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REVIEW: The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice

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Hunt explained, figured in the food industry from farm implements to cast-iron skillets. Hunt's readers were the source of most recipes. The opener is bean hole beans, a ritualistic preparation of baked beans in an underground fire pit. And the closer is your traditional fried green tomatoes accompanied by cornbread Southern-style. Hunt was a gregarious fellow, happiest when he was marketing iron and enjoying the hospitality of his clients. A day spent with Gus Tindall of Chattanooga gave us Tennessee Squirrel Stew (12 of the critters required), best enjoyed "under some giant oak or beech tree." Most of the recipes remain doable across the years, even to the clumsy-in-the-kitchen types. Each carries a chatty narrative echoing Hunt's on-the-road research. Karen R. Utz of the Sloss Furnace National Historic Landmark in Birmingham wrote an introduction that sets Hunt's magazine in the historical context of the industry. It's not clear who edited the selections, and we wished for more specific citations for individual segments, extracted from decades of issues. As it is, things just run together. That aside, we're getting ready to whip up some hobo stew (serves 10 hoboes and probably twice as many librarians) (p. 22) or maybe a spicy, one-dish meal, Jambalaya (p. 38.) Yummy.

— Reviewed by **Dr. Wally Eberhard**
University of Georgia (Emeritus)

When Elvis Meets the Dalai Lama

by Murray Silver (Bonaventure Books, 2003; ISBN 978-0-9724224-4-4, \$24.90).

Murray Silver, the author of *Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis*, has now written an autobiography. A recollection of his varied career, the book spans his time as a teenage concert promoter in Atlanta in the 1960s through his job as tour manager for a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in the 1990s. Early chapters detail his years writing *Great Balls of Fire* and the development of that book into a movie. Silver reminisces about his work with Myra Lewis on the book, meetings with Jerry Lee Lewis and the torturous experience of the movie production. Not a fan of the resulting film, Silver provides numerous explanations for what went wrong in the movie adaptation. Other projects never came to fruition, including a book about the early days of professional wrestling, one on the porn industry and a book written with the assistance of Dr. George Nichopoulos, Elvis Presley's physician, about what really caused the King's death. During his work on the Presley project, Silver reports receiving death threats that drove him into hiding.

WHEN ELVIS
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MURRAY SILVER

These varied tales are interspersed with memories of his teenage years and his father's law career, sidetracks that tend to confuse the timeline and the reader. The final, and most interesting, part of Silver's autobiography deals with his introduction to Buddhism as well as his involvement with Tibetan monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery. He recounts the years he assisted the monks by selling Tibetan rugs, driving a truck for *The Mystical Arts of Tibet* exhibit and managing the U.S. tour of *Sacred Music, Sacred Dance*, which shares the Tibetan Buddhist culture through chant and dance. The book concludes with the author's return to his native Savannah and some reflections on his life. Included throughout the book are several of the author's personal photographs. Optional purchase for a public library.

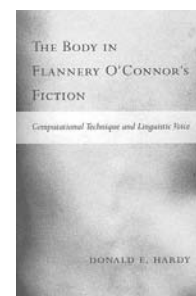
— Reviewed by **Gretchen M. Smith**
Georgia Southwestern State University

The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice

by Donald E. Hardy (University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-5700-3698-9, \$39.95).

The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice by Donald E. Hardy is

a meticulously researched work that combines the study of Flannery O'Connor's fiction with statistical analysis and linguistics. Hardy's approach to the literary analysis of O'Connor's thematic representation of the relationship between man's physical and spiritual aspects includes using computer concordancing software to determine the frequency of words and phrases in O'Connor's work that refer to the physical body. Through detailed analysis of this data, along with attention to the grammatical category of the middle voice as described in the study of linguistics, Hardy conducts a "close examination of the interactions of grammatical voice and the body at both the macrolevel and the microlevel of the narrative." Hardy's central discussion deals with the way in which specific body parts as represented in O'Connor's fiction contain the spiritual within the physical. Hardy's opinions are supported by examples from the source material, and his microanalysis of the workings of O'Connor's sentences reveals a deep understanding of the way in which the author communicates incarnational themes at the most fundamental level. *The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice* delves beyond O'Connor's work to include a varied account of different linguistic theories used to examine narrative techniques. Although the author states that his book "is written with a general educated audience in



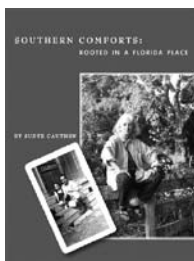
mind," the highly technical presentation of ideas demands a specialized vocabulary and a somewhat rarefied openness to applying statistics to the study of literature. This book would be a good addition to academic libraries where linguistics is a primary focus. It would also be appropriate for inclusion in collections with an emphasis on Georgia studies or Southern literature.

— Reviewed by **Leslie R. G. Bullington**
Augusta, Georgia

Southern Comforts: Rooted in a Southern Place by *Sudye Cauthen*
(University of Georgia Press, 2007; ISBN 1-9300-6658-9, \$29.95).

In 1974, following a divorce and the death of her father, Sudye Cauthen moved herself and her 9-year-old son to a cabin on Waters Pond, near her childhood home in Alachua in the interior of northern Florida. Eventually, at the urging of her mother, she moved all the way back to Alachua, prompting a re-examination of her childhood. Disheartened by the changes in her hometown, Cauthen subsequently spent years driving back roads, sometimes at random, sometimes deliberately, seeking the people and places she had known. The author filled in gaps in her understanding of her own family history as well as the history of the region and its people. The result, *Southern Comforts*, is a combination of memoir, interviews, natural history and folklore. These individual elements combine to form a snapshot of a time when tobacco was king, and people both shaped the land and were shaped by it. Pair this with Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* for a portrait of southern Georgia and northern Florida before Disney and interstate highways forever altered the identity of the region. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.

— Reviewed by **Kathy Pillatzki**
Henry County Public Library System



assistant to her elderly mother. Given her willful and unpleasant behavior as a child, Josey feels obligated to be at her mother's constant beck and call, and her mother happily accepts Josey's feelings of obligation. Interspersed with her daughterly duties, Josey goes on a sandwich run for the woman in the closet, Della Lee, and meets Chloe, who has her own unique situation. Books literally appear to Chloe: They follow her, turn up when she most needs them. Josey and Chloe bond over their respective love troubles: Josey is in love with the enigmatic mailman, and Chloe is on the verge of a breakup with her lawyer boyfriend due to his cheating on her one night after a particularly difficult case. The mailman and the lawyer are best friends, a fact that further complicates matters yet also ties them together even more closely. In the small ski town of Bald Slope, N.C., everyone knows everybody else. Josey's father was the founder of the town, resulting in most of the residents knowing her from the time of her birth, witnessing her disagreeable behavior as a child and seemingly unwilling to forget any of it. This relationship between Josey and the town illustrates a disadvantage of small-town life. Throughout the course of the novel, Allen deftly employs magical realism, adding an element of mystery and beauty to the compulsively readable story. Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with a contemporary fiction section.

— Reviewed by **Carol Malcolm**
Riverside Military Academy

Orange Mint and Honey by *Carleen Brice*
(One World Ballantine Books, 2008; ISBN 978-0-345-49906-6, \$14.00).

Carleen Brice's first novel is a heartwarming story about redemption, forgiveness and finding that going back home again can be less bitter when it is followed by something sweet. Shay Dixon is a graduate student who is on the verge of a nervous breakdown and broke. Taking the advice of blues singer Nina Simone, her spiritual adviser, Shay goes back home to a mother whom she had written off. Nona, Shay's mother, was once an alcoholic who left Shay alone a lot and when around was either drunk or hungover. However, after Shay returns home, she meets the new Nona who loves to garden, has a 5-year-old daughter and a new lease on life. This novel takes a look at the relationship between a mother and daughter who have a past that needs forgiveness in order to heal and move on. The novel addresses many issues in a way that will be engaging and endearing to the reader. Brice's storytelling will have the reader crying one minute and laughing the



FICTION

The Sugar Queen by *Sarah Addison Allen*
(Bantam, 2008; ISBN 978-0-5538-0549-9, \$22.00).

Most of us have never woken up and found a woman living in our closet, but this does happen to Josey, the main character of Allen's engrossing second novel. As surprising and unusual as this event is, Josey has an even more challenging concern: serving as a personal

