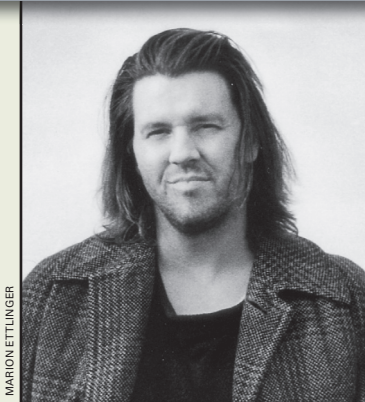


Acclaimed author David Foster Wallace on life

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by David Foster Wallace
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Only once did David Foster Wallace give a public talk about his views on life, during a commencement address given in 2005 at Kenyon College. The speech is reprinted for the first time in book form in THIS IS WATER. How does one keep from going through their comfortable, prosperous, respectable adult life unconsciously? How do we get ourselves out of the foreground of our thoughts and achieve compassion? The speech captures Wallace's electric mind

as well as his grace in attention to others and, after his death, it became a treasured piece of writing reprinted in *The Wall Street Journal* and the *(London) Observer*, commented on endlessly in blogs, and emailed from friend to friend.

Writing with his one-of-a-kind blend of casual humor, exacting intellect, and practical philosophy, Wallace probes the challenges of daily living and offers advice that renews us with every reading.

An excerpt from THIS IS WATER:

If you've really learned how to think, how to pay attention, then you will know you have other options. It will actually be within your power to experience a crowded, hot, slow, consumer-hell-type situation as not only meaningful, but sacred, on fire with the same force that made the stars—compassion, love, the sub-surface unity of all things.

David Foster Wallace is the 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 died in 2008.

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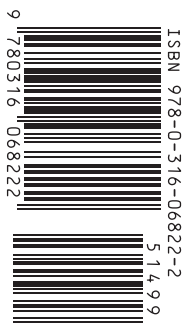
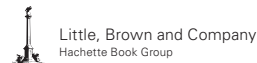
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