

Water Music (Penguin Contemporary American Fiction Series)

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Twenty five years ago, T.C. Boyle published his first novel, *Water Music*-a funny, bawdy, extremely entertaining novel of imaginative and stylistic fancy that announced to the world Boyle's tremendous gifts as a storyteller. Set in the late eighteenth century, *Water Music* follows the wild adventures of Ned Rise, thief and whoremaster, and Mungo Park, a Scottish explorer, through London's seamy gutters and Scotland's scenic highlands-to their grand meeting in the heart of darkest Africa. There they join forces and wend their hilarious way to the source of the Niger.

"Ribald, hilarious, exotic-an engrossing flight of the literary imagination."

-Los Angeles Times

"*Water Music* does for fiction what *Raiders of the Lost Ark* did for film. . . . Boyle is an adept plotter, a crazed humorist, and a fierce describer."

-The Boston Globe

"High comic fiction. . . Boyle is a writer of considerable talent. He pulls off his most implausible inventions with wit, a perfect sense of timing, and his considerable linguistic gifts."

-The Washington Post
T. C. Boyle is the author of eleven novels, including *World's End* (winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award), *Drop City* (a New York Times bestseller and finalist for the National Book Award), and *The Inner Circle*. His most recent story collections are *Tooth and Claw* and *The Human Fly and Other Stories*.

James R. Kincaid, Arol Arnold Professor of English at the University of Southern California, is a widely recognized authority on Victorian literature and culture.

Other Books

Coming Clean, My name is Liz, and I am the partner of an alcoholic. *Coming Clean* is a searingly honest memoir of loving an alcoholic - both through the heaviest drinking years and into recovery. When Liz Fraser's partner fell into a catastrophic vortex of depression and alcoholism, Liz found herself in a relentless hailstorm of lies, loneliness and fear, looking after their young child on her own, heartbroken, mentally shattered and with no idea what was happening or what to do. As she and her family moved between Cambridge, Venice and Oxford, she kept the often shocking truth entirely to herself for a long time, trying in vain to help her partner find a path to sobriety, until she herself finally broke from the trauma and started to speak out - only to find she was one of hundreds experiencing similar things, also living in silence and fear. Part diary, part travel journal and part love letter, *Coming Clean* is the true story of addiction of many kinds, mental collapse and heartbreak. Above all, it offers a voice of deep human compassion, strength and hope for recovery. I hope that in sharing this story it might change the way addiction is talked about and understood from both sides, encourage open, trusting and supportive dialogue between addicts and those their addiction affects, and provide some solace and help for those who need it - as I did.

It was clean, light and bright, and though I hardly dared to think it, it did seem as if this might, after all the incessant, exhausting, stressful, dusty upheaval, the stress, the drink

and the darkness, be the start of better. ..."