himself as a boy in a moment of green laurel both stories combining the nostalgia and fear that haunt us all in old age meanwhile in erlinda and mr coffin southern etiquette is unashamedly turned upside down in a tale of amateur theatricals reminiscent of dickens and victorian melodrama yet it is in three stratagems the zenner trophy pages from an abandoned journal and the ladies in the library with more than a hint of thomas mann s death in venice in the latter that we see vidal as we know him best cynical and provocative in these subtle tales of what was known in those days as sexual inversion

Gore Vidal's State of the Union 2013-05-06

a study guide for gore vidal s visit to a small planet excerpted from gale s acclaimed drama for students this concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more for any literature project trust drama for students for all of your research needs

Gore Vidal 1979

since his first novel with a homosexual topic the city and the pillar appeared in 1948 gore vidal has been seen as an enfant terrible of american letters through his ongoing writing career he has examined homo sexuality in the context of cultural religious and socio political developments so that it is fascinating to revisit his critical sometimes cynical and always wittily presented ideas which were formed at a time when gay liberation gay literature and gay identity were still unheard of and to discover the meaning these ideas still hold for us today

Gore Vidal: Snapshots in History's Glare 2009-10

a collection of seventeen essays written between 1973 and 1976 dealing with fiction politics and the world in general

A Thirsty Evil 2008-04

for readers who can't get enough of the hit Broadway musical Hamilton Gore Vidal's stunning novel about Aaron Burr the man who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel and who served as a successful if often feared statesman of our fledgling nation here is an extraordinary portrait of one of the most complicated and misunderstood figures among the founding fathers in 1804 while serving as vice president Aaron Burr fought a duel with his political nemesis Alexander Hamilton and killed him in 1807 he was arrested tried and acquitted of treason in 1833 Burr is newly married an aging statesman considered a monster by many but he is determined to tell his own story and he chooses to confide in a young New York City journalist named Charles Schermerhorn Schuyler together they explore both Burr's past and the continuing civic drama of their young nation Burr is the first novel in Gore Vidal's narratives of empire series which spans the history of the United States from the revolution to post World War II with their broad canvas and sprawling cast of fictional and historical characters these novels present a panorama of American politics and imperialism as interpreted by one of our most incisive and ironic observers

A Study Guide for Gore Vidal's "Visit to a Small Planet" 2002

the first popular book length study of Gore Vidal's novels

Homosexuality in the Work of Gore Vidal 1977

history is gossip says a protagonist in Washington D.C. but the trick is determining which gossip is history it is a trick that Gore Vidal has mastered in his ongoing chronicle of that circus of opportunism and hypocrisy called American politics and which he plays with renewed vigour in this expose of the nation's capital young Clay Overbury senator Burden Day's assistant has both a modest background and immense ambitions extremely handsome oozing charm and seemingly dedicated to the senator's cause he is also duplicitous conniving and disloyal but Enid Canford doesn't think so she marries him so providing the Sanford newspaper dynasty with a direct line to the senator her father Blaise at first loathing his son in law later learns to love him for all the wrong reasons so begins this tale of lust and ambition set in the Republic's high noon from the late 1930s to Joe McCarthy's reign of terror Gore Vidal charts the seamy sleazy side of Washington mixing sober history with nakedly gothic melodrama he provides an intoxicating cocktail of blackmail betrayal sexual ambivalence lunacy and conspiracy or in a word politics

Matters of Fact and of Fiction 2011-08-31

an American smuggler in Egypt finds himself at the mercy of killers femme fatales and an escalating revolution a lost pulp crime novel from one of the legends of the genre lost for more than 60 years and overflowing with political and sexual intrigue thieves fall out provides a delicious glimpse into the mind of legendary writer Gore Vidal in his formative years by turns mischievous and deadly serious Vidal tells the story of a man caught up in events bigger than he is a down on his luck American hired to smuggle an ancient relic out of Cairo at a time when revolution is brewing and heads are about to roll one part Casablanca and one part torn from the headlines tabloid reportage this novel also offers a startling glimpse of Egypt in turmoil written over half a century ago but as current as the news streaming from the streets of Cairo today Gore Vidal was one of America's greatest and most controversial writers the author of twenty three novels five plays three memoirs numerous screenplays and short stories and well over two hundred essays he received the National Book Award in 1993 in 1953 Vidal had already begun writing the works that would launch him to the top ranks of American authors and intellectuals but in the wake of criticism for the scandalous content of his third novel The City and the Pillar Vidal turned to writing crime fiction under pseudonyms three books as Edgar Box and one as Cameron Kay

the edgar box novels were subsequently republished under his real name the cameron kay never was

Burr 2002-09-30

lincoln is the cornerstone of gore vidal s fictional american chronicle which includes burr 1876 washington d c empire and hollywood it opens early on a frozen winter morning in 1861 when president elect abraham lincoln slips into washington flanked by two bodyguards the future president is in disguise for there is talk of a plot to murder him during the next four years there will be numerous plots to murder this man who has sworn to unite a disintegrating nation isolated in a ramshackle white house in the center of a proslavery city lincoln presides over a fragmenting government as lee s armies beat at the gates in this profoundly moving novel a work of epic proportions and intense human sympathy lincoln is observed by his loved ones and his rivals the cast of characters is almost dickensian politicians generals white house aides newspapermen northern and southern conspirators amiably evil bankers and a wife slowly going mad vidal s portrait of the president is at once intimate and monumental stark and complex drawn with the wit grace and authority of one of the great historical novelists with a new introduction by the author

Gore Vidal 1994

Washington D.C. 2016-04-12

Thieves Fall Out 1998

Lincoln

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