

# David Foster Wallace

Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion,  
about Living a Compassionate Life

A Modern  
Literary  
Master

**This is Water** Some  
Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant  
Occasion, about Living a Compassionate  
Life **David Foster Wallace**



**APRIL 2009  
HARDCOVER**

**\$14.99 — 978-0-316-06822-2  
Carton Qty. 10  
Literature — Little, Brown  
World**

Order Qty

Account: \_\_\_\_\_ Account#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PO: \_\_\_\_\_ Shipper: \_\_\_\_\_ SEA/AIR (Please indicate)



Fax: 1.212.364.0933 Tel: 1.212.364.1285

international@hbgusa.com

Titles are subject to rights availability and may not be available from HBG in certain markets. Prices and on-sale dates subject to change without notice.  
Please visit [www.hbgusa.com](http://www.hbgusa.com) for full export catalogs.

## This is Water: Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, about Living a Compassionate Life

David Foster Wallace

"Wallace is a contemporary American master working at  
the extreme edge of the radar, asking question after  
question about the mad, mad world."

—*The Guardian (UK)*

"Wallace is bracingly insightful...

Few of his young peers have spoken as eloquently and  
feelingly as he has about the hard tasks of the moral  
imagination that contemporary American life imposes on  
them." —Pankaj Mishra, *New York Times Book Review*

In his first and only such address, award-winning writer David  
Foster Wallace offers indispensable advice on the realities and  
challenges each of us encounters "day in, day out." Writing with  
his one-of-a-kind blend of casual humor, exacting intellect, and  
practical philosophy, David Wallace probes the challenges of  
daily living and offers advice that renews us with every reading.

What is the actual, real-life value of education? In this pointedly  
observant examination of daily life, David Foster Wallace seeks  
an answer to this deceptively simple question. In doing so, he  
notes that, "the most obvious, ubiquitous, important realities are  
often the ones that are the hardest to see and talk about." In  
other words, to really understand the world, we have to get out  
of our own thoughts and learn to see what's right in front of us.  
With this, he touches on the most basic, most important decision  
we all make every day—how to think about our world.

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE was the critically-acclaimed author of  
two novels, *Infinite Jest* and *The Broom of the System*; three story  
collections, *Oblivion*, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, and *Girl  
With Curious Hair*; and three nonfiction collections, *McCain's  
Promise*, *Consider the Lobster*, and *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll  
Never Do Again*. He was invited to address the graduating class of  
Kenyon College in 2005, the only such address he ever gave. He  
died in 2008.