

**CLIFFORD IRVING, The Autobiography of Howard Hughes**

Irving perpetrated one of the greatest literary frauds of the 20th century, though now largely forgotten: He fabricated, seemingly out of whole cloth, an authorised autobiography for reclusive and eccentric bil-

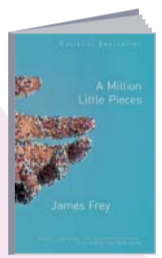


lionaire Howard Hughes. Irving managed to fool his publisher and curious journalists, producing fake letters and calling editors from exotic places (where he was supposedly interviewing Hughes). As publication neared, he was finally caught when Hughes himself said he had no idea who Irving was. The episode landed the writer in jail after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy. In 2012, the autobiography was published for the first time as an e-book. Later in life, Irving expressed befuddlement for why it had all gotten so out of hand. "I had never realised I was committing a crime," he said. "I had thought of it as a hoax."



**JAMES FREY, A Million Little Pieces**

For fictionalising his memoir — including making up a three-month stint in prison and a harrowing anaesthesia-free root canal — Frey landed on Oprah's couch in early 2006. She had picked 'A Million Little Pieces' for her popular book club and wanted some answers after the 'Smoking Gun' website, in prosecutorial fashion, had revealed just how much of Frey's addiction story had been made up. Frey appeared contrite and hangdog, admitting that he had embellished his own story. "It is difficult for me to talk to you because I feel really duped," Oprah said. "But more importantly, I feel that you betrayed millions of readers." Though he is forever attached to the memory of this comeuppance, Frey went on to write more books. Even Oprah eventually apologised for being so hard on him.



**MISERY LIT AND LITERARY HOAXES**

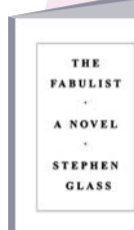
Wikipedia says 'Misery lit' is a popular choice of genre by those looking to spin a false yarn. The themes of the Holocaust, childhood miseries as a result of parental abuse, drug use, illness have been the subject of several notable literary hoaxes over the years. The earliest known literary hoax is a book written in 1836, 'Awful Disclosures of Maria Monk,' which claimed to tell of a monk's abuse in a convent. The book became a bestseller despite the fact that it was a complete fabrication.

Sometimes, it turns out, writers are not who you thought they were — at all

**LITERARY HOAXES**

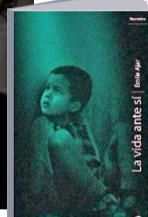
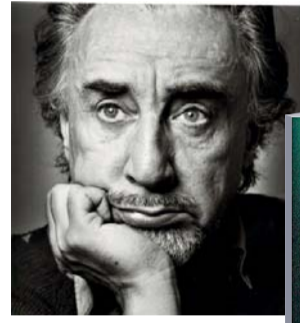
**STEPHEN GLASS, The Fabulist**

Glass might win the chutzpah prize when it comes to trying to turn disgrace into reward. After being fired by 'The New Republic' in 1998 for fabricating details in 27 articles — including some truly fantastical flourishes like a Church of George Bush — he turned around and published a book about his deceptions. It is a first-person account of an ambitious young journalist who fakes interview notes and voicemail messages to trick his editors. Except 'The Fabulist' was a novel. Rather than confessing directly and honestly, Glass fictionalised what happened to him. The only saving grace may have been his author's note: "This book is a work of fiction, a fabrication, and this time, an admitted one."



**ROMAIN GARY, 'Hocus Bogus'**

Gary's story is a tale of a very tangled web. The celebrated French author, a winner of the Prix Goncourt (which authors can only win once) but past his prime, decided in 1973 to liven things up for his 20th novel by writing under a pseudonym, Émile Ajar. To sustain the lie once his second Ajar book, 'The Life Before Us,' became one of the biggest commercial and literary blockbusters of his career (and won him the Goncourt again), Gary had his cousin play the flesh-and-blood Ajar to receive the award. When this ruse was discovered, Gary then had to write a faux-memoir, 'Pseudo', claiming schizophrenia and confusing things still further. The truth of Gary's elaborate literary deceptions emerged only after his death by suicide, in a confession he left behind, titled 'The Life and Death of Émile Ajar.'



**CLEONE KNOX The Diary of a Young Lady of Fashion in the Year 1764-1765**

A little Irish girl, the 19-year-old daughter of a British naval officer, has accomplished the greatest literary hoax of the century. "The Times" exclaimed in a front-page story on June 4, 1926. Magdalen King-Hall, wielding what the paper called 'a saucily descriptive pen,' dashed out the fake (and racy!) diary of a late-18th-century woman in a few weeks. Published in 1925, it was a best-seller in Britain and the United States. It's unclear how King-Hall was unmasked, although she admitted to factual errors in 'The Times' report.

C. 2019 NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE



**Name the author**

1. This writer was fluent in English, French, German, Latin, Italian, Trieste (an Italian dialect) and could read Norwegian and Old English.
2. This author was a serious lepidopterologist and a Comparative Zoology research fellow at Harvard, where most of his butterfly collection remains even today.
3. This author started his career as an advertising copywriter and coined phrases like 'Naughty but nice' (to advertise cream cakes), 'That'll do nicely' (for American Express credit cards), and 'Irresistible' (for Aero chocolate bars).
4. This author coined phrases like 'in a pickle', 'star-crossed lovers' and 'off with his head'.

**ANSWERS**

1. James Joyce
2. Vladimir Nabokov
3. Salman Rushdie
4. William Shakespeare

**The '2-minute rule' to being productive**

When you're working toward a goal or a new habit, start by doing the quickest and easiest action possible, says productivity expert and author James Clear

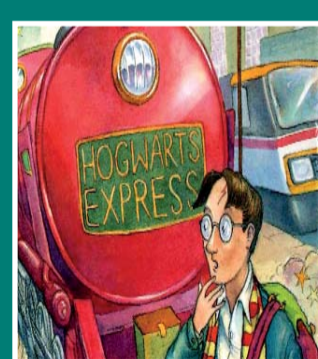
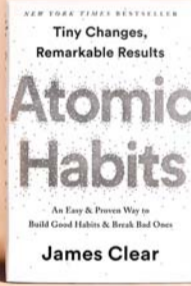
A theme of James Clear's 'Atomic Habits' is that you can trick yourself into being the person you want to be. One of my favourite examples of this theme is Clear's explanation of the 'two-minute rule': "When you start a new habit, it should take less than two minutes to do." The idea is to scale down the whole habit into a very quick, very easy behaviour. Clear suggests 'take out my yoga mat' as the two-minute version of 'do 30 minutes of yoga' and 'fold one

pair of socks' as the two-minute version of 'fold the laundry.' There are a number of reasons why this strategy works. According to Clear, who runs a popular productivity website, you have to 'master the art of showing up' before you turn to the details. What's more, the first two minutes become a 'ritual at the beginning of a larger routine,' so you can eventually think less about it.

**Why start small**  
I've heard versions of Clear's two-minute rule before, for example from

Chade-Meng Tan, a former Google engineer who developed the company's emotional-intelligence course, 'Search Inside Yourself'. In his book by the same name, Tan writes that the best way to start a meditation habit is to 'do less formal practice than you are capable of.' Tan said that sustaining a meditation or mindfulness practice means figuring out 'how much meditation does it take for you to see meaningful changes in life. And then be careful to not overdo because overdoing is no longer fun.'

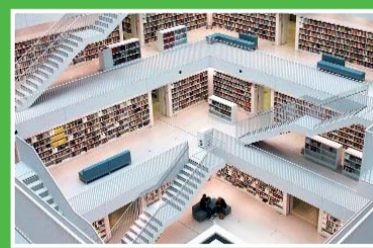
SHANA LERDOWITZ / BUSINESS INSIDER



**HARRY POTTER BOOK SELLS FOR £70,000:** A rare copy of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' has sold at an auction for almost £70,000. The unique copy was one of the only 500 first-editions to feature multiple mistakes, including a misspelling of the title 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' on the back cover. THE INDEPENDENT

**Note worthy**

News from the literary world



**LUPITA NYONG'O UNVEILS COVER OF DEBUT BOOK 'SULWE':** Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o unveiled the cover of her debut picture book for children 'Sulwe', which touches upon colour bias and self-esteem, and hopes to inspire children to see their own unique beauty. The upcoming title revolves around Sulwe, whose skin is the colour of midnight. "I wrote 'Sulwe' to inspire children (and everyone really) to love the skin they are in and to see the beauty that radiates from within," the 36-year-old announced on Twitter.

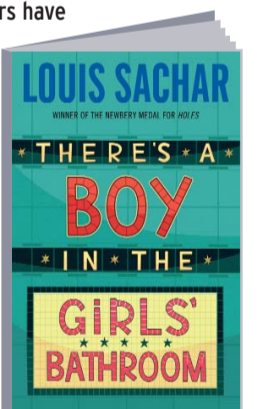


**STUTTGART CITY LIBRARY, GERMANY:** Opened in 2011, this is one of the most visually-stunning libraries that you will ever come across, say reviews on multiple travel websites. Built by Yi Architects, the building is now world famous for its unobtrusive design and a grand atrium, which is a five-story open chamber.

**BOOK REVIEW Louis Sachar's 'There's a boy in the girls bathroom'**

At first you may think that this is a weird book about romance... I did. But I had never thought it would turn out to be a story that talks about peer pressure and fitting in. "Give me a dollar or I'll spit on you..." That's Bradley Chalkers for you. Attitude and behaviour problems are something all teachers have in their vocabulary for Bradley, and he has no friends in school. In other words nobody likes him, that is except Carla, the new school counsellor. Her vocabulary for him contains the words sensitive and generous, and she even enjoys his far-fetched stories. She feels if he weren't afraid to try, he could change. But what happens when the person you trust most or a person who supports you in every way moves away?

This book is about fitting in with a crowd that has ignored you till now, and how to change if you are not afraid to try. This is Bradley's story of evolution from a lonely person to a person who finally feels good about himself. Bradley encounters a few obstacles, so how does he finally change? As much as I would like to tell you, I think a review is all about my understanding of the piece of text you have read, which may not include spoilers, and therefore to find out about the twists and turns of Bradley's life and his evolution, read the book.



SHRINI SINGH, Class VII, Shiv Nadar School, Noida

**THIS DAY THAT YEAR**

- 1407:** Lama Deshin Shekpa visited the Ming Dynasty capital at Nanjing and was awarded the title Great Treasure Prince of Dharma.
- 1814:** Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Toulouse by the British and the Spanish. The defeat led to his abdication and exile to Elba.
- 1816:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge recited his poem "Kubla Khan" to fellow poet Lord Byron, who persuaded him to publish it.
- 1866:** The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was incorporated.
- 1912:** The Titanic set sail from Southampton, England.
- 1922:** The Genoa Conference opened. The meeting was used to discuss the reconstruction of Europe after World War I.
- 1925:** F. Scott Fitzgerald published "The Great Gatsby".
- 1995:** Morarji Desai, 4th prime minister of India (1977-79), died at 99.
- 2018:** Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg began testifying before US Congress about data use and security.

APRIL 10, 2019

**MUST SEE MUST DO**

**TELEVISION**



**BEAR GRYLLS SURVIVAL SCHOOL, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, 3.00 PM:** Bear shows the young survivors how to use their urine to heat up food before they embark on a gruelling two-day expedition. Later, a storm turns

into a serious survival situation for the team.

**MONSTER WEEK, ANIMAL PLANET, 5.00 PM:** Grizzly and black bear attacks have risen as their resources have depleted owing to human development. They have started moving toward playgrounds and even inside suburban homes.

**IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, DISCOVERY SCIENCE, 7.00 PM:** Experts feature strange inventions like a colour-changing car, the world's fastest hot tub and an amateur rocket that reaches space.

**MOVIES ON TV**

**ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS, ROMEDY NOW, 3.55 PM:** Alice, along with her friends, must fight to protect the world of Underland and save the Mad Hatter from the evil clutches of Red Queen and Time.

**REAL STEEL, &FLIX, 6.10 PM:** Charlie aims to make it big in the sport of robot boxing. When he learns about his son, he reluctantly teams up with him after which, they discover each other while trying to win with an old robot.



**KING KONG, SONY PIX SD, 7.00 PM:** Filmmaker Carl Denham and his crew encounter a giant ape in Skull Island and imprison it to bring it to New York. However, they land in trouble when the giant ape goes rampant in the city.