

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON: STORY TO SCREENPLAY

BY ERIC ROTH AND F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

This screenplay of the recent hit movie starring Brad Pitt was originally a short story by one of the great voices of American literature, F. Scott Fitzgerald. The strange tale concerns a man who is born in his eighties and who ages backwards. We follow Benjamin's story from New Orleans at the end of World War I, right through to the twenty-first century. Despite his unique life, Benjamin, like all of us, is unable to do anything to alter the course of time and on his journey he meets and loses both friends and lovers.

The time reversal conceit has also been used by other authors such as Kurt Vonnegut, Martin Amis and JG Ballard and has proved an evocative device with which to examine the sadness of death, the transience of life and what lies beyond the incessant march of time. Eric Roth's screenplay is a superb re-imagining of Fitzgerald's thought-provoking tale. Fitzgerald himself is better known for his two iconic American novels, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender is the Night* and his flamboyant portrayal of the jazz age of the 1920's. Benjamin Button is very different beast however.

MORE BOOKS!

WHEN YOU ARE ENGULFED IN FLAMES

BY DAVID SEDARIS



This hugely funny and moving collection of essays should prove a satisfying read for Sedaris's legions of fans. Essentially an autobiographical tome covering the last 25 years of his life, the stories and vignettes here all feature impeccable comic timing

that will make you laugh heartily at the most mundane of incidents.

Whether it's satirising Christmas cards, mocking his own vices, filling his coffee machine with water from a vase of flowers or covering his windows with LP covers to protect his house from neurotic songbirds, Sedaris picks up on life's most bizarre moments in order to shed new light on our deepest loves and fears. This is the perfect read for anyone who's ever travelled halfway across the world to try and quit smoking or who has ever had a sweet fall from their mouth into the lap of a sleeping fellow passenger on a plane. Enjoy.

WATCHING GIANTS: THE SECRET LIVES OF WHALES

BY ELIN KELSEY

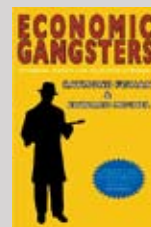


Watching Giants is a highly personal, anecdotal account of the strange and mysterious world of the deep. Kelsey, a scientist as well as an author, takes readers on an undersea odyssey through the Gulf of California, the

domain of aquatic mammals such as the humpback whale, the dolphin and the orca. This rich and often humorous account of marine life introduces readers to humpback whales that build nets from bubbles, gives a close-up account of the whole dolphin friendly tuna issue as well as taking an X-rated look at whale sex. Kelsey interviews dozens of prominent marine scientists who warn of the tremendous speed with which we are changing ocean environments through over fishing, noise pollution and even real estate development. Kelsey makes tangible the complex and fascinating social networks that exist in our oceans, a world that is sadly facing imminent peril.

ECONOMIC GANGSTERS

BY RAYMOND FISMAN AND EDWARD MIGUEL



Fans of the hugely successful and influential book *Freakonomics* should also enjoy this light-hearted and accessible look at our global capitalist merry-go-round. Economists Fisman and Miguel address issues of corruption and violence and how they impoverish

developing nations. However the book rejects economic jargon and the dry language of the academy in favour of a surprisingly lively and spry discourse. Seemingly inconsequential events such as New York City parking tickets and even ex-Indonesian President Suharto catching a cold become potent tools for understanding how the world really works. Whether it's a Chinese smuggler who dodges tariffs by magically transforming frozen chickens into frozen turkeys, or the high correlation between UN diplomats parking violations and corruption in their home countries, rarely has the rarefied world of economics seemed so much fun.

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