

Soumission Michel Houellebecq

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<i>Soumission Michel Houellebecq</i>	<i>2024-08-14</i>
MELINA KYLAN	

Dueling Writers Take On Each Other and the World Polity

Against the Grain (French: À rebours) is a novel by French author Joris-Karl Huysmans, first published in 1884. The book tells the story of Jean des Esseintes, an eccentric, reclusive man who comes from an aristocratic family, but who rails against the bourgeois society. Instead, he prefers to hide himself away in a creative, artistic world of his own making. The book which is essentially without plot, details Des Esseintes's aesthetic tastes, his thoughts on literature, painting, and religion, and his hyperaesthetic sensory experiences. Against the Grain became a classic example of so-called 'Decadent' literature (the Decadent movement in the late 19th century was characterized by self-disgust, sickness at the world, skepticism, delight in perversion, and a belief in the superiority of human creativity over logic.) Huysmans didn't think his book would be a hit at all. He predicted that: 'It will be the biggest fiasco of the year—but I don't care a damn! It will be something nobody has ever done before, and I shall have said what I want to say...'. However, when published, Against the Grain caused a storm of publicity and appealed greatly to the young generation of writers and aesthetes. It is believed that when Oscar Wilde writes of the 'poisonous French novel' in The Picture of Dorian Grey, he was talking about Huysmans book.

Responses in Canada, Europe, and Around the Globe Baen Publishing Enterprises

For nearly 40 years, Ronald Reagan's vision--small government, lower taxes, and self-reliant individualism--has remained America's dominant political ideology. The Democratic Party has offered no truly convincing competing vision. Instead, American liberalism has fallen under the spell of identity politics.Mark Lilla argues with acerbic wit that liberals, originally driven by a sincere desire to protect the most vulnerable Americans, have now unwittingly invested their energies in social movements rather than winning elections. This abandonment of political priorities has had dire consequences. But, with the Republican Party led by an unpredictable demagogue and in ideological disarray, Lilla believes liberals now have an opportunity to turn from the divisive politics of identity, and offer positive ideas for a shared future. A fiercely-argued, non-sense book, The Once and Future Liberal is essential reading for our momentous times.

Foundations for Hope Europa Editions

In Dirt for Art's Sake, Elisabeth Ladenson recounts the most visible of modern obscenity trials involving scandalous books and their authors. What, she asks, do these often-colorful legal histories have to tell us about the works themselves and about a changing cultural climate that first treated them as filth and later celebrated them as masterpieces? Ladenson's narrative starts with Madame Bovary (Flaubert was tried in France in 1857) and finishes with Fanny Hill (written in the eighteenth century, put on trial in the United States in 1966); she considers, along the way, Les Fleurs du Mal, Ulysses, The Well of Loneliness, Lady Chatterley's Lover, Tropic of Cancer, Lolita, and the works of the Marquis de Sade. Over the course of roughly a century, Ladenson finds, two ideas that had been circulating in the form of avant-garde heresy gradually became accepted as truisms, and eventually as grounds for legal defense. The first is captured in the formula ?art for art's sake??the notion that a work of art exists in a realm independent of conventional morality. The second is realism, vilified by its critics as ?dirt for dirt's sake.? In Ladenson's view, the truth of the matter is closer to ?dirt for art's sake??the idea that the work of art may legitimately include the representation of all aspects of life, including the unpleasant and the sordid. Ladenson also considers cinematic adaptations of these novels, among them Vincente Minnelli's Madame Bovary, Stanley Kubrick's Lolita and the 1997 remake directed by Adrian Lyne, and various attempts to translate de Sade's works and life into film, which faced similar censorship travails. Written with a keen awareness of ongoing debates about free speech, Dirt for Art's Sake traces the legal and social acceptance of controversial works with critical acumen and delightful wit.

Humanity and Its Aftermath Encounter Books

The international publishing sensation is now available in the United States—two brilliant,

controversial authors confront each other and their enemies in an unforgettable exchange of letters. In one corner, Bernard-Henri Lévy, creator of the classic Barbarism with a Human Face, dismissed by the media as a wealthy, self-promoting, arrogant do-gooder. In the other, Michel Houellebecq, bestselling author of The Elementary Particles, widely derided as a sex-obsessed racist and misogynist. What began as a secret correspondence between bitter enemies evolved into a remarkable joint personal meditation by France’s premier literary and political live wires. An instant international bestseller, Public Enemies has now been translated into English for all lovers of superb insights, scandalous opinions, and iconoclastic ideas. In wicked, wide-ranging, and freewheeling letters, the two self-described “whipping boys” debate whether they crave disgrace or secretly have an insane desire to please. Lévy extols heroism in the face of tyranny; Houellebecq sees himself as one who would “fight little and badly.” Lévy says “life does not ‘live’” unless he can write; Houellebecq bemoans work as leaving him in such “a state of nervous exhaustion that it takes several bottles of alcohol to get out.” There are also touching and intimate exchanges on the existence of God and about their own families. Dazzling, delightful, and provocative, Public Enemies is a death match between literary lions, remarkable men who find common ground, confident that, in the end (as Lévy puts it), “it is we who will come out on top.” *Whatever* Penn State Press

As the 2022 French Presidential election looms, two candidates emerge as favourites: Marine Le Pen of the Front National, and the charismatic Muhammed Ben Abbes of the growing Muslim Fraternity. Forming a controversial alliance with the political left to block the Front National’s alarming ascendancy, Ben Abbes sweeps to power, and overnight the country is transformed. This proves to be the death knell of French secularism, as Islamic law comes into force: women are veiled, polygamy is encouraged and, for our narrator François – misanthropic, middle-aged and alienated – life is set on a new course. Submission is a devastating satire, comic and melancholy by turns, and a profound meditation on faith and meaning in Western society.

Public Enemies BRILL

Michel Houellebecq is France’s most famous and controversial living novelist. Since his first novel in 1994, Houellebecq’s work has been called pornographic, racist, sexist, Islamophobic, and vulgar. His caricature appeared on the cover of the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo on January 7, 2015, the day that Islamist militants killed twelve people in an attack on their offices and also the day that his most recent novel, Soumission—the story of France in 2022 under a Muslim president—appeared in bookstores. Without God uses religion as a lens to examine how Houellebecq gives voice to the underside of the progressive ethos that has animated French and Western social, political, and religious thought since the 1960s. Focusing on Houellebecq’s complicated relationship with religion, Louis Betty shows that the novelist, who is at best agnostic, “is a deeply and unavoidably religious writer.” In exploring the religious, theological, and philosophical aspects of Houellebecq’s work, Betty situates the author within the broader context of a French and Anglo-American history of ideas—ideas such as utopian socialism, the sociology of secularization, and quantum physics. Materialism, Betty contends, is the true destroyer of human intimacy and spirituality in Houellebecq’s work; the prevailing worldview it conveys is one of nihilism and hedonism in a postmodern, post-Christian Europe. In Betty’s analysis, “materialist horror” emerges as a philosophical and aesthetic concept that describes and amplifies contemporary moral and social decadence in Houellebecq’s fiction.

Soumission Oxford University Press

“How could this happen in a country we helped liberate?” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pondered in the aftermath of the September 11, 2012 attacks in Benghazi that left American ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans dead. The Jihadist Plot: The Untold Story of Al-Qaeda and the Libyan Rebellion shows how it could have happened and why it did happen. It happened because in supporting the Libyan rebellion against Muammar al-Qaddafi, America and its allies, in effect, changed sides in the war on terror, securing the victory of some of the very Islamic extremist forces that they had been fighting for the previous decade. The result is

a Libya that is today under the sway of heavily-armed jihadist brigades that make no secret of their allegiance to al-Qaeda, proudly flying the al-Qaeda flag in broad daylight in Benghazi and other Libyan cities. Moreover, as the September 11 Benghazi attacks make clear, if America reversed course in Libya in order to join forces with jihadists, the jihadists remain exactly as they ever were, with the same ideology and the same hatred of America. Exploding the myth of NATO’s “humanitarian intervention,” The Jihadist Plot tells the real story of the Libyan rebellion. It traces the itineraries of some of the notorious veterans of international jihad who served as the rebellion’s leading commanders and strategists and shows how NATO helped to create a new jihadist hero at the siege of Sirte. And it reveals that long before the onset of the so-called Arab Spring, Libya’s own al-Qaeda affiliate, the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, had devised a plan to bring down the Qaddafi regime using some of the classic methods of jihadist terror: a plan that would be put into practice in the rebellion of February 2011.

A Novel A&C Black

The violent attacks on journalists at Charlie Hebdo and shoppers in a Jewish supermarket in Paris in January 2015 left seventeen dead and shocked the world. In the aftermath, the public struggles with unsettling questions: What is the cost of free expression? Do the world’s major cities embrace multiculturalism? Is the broad range of proposed new security measures too intrusive? After the Paris Attacks brings together leading scholars and journalists to respond to this tragedy and to debate how we can reach a safer and saner future. In this timely book, experts from fields such as law, political science, and philosophy grapple with the vital challenges of balancing security, justice, and tolerance, and offer astute and penetrating insights into how the world can best respond to these challenges.

Unreconciled Vintage

In a time of political turbulence, and as the Welfare State totters under the strain in a country that has changed dramatically since 1945, Archbishop Justin Welby sets out to identify the values that will enable us to reimagine, and to enact, a more hopeful future. The thesis is that the work of reimagining is as great as it was in 1945, and will happen either by accident – and thus badly – or deliberately. The author draws on Britain's history and Christian tradition to identify this country's foundational values, and the building blocks necessary to implement them in a post-Brexit, multicultural society. He explores the areas in which values are translated into action, including the traditional three of recent history: health (especially public, and mental), housing and education. To these he adds family; the environment; economics and finance; peacebuilding and overseas development; immigration; and integration. He looks particularly at the role of faith groups in enabling, and contributing to, a fairer future. When so many are immobilized by political turmoil, this book builds on our past to offer hope for the future, and practical ways of achieving a more equitable society.

H. P. Lovecraft Scribe Publications

A worldwide phenomenon and the most important French novelist since Camus, Michel Houellebecq now delivers his magnum opus—a tale of our present circumstances told from the future, when humanity as we know it has vanished. Surprisingly poignant, philosophically compelling, and occasionally laugh-out-loud funny, The Possibility of an Island is at once an indictment, an elegy, and a celebration of everything we have and are at risk of losing. It is a masterpiece from one of the world’s most innovative writers.

Soumission de Michel Houellebecq (Fiche de lecture) Abrams

The death of God in the West was the prelude to a formidable metaphysical soap opera which, according to Michel Houellebecq, continues to this day. Christianity’s masterstroke was to combine a fierce belief in the individual with the promise of eternal participation in Absolute Being. When that dream failed, various attempts were made to offer the individual a minimum of being. The latest of these attempts is advertising, which aims to arouse desire and transform the subject into an obedient phantom of becoming. But like all previous attempts, this skin-deep, superficial participation in the world fails and unhappiness and depression continue to spread. However, we

can all produce a cold revolution in ourselves by stepping outside the flow of information and advertising. We just need to take some time out, unplug the television, turn off our iPhones, stop buying stuff, stop wanting to buy stuff, temporarily detach ourselves and adopt an aesthetic position in relation to the world. We literally just need to stay still for a few seconds. In this collection of texts and interviews that stretch over three decades, from 1992 to 2020, Michel Houellebecq explains and elaborates his point of view, discusses his novels and addresses a wide range of topics from politics, religion and literature to suicide, euthanasia and paedophilia. An indispensable book for anyone interested in the work of one of the most widely read and controversial novelists of our time.

A Novel Brill / Rodopi

A new novel by the author of *Whatever* follows the lives and fortunes of Bruno and Marcel, born to a bohemian mother during the 1960s, who are brought up separately and pursue their own individual paths—as Bruno battles madness and sexual obsession and Michel, a molecular biologist, comes up with a unique way to express his disgust with the violence of humankind. Reprint. 25,000 first printing.

Michel Houellebecq and the Literature of Despair New York Review of Books

Avec *Soumission*, roman de politique-fiction, Michel Houellebecq déclenche la polémique avant même sa publication. En effet, ce roman raconte les circonstances dans lesquelles un parti islamiste gagne l'élection présidentielle française de 2022 et islamise la société, avec la complicité des élites, sans rencontrer aucune résistance. Jean-Michel Cohen Solal nous livre son analyse : on comprend mieux ainsi l'univers désenchanté de Michel Houellebecq suscité par les inquiétudes et les peurs que l'islam cristallise dans un discours unilatéral qui prône la perte des valeurs d'humanisme. François, le personnage principal, souffre d'une crise d'identité, il en est l'archétype, et c'est ce vide religieux caractéristique de l'Occident qui est à l'origine de la « soumission ». Jean-Michel Cohen Solal montre comment la crise de l'Occident et le déclin de la foi peuvent mener à la conversion. La dernière partie de l'ouvrage intitulée « Réception de l'œuvre » contient un entretien avec Cécile Alduy, professeure de littérature française à l'Université Stanford.

Against the Grain Random House

In this Prix Femina-winning memoir, a writer at the French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* recounts surviving the deadly terror attack on their office. On January 7, 2015, two terrorists claiming allegiance to ISIS attack the Paris office of the satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo*. The event causes untold pain to the victims and their families, prompts a global solidarity movement, and ignites a fierce debate over press freedoms and the role of satire today. Philippe Lançon, a journalist, author, and a weekly contributor to *Charlie Hebdo* is gravely wounded in the attack—an experience that upends his relationship to the world. As Lançon attempts to reconstruct his life on the page, he rereads Proust, Thomas Mann, Kafka, and others in search of guidance. It is a year before he can return to writing, a year in which he learns to work through his experiences and their aftermath. Disturbance is not an essay on terrorism nor is it a witness's account of *Charlie Hebdo*.

It is an honest, intimate account of a man seeking to put his life back together after it has been torn apart. “A powerful and deeply civilized memoir.” —The New York Times

Nineteen Eighty-five University of Toronto Press

We don't understand the reactionary mind. As a result, argues Mark Lilla in this timely book, the ideas and passions that shape today's political dramas are unintelligible to us. The reactionary is anything but a conservative. He is as radical and modern a figure as the revolutionary, someone shipwrecked in the rapidly changing present, and suffering from nostalgia for an idealized past and an apocalyptic fear that history is rushing toward catastrophe. And like the revolutionary his political engagements are motivated by highly developed ideas. Lilla begins with three twentieth-century philosophers—Franz Rosenzweig, Eric Voegelin, and Leo Strauss—who attributed the problems of modern society to a break in the history of ideas and promoted a return to earlier modes of thought. He then examines the enduring power of grand historical narratives of betrayal to shape political outlooks since the French Revolution, and shows how these narratives are employed in the writings of Europe's right-wing cultural pessimists and Maoist neocommunist, American theococonservatives fantasizing about the harmony of medieval Catholic society and radical Islamists seeking to restore a vanished Muslim caliphate. The revolutionary spirit that inspired political movements across the world for two centuries may have died out. But the spirit of reaction that rose to meet it has survived and is proving just as formidable a historical force. We live in an age when the tragicomic nostalgia of Don Quixote for a lost golden age has been transformed into a potent and sometimes deadly weapon. Mark Lilla helps us to understand why.

Submission and Decline Farrar, Straus and Giroux

SubmissionRandom House

The Map and the Territory Flammarion-Pere Castor

The most celebrated and controversial French novelist of our time now delivers his magnum opus—about art and money, love and friendship and death, fathers and sons. *The Map and the Territory* is the story of an artist, Jed Martin, and his family and lovers and friends, the arc of his entire history rendered with sharp humor and powerful compassion. His earliest photographs, of countless industrial objects, were followed by a surprisingly successful series featuring Michelin road maps, which also happened to bring him the love of his life, Olga, a beautiful Russian working—for a time—in Paris. But global fame and fortune arrive when he turns to painting and produces a host of portraits that capture a wide range of professions, from the commonplace (the owner of a local bar) to the autobiographical (his father, an accomplished architect) and from the celebrated (Bill Gates and Steve Jobs *Discussing the Future of Information Technology*) to the literary (a writer named Houellebecq, with whom he develops an unusually close relationship). Then, while his aging father (his only living relative) flirts with oblivion, a police inspector seeks Martin's help in solving an unspeakably gruesome crime—events that prove profoundly unsettling. Even so, now growing old himself, Jed Martin somehow discovers serenity and manages to add another startling chapter to his artistic legacy, a deeply moving conclusion to this saga of hopes

and losses and dreams.

The Rehearsals Vintage

Translated for the first time into English, a dual-text edition of a prize-winning poetry collection from the always controversial novelist Notorious as a novelist, Michel Houellebecq was first known in France as a poet, and in many ways it is through poetry that he found his novelist's voice. The recipient of the prestigious poetry prize Prix de Flore, this collection of prose and verse pieces investigate issues of alienation, individualism, and disillusionment—themes that will be familiar to Houellebecq readers—while subtly adopting a variety of tones and styles, revealing facets of the author unknown until now in the English-speaking world. Deeply melancholic and despairing at the inhumanity of the present-day world, yet brimming with vitality and invention, these timely, poignant poems clear away the dross of hollow optimism and call for an end to the nightmare of modern existence.

On Political Reaction Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Bienvenue dans la collection Les Fiches de lecture d'Universalis « Toute société a ses points de moindre résistance, ses plaies. Mettez le doigt sur la plaie, et appuyez bien fort. » Ce programme, énoncé dès *Rester vivant* (1991), Michel Houellebecq l'a mis en œuvre dans *Soumission* (Flammarion, 2015). La réception tumultueuse du roman suffit ... Une fiche de lecture spécialement conçue pour le numérique, pour tout savoir sur *Soumission* de Michel Houellebecq. Chaque fiche de lecture présente une œuvre clé de la littérature ou de la pensée. Cette présentation est couplée avec un article de synthèse sur l'auteur de l'œuvre. À PROPOS DE L'ENCYCLOPAEDIA UNIVERSALIS Reconnue mondialement pour la qualité et la fiabilité incomparable de ses publications, Encyclopaedia Universalis met la connaissance à la portée de tous. Écrite par plus de 7 200 auteurs spécialistes et riche de près de 30 000 médias (vidéos, photos, cartes, dessins...), l'Encyclopaedia Universalis est la plus fiable collection de référence disponible en français. Elle aborde tous les domaines du savoir.

Michel Houellebecq Encyclopaedia Universalis

Available for the first time in English, here is an unforgettable portrayal by a master novelist of the physical and psychological devastation wrought in the homeland by Hitler's war. Late April, 1945. The war is over, yet Dr Doll, a loner and 'moderate pessimist', lives in constant fear. By night, he is haunted by nightmarish images of the bombsite in which he is trapped — he, and the rest of Germany. More than anything, he wishes to vanquish the demon of collective guilt, but he is unable to right any wrongs, especially in his position as mayor of a small town in north-east Germany that has been occupied by the Red Army. Dr Doll flees for Berlin, where he finds escape in a morphine addiction: each dose is a 'small death'. He tries to make his way in the chaos of a city torn apart by war, accompanied by his young wife, who shares his addiction. Fighting to save two lives, he tentatively begins to believe in a better future. Written with Fallada's distinctive power and vividness, *Nightmare in Berlin* captures the demoralised and desperate atmosphere of post-war Germany in a way that has never been matched or surpassed.