



Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories 1950-1962: Player Piano / The Sirens of Titan /: Library of America #226

By Kurt Vonnegut

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Before winning international fame with *Cat's Cradle* and *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut was a master of the drugstore paperback and the popular short story. This authoritative collection of his brilliant early work opens with *Player Piano* (1952), a *Metropolis*-like parable of breakneck technological innovation and its effect on those it robs of their livelihoods. *The Sirens of Titan* (1959), the interplanetary adventures of the world's wealthiest and most despised man, is both a pulp-fiction space opera and a satire on the vanity of human striving. The confessions of a German-American double agent well placed among the Nazi elite, *Mother Night* (1962) is a cautionary tale with a famous moral: "We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." Here too are six of Vonnegut's best short stories, gems that display his matchless talent for hilarious invention and caustic social criticism.

A companion volume, *Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories 1963-1973*, collects *Cat's Cradle*; *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*; *Slaughterhouse-Five*; *Breakfast of Champions*; and three short stories, including "Welcometo the Monkey House."

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Sidney Offit, editor of The Library of America's four-volume Kurt Vonnegut edition, has written novels, books for young readers, and memoirs including, most recently, *Friends, Writers, and Other Countrymen*. He was senior editor of *Intellectual Digest*, book editor of *Politics Today*, and contributing editor of *Baseball Magazine*. He wrote the foreword to *Look at the Birdie*, a collection of Kurt Vonnegut's unpublished short fiction.

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