Each generation revises literary history and this is nowhere more evident than in the post-World War II period. This Companion offers a comprehensive, authoritative, and accessible overview of the diversity of American fiction since World War II. Essays by nineteen distinguished scholars provide critical insights into the significant genres, historical contexts, cultural diversity, and major authors during a period of enormous American global political and cultural power. This power is overshadowed, nevertheless, by national anxieties growing out of events ranging from the Civil Rights Movement to the rise of feminism; from the Cold War and its fear of communism and nuclear warfare to the Age of Terror and its different yet related fears of the Other. American fiction since 1945 has faithfully chronicled these anxieties. An essential reference guide, this Companion provides a chronology of the period, as well as guides to further reading.

John N. Duvall is the Margaret Church Distinguished Professor of English at Purdue University. He has published nine previous books on modernist and contemporary American fiction, most recently Race and White Identity in Southern Fiction (2008), The Cambridge Companion to Don DeLillo (2008), and Faulkner and His Critics (2010).
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3 New journalism and the nonfiction novel 44
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2. Close-up of screenshot from the online hypertext *Marginalia in the Library of Babel* by Mark C. Marino. Used with permission from the author.  
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CONTRIBUTORS

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JANE ELLIOTT is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Related Literature at Kings College London. She is the author of *Popular Feminist Fiction as American Allegory: Representing National Time* (2008), and, with Derek Attridge, co-editor of *Theory after “Theory”* (2011). She is currently at work on a book entitled *The Prison-House of Interest: Neoliberalism, Popular Aesthetics and the Agonies of Agency*.


A. ROBERT LEE, previously of the University of Kent at Canterbury, until 2011 was Professor of American Literature at Nihon University, Tokyo. His recent publications include *Designs of Blackness: Mappings in the Literature and Culture of Afro-America* (1998), *Multicultural American Literature: Comparative Black, Native, Latino/a and Asian American Fictions* (2003), which won the American Book Award, and *Modern American Counter Writing: Beats, Outriders, Ethics* (2010).

SUSAN LOHAFER is Professor Emeritus in the Department of English at the University of Iowa. Her books include *Coming to Terms With the Short Story* (1983) and *Reading for Storyness: Preclosure Theory, Empirical Poetics, and Culture in the Short Story* (2003). She also has co-edited *Short Story Theory at a Crossroads* (1989) and *The Tales We Tell: Perspectives on the Short Story* (1998). She has published numerous essays on particular short stories and on the genre.

STACEY OLSTER is Professor of English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is the author of Reminiscence and Re-Creation in Contemporary American Fiction (1989) and The Trash Phenomenon: Contemporary Literature, Popular Culture, and the Making of the American Century (2003), and the editor of The Cambridge Companion to John Updike (2006) and Don DeLillo: Mao II, Underworld, Falling Man (2011).

LINDEN PEACH is Dean of Arts and Humanities at the University of Wales, Cardiff. His books include Toni Morrison (2000), Masquerade, Crime and Fiction (2006), Contemporary Irish and Welsh Women’s Fiction (2007), Angela Carter (2009), and Emyr Humphreys (2011). He has also published recently on the relatively neglected area of African American women's crime writing. He is a Fellow of the English Society, a member of the Welsh Academy, and an Honorary Fellow of Swansea University.

NANCY J. PETERSON, Professor of English at Purdue University, focuses on contemporary American literature and culture in her research and teaching, with particular interests in ethnic literatures and Native studies. She has published two books and two edited collections, along with essays on Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, and other Native writers, as well as on Toni Morrison.

JESSICA PRESSMAN is Assistant Professor of English at Yale University. She specializes in twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature, digital literature, and media theory. Her articles on experimental literature have appeared in MFS, Studies in American Fiction, and Dichtung-Digital. She is completing a manuscript titled Digital Modernism: Making It New in New Media, which charts a genealogy between modernist literature and electronic literature.

ROBERT REBEIN is the author of Hicks, Tribes, and Dirty Realists: American Fiction after Postmodernism (2001). Other work has appeared in The Mourning After: Attending the Wake of Postmodernism, The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction, Ecotone: Reimagining Place, Georgia Review, Cream City Review, and other journals. He directs the graduate program in English at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

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JAY WATSON is Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies at the University of Mississippi, where he teaches in the English Department. His books include Forensic Fictions:
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

The Lawyer Figure in Faulkner (1993), Conversations With Larry Brown (2007), and Faulkner and Whiteness (2011), and he is the author of numerous essays on Southern literature and culture.

PHILLIP E. WEGNER is University Research Foundation Professor in the Department of English at the University of Florida. He is the author of Life Between Two Deaths, 1989–2001: U.S. Culture in the Long Nineties (2009); Imaginary Communities: Utopia, the Nation, and the Spatial Histories of Modernity (2002); and the forthcoming Periodizing Jameson; or, the Adventures of Theory in Post-contemporary Times and Ontologies of the Possible: Utopia, Science Fiction, and Globalization.
1936  Iowa Writers’ Workshop is founded at the University of Iowa, the first creative writing program in America

1945  President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dies on April 12; Vice President Harry S. Truman assumes the Presidency. August 6 and 9 the US Air Force drops atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, causing mass civilian casualties. On August 15, Japan surrenders to the Allied Powers, ending World War II
Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

1946  Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
Robert Penn Warren, *All the King’s Men*

1947  In response to hearings by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Hollywood blacklists suspected communists
James A. Mitchner, *Tales of the South Pacific*

1948  James Gould Cozzens, *Guard of Honor*
Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar*

1949  On August 29, the Soviet Union successfully detonates its first atomic bomb
Eudora Welty, *The Golden Apples*
Nelson Algren, *The Man with the Golden Arm*

1950  Senator Joseph McCarthy claims that fifty-seven known communists work for the US State Department
William Faulkner is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature

1951  J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
Herman Wouk, *The Caine Mutiny*

1952  Dwight D. Eisenhower elected President
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

1953  James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*
John Cheever, *The Enormous Radio and Other Stories*
Chronology

1954  
Ernest Hemingway is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
William Faulkner, A Fable

1955  
Flannery O’Connor, A Good Man Is Hard to Find

1956  
John Barth, The Floating Opera  
James Baldwin, Giovanni’s Room  
Saul Bellow, Seize the Day

1957  
Soviet Union launches Sputnik, first orbiting satellite, initiating the space race
Jack Kerouac, On the Road

1958  
Bernard Malamud, The Magic Barrel
Vladimir Nabokov, Lolita

1959  
William S. Burroughs, Naked Lunch
Philip Roth, Goodbye, Columbus

1960  
Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
Flannery O’Connor, The Violent Bear It Away
John Updike, Rabbit, Run

1961  
Joseph Heller, Catch-22
Walker Percy, The Moviegoer

1962  
William Faulkner dies on July 6
September–October: Cuban Missile Crisis
Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

1963  
President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas, November 22
Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar

1964  
Flannery O’Connor dies on August 3
Saul Bellow, Herzog

1965  
United States begins saturation bombing and a major troop build-up in Vietnam
Donald Barthelme, Snow White
Truman Capote, In Cold Blood

1966  
Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49

1967  
Associated Writing Programs (AWP), a professional organization of creative writing programs, is founded. (Name later changed to the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.)
William Styron, The Confessions of Nat Turner

1968  
Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4
Norman Mailer, Armies of the Night: History as a Novel, the Novel as History
John Barth, Lost in the Funhouse
N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Book/Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>July 20, first moon landing</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Saturday Evening Post</em> ceases publication because of declining readership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kurt Vonnegut, <em>Slaughterhouse-Five; or The Children’s Crusade</em></td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Toni Morrison, <em>The Bluest Eye</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joan Didion, <em>Play It as It Lays</em></td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>E. L. Doctorow, <em>The Book of Daniel</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Updike, <em>Rabbit Redux</em></td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Ishmael Reed, <em>Mumbo Jumbo</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>October: Arab oil embargo causes gas prices to rise</td>
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<td>Thomas Pynchon, <em>Gravity’s Rainbow</em></td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Richard Nixon resigns his Presidency on August 8</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>In April, the United States ends all military and financial support to South Vietnam. South Vietnam falls to communist North Vietnam</td>
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<td>William Gaddis, <em>J R</em></td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>America celebrates its Bicentennial on July 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jimmy Carter elected President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maxine Hong Kingston, <em>The Woman Warrior</em></td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Robert Coover, <em>The Public Burning</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Toni Morrison, <em>Song of Solomon</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leslie Marmon Silko, <em>Ceremony</em></td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Michael Herr, <em>Dispatches</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Irving, <em>The World According to Garp</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Joan Didion, <em>The White Album</em></td>
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<td>Norman Mailer, <em>The Executioner’s Song</em></td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Ronald Reagan elected President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marilynne Robinson, <em>Housekeeping</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joyce Carol Oates, <em>You Must Remember This</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Kennedy Toole, <em>A Confederacy of Dunces</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>John Updike, <em>Rabbit is Rich</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Alice Walker, <em>The Color Purple</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Raymond Carver, <em>Cathedral</em></td>
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<td>William Kennedy, <em>Ironweed</em></td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Sandra Cisneros, <em>The House on Mango Street</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Gibson, <em>Neuromancer</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Louise Erdrich, <em>Love Medicine</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Don DeLillo, <em>White Noise</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bobbie Ann Mason, <em>In Country</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1986  Kathy Acker, *Don Quixote*
      Richard Ford, *The Sportswriter*
      Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
1988  Raymond Carver dies on August 2
      George Bush elected President
      Gloria Naylor, *Mama Day*
1989  Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
1990  Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*
      Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage*
      John Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*
      December: the Soviet Union officially dissolves
      Gish Jen, *Typical American*
1992  William Jefferson Clinton elected President
      Dorothy Allison, *Bastard out of Carolina*
      Cormac McCarthy, *All the Pretty Horses*
      Denis Johnson, *Jesus’ Son*
1993  Toni Morrison is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
      Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*
      Philip Roth, *Operation Shylock*
1994  William Gaddis, *A Frolic of His Own*
      David Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars*
1995  Sherman Alexie, *Reservation Blues*
      Chang-rae Lee, *Native Speaker*
1996  Joyce Carol Oates, *We Were the Mulvaneys*
      David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest*
1997  Don DeLillo, *Underworld*
1998  President Clinton impeached by US House of Representatives
      Toni Morrison, *Paradise*
      Thomas Pynchon, *Mason & Dixon*
      Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*
1999  Ralph Ellison dies on April 16
      Ha Jin, *Waiting*
2000  December 12, US Supreme Court decides five to four in *Bush v. Gore* to stop the Florida vote recount; George W. Bush elected to the Presidency
      Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*
      Mark Z. Danielewski, *House of Leaves*
2001 September 11: terrorists attack the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, killing 2,996; United States begins bombing Afghanistan in October
Jonathan Franzen, The Corrections

2002 Jeffrey Eugenides, Middlesex

2003 United States invades Iraq on March 23
Edward P. Jones, The Known World

2004 Marilynne Robinson, Gilead
Philip Roth, The Plot Against America

2005 Saul Bellow dies on April 5
William T. Vollman, Europe Central

2006 Richard Ford, The Lay of the Land
Thomas Pynchon, Against the Day

2007 Norman Mailer dies on November 10
Don DeLillo, Falling Man
Junot Díaz, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

2008 Barack Obama elected President
Toni Morrison, A Mercy

2009 John Updike dies on January 27
Colson Whitehead, Sag Harbor
Sherman Alexie, War Dances

2010 According to AWP, 336 graduate programs in creative writing exist in the United States (116 MA, 184 MFA, and 36 PhD)
Jonathan Franzen, Freedom