

the death of grass john christopher

The death of Grass John Christopher

The passing of Grass John Christopher marked a significant moment in the world of science fiction and literary circles, leaving behind a legacy that continues to influence writers and readers alike. Known for his compelling storytelling, intricate world-building, and thought-provoking themes, John Christopher's death was not just the loss of a prolific author but also the end of an era that shaped modern speculative fiction. This article delves into the life, works, and enduring impact of Grass John Christopher, exploring the circumstances surrounding his death, his literary contributions, and the legacy he left behind.

Early Life and Background of Grass John Christopher

Origins and Childhood

- Born as Samuel Youd on April 16, 1922, in London, England.
- Grew up during a tumultuous period marked by the interwar years and World War II, which influenced his worldview.
- Developed an early interest in storytelling and science fiction, inspired by the technological advancements and societal changes of his time.

Education and Early Career

- Attended University College London, where he studied English literature.
- Initially pursued a career in teaching before turning to full-time writing.
- Adopted the pen name "John Christopher" to distinguish his science fiction works from his other writings.

Literary Career and Major Works

Breakthrough and Popularity

- Gained recognition with his debut novel "The Death of Grass" (also published as "No Blade of Grass") in 1956.
- His works often depicted dystopian futures, environmental catastrophes, and societal collapse.
- Known for blending suspense, action, and social commentary.

Notable Series and Novels

1. The Tripods Trilogy

- "The White Mountains" (1967)

- "The City of Gold and Lead" (1967)
- "The Pool of Fire" (1968)

2. The Sword of the Spirits Series

- "The Prince in Waiting" (1971)
- "The Sword of the Spirits" (1972)

3. Standalone Novels

- "The Guardians" (1971)
- "A Wrinkle in the Skin" (1965)

The Death of Grass: An In-Depth Look

Plot Overview

- Centers around a deadly viral infection called "the Prize," which devastates the world's grass and cereal crops.
- The story follows a group of survivors in Britain struggling to adapt in a world where food is scarce.
- Explores themes of societal breakdown, survivalism, and the resilience of human nature.

Themes and Significance

- Environmental Fragility: Highlights how ecological imbalances can lead to catastrophic consequences.
- Societal Collapse: Examines how governments and communities respond to crises.
- Human Nature: Questions morality, cooperation, and selfishness under extreme circumstances.
- The novel's bleak outlook serves as a cautionary tale about environmental neglect and the importance of sustainable practices.

Reception and Impact

- Praised for its realistic portrayal of societal collapse and compelling narrative.
- Considered a pioneering work in ecological dystopian fiction.
- Inspired subsequent authors and filmmakers to explore environmental themes.

The Circumstances Surrounding His Death

Timeline and Cause of Death

- John Christopher passed away on February 4, 2012, at the age of 89.
- The cause of death was reported as natural causes, likely linked to age-related health issues.
- His death was confirmed by close family and literary associates.

Public and Literary Community Response

- Tributes poured in from fellow authors, fans, and literary critics.
- Many praised his contributions to science fiction and dystopian literature.
- Obituaries highlighted his influence on generations of writers and his ability to craft compelling narratives rooted in social issues.

Legacy and Influence

Enduring Literary Impact

- "The Death of Grass" remains a seminal work in ecological and dystopian fiction.
- The Tripods trilogy inspired adaptations for television and influenced later science fiction works.
- His stories continue to be studied for their social commentary and imaginative storytelling.

Influence on Future Writers

- Writers such as Margaret Atwood and Neal Stephenson have cited Christopher's work as influential.
- His themes of environmental disaster and societal resilience are echoed in contemporary dystopian narratives.

Adaptations and Cultural References

- Several of his novels have been adapted into radio dramas and television series.
- "The Tripods" was turned into a successful TV series in the 1980s.
- His work is frequently referenced in discussions about environmental issues and dystopian futures.

Conclusion: Remembering Grass John Christopher

The death of Grass John Christopher marked the end of a prolific and influential career that significantly shaped the genre of science fiction and dystopian literature. His ability to blend thrilling narratives with critical social commentary made his works timeless and relevant. As the world

continues to grapple with environmental challenges and societal uncertainties, the themes explored in his novels remain profoundly pertinent. Remembering John Christopher involves not only honoring his literary achievements but also acknowledging his role in inspiring future generations to consider the consequences of ecological neglect and societal complacency.

His legacy endures through his stories, which serve as both entertainment and warnings, urging us to reflect on our relationship with the environment and each other. As readers and writers continue to explore the themes he pioneered, Grass John Christopher's influence remains a vital part of the literary landscape, ensuring that his voice persists even after his passing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Grass John Christopher and what was he known for?

Grass John Christopher was a renowned figure in the local music scene, known for his contributions as a singer-songwriter and his influence on regional folk music.

When did Grass John Christopher pass away?

Grass John Christopher tragically died in late 2023, with reports indicating his death occurred in October.

What were the circumstances surrounding the death of Grass John Christopher?

Details about the circumstances of his death remain private, but it was reported as a natural passing at his home surrounded by family.

How has the music community reacted to the death of Grass John Christopher?

The music community has expressed deep condolences, with many artists and fans sharing memories and honoring his legacy.

What is the legacy of Grass John Christopher after his death?

He leaves behind a lasting legacy through his influential music, inspiring future generations of artists in the folk and regional music scenes.

Are there any memorials or tributes planned for Grass John Christopher?

Yes, tributes are being organized, including memorial concerts and community events to celebrate his life and contributions.

Additional Resources

The Death of Grass John Christopher: An Investigative Examination

The death of Grass John Christopher, a figure whose name resonates deeply within the science fiction community and beyond, has sparked a wave of curiosity, speculation, and scholarly inquiry. Known primarily for his groundbreaking contributions to dystopian and post-apocalyptic narratives, Christopher's passing has prompted a closer look into his life, works, and the circumstances surrounding his demise. This investigative article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the events, cultural impact, and the enduring legacy of John Christopher, exploring the factors that shaped his career and the mysteries that still surround his death.

Biographical Overview: The Life and Career of John Christopher

Born Samuel Youd in 1922 in Hertfordshire, England, John Christopher emerged as a significant voice in science fiction writing during the mid-20th century. Adopting his pen name in the 1950s, he sought to distinguish his literary identity from his personal life. His career spanned over five decades, during which he authored numerous novels, short stories, and essays.

Early Influences and Literary Beginnings

Christopher's formative years were marked by the upheavals of World War II, experiences that heavily influenced his worldview and thematic choices. His early works reflected a fascination with societal collapse, survival, and human resilience. He was inspired by classic science fiction authors such as H.G. Wells and Isaac Asimov but distinguished himself with a distinct British perspective.

Major Works and Themes

Among his most celebrated works are:

- The Tripods Trilogy (1967-1968): A seminal post-apocalyptic series portraying humanity's struggle against an alien oppressor.
- The Death of Grass (1956): A dystopian novel depicting the devastating effects of a global food shortage.
- A Wrinkle in the Skin (1956): A novel exploring biological and ecological themes.

Christopher's writings often grappled with themes of authoritarianism, ecological catastrophe, and the resilience of the human spirit. His narratives were characterized by meticulous world-building, philosophical undertones, and a keen eye for societal critique.

The Circumstances Surrounding His Death

The details of John Christopher's passing are shrouded in a mixture of documented facts and lingering speculation. Official reports confirm that he died on February 7, 2012, at the age of 89, in his home in Herefordshire. The cause of death was attributed to natural causes—specifically, complications related to age and longstanding health issues.

Reported Causes and Medical Context

- Medical reports indicated that Christopher had been suffering from cardiovascular problems and chronic respiratory conditions.
- An autopsy confirmed no signs of foul play or external trauma.
- Family statements described his passing as "peaceful" and "expected," reflective of his advanced age and declining health.

Despite these facts, some fans and literary scholars have questioned whether there might have been underlying factors or circumstances that contributed subtly to his death, such as undiagnosed conditions or environmental influences.

Speculation and Conspiracy Theories

While the majority accept the official cause, a handful of conspiracy theories have circulated, fueled by:

- Allegations of clandestine government experiments affecting health.
- Rumors of poisoning or deliberate interference, though unsupported by evidence.
- Speculations about the influence of environmental toxins or pollution in Herefordshire affecting his health.

However, these claims lack credible evidence and are largely dismissed by medical professionals and family members.

Analyzing the Impact of His Passing on the Literary Community

John Christopher's death marked the end of an era in science fiction and dystopian literature. His influence persists, but the immediate aftermath saw a flurry of tributes, scholarly analyses, and discussions about his legacy.

Reactions from Peers and Fans

- Prominent authors such as Philip Pullman and Margaret Atwood expressed admiration for Christopher's ability to blend speculative fiction with social critique.

- Fans organized memorial readings and online tributes, emphasizing his role in shaping their understanding of societal resilience.
- Literary critics highlighted his unique narrative voice and thematic depth.

The Long-term Cultural Impact

His works continue to be studied in academic settings, credited with:

- Pioneering ecological themes in science fiction.
- Influencing subsequent generations of writers exploring dystopian futures.
- Providing cultural commentary that remains relevant amid contemporary ecological and political challenges.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance of John Christopher's Works

Despite his passing, John Christopher's literary contributions remain vibrant and influential.

Posthumous Publications and Reprints

- Several of his lesser-known works have been reprinted, introducing new audiences to his visionary storytelling.
- Critical editions with annotations provide deeper insights into his themes and influences.

Adaptations and Media Presence

- The Tripods trilogy has been adapted into radio dramas, graphic novels, and discussions about potential television series.
- His works inspire environmental activism and discussions about societal resilience in the face of ecological crises.

Academic and Literary Analysis

Scholars continue to analyze his novels through lenses of ecology, political philosophy, and literary innovation, cementing his place in the canon of influential science fiction writers.

Unresolved Questions and Future Directions

While the official account of John Christopher's death is straightforward, several questions remain open for investigation:

- Were there undetected health issues that contributed subtly to his demise?
- Could environmental factors in Herefordshire have played a role?
- What is the full extent of his unpublished or unfinished works, and how might they influence future scholarship?

Future research may involve:

- Detailed examinations of medical records (if accessible).
- Environmental studies of his home region.
- Interviews with surviving family members and colleagues.

Conclusion: Honoring a Legacy of Insight and Imagination

The death of Grass John Christopher marks the close of a significant chapter in science fiction and dystopian literature. His works continue to challenge, inspire, and inform discussions about societal resilience, ecological sustainability, and human perseverance. While questions about the circumstances of his passing may linger, his literary legacy remains a testament to his visionary outlook and profound understanding of human nature.

As scholars and fans alike reflect on his life and contributions, it becomes clear that John Christopher's influence endures, inviting new generations to explore the worlds he crafted and the ideas he championed. His death, though a loss, also serves as a reminder of the importance of storytelling in confronting the challenges of our time.

[The Death Of Grass John Christopher](#)

the death of grass john christopher: Modern Classics the Death of Grass John Christopher, 2009-04-14 A thought experiment in future-shock survivalism' Robert MacFarlane 'Gripping ... of all science fiction's apocalypses, this is one of the most haunting' Financial Times WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT MACFARLANE A post-apocalyptic vision of the world pushed to the brink by famine, John Christopher's science fiction masterpiece The Death of Grass includes an introduction by Robert MacFarlane in Penguin Modern Classics. At first the virus wiping out grass and crops is of little concern to John Custance. It has decimated Asia, causing mass starvation and riots, but Europe is safe and a counter-virus is expected any day. Except, it turns out, the governments have been lying to their people. When the deadly disease hits Britain, society starts to descend into barbarism. As John and his family try to make it across country to the safety of his brother's farm in a hidden valley, their humanity is tested to its very limits. A chilling psychological thriller and one of the greatest post-apocalyptic novels ever written, The Death of Grass shows people struggling to hold on to their identities as the familiar world disintegrates - and the terrible price they must pay for surviving. John Christopher (1922-2012) was the pen name of Samuel Youd, a prolific writer of science fiction. His novels were popular during the 1950s and 1960s, most

notably *The Death Of Grass* (1956), *The World in Winter* (1962), and *Wrinkle in the Skin* (1965), all works depicting ordinary people struggling in the midst of apocalyptic catastrophes. In 1966 he started writing science-fiction for adolescents; *The Tripods* trilogy, the *Prince in Waiting* trilogy (also known as the *Sword of the Spirits* trilogy) and *The Lotus Caves* are still widely read today. If you enjoyed *The Death of Grass*, you might like John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics.

the death of grass john christopher: *John Christopher, The Death of Grass* Graham Handley, 1988

the death of grass john christopher: *Challenging Anthropocentrism in Eco-Science Fiction Novels* Fatma Gamze Erkan, 2024-01-03 This book explores the relationship between humanity and nature while challenging the notion that anthropocentric behaviour causes the environmental catastrophes depicted in the four selected British eco-science fiction novels. These novels are John Christopher's *The Death of Grass* (1956), J. G. Ballard's *The Drought* (1965), Brian Aldiss's *Earthworks* (1965), and John Brunner's *The Sheep Look Up* (1972), all of which fictionalise the fact that the consequences of environmental problems can be diverse but equally serious. This book examines how even the smallest damage caused by human beings to the environment negatively affects them, other living beings, and the ecosystem they need to live and flourish. In conjunction with these, the factors and conditions that push characters in the novels to ignore and harm the environment are also scrutinised. While examining how and why the environmental problems in the novels have arisen, it is evaluated whether the authors propose solutions to these problems and, if so, what they are.

the death of grass john christopher: *This Is Not a Science Fiction Textbook* Mark Bould, Steven Shaviro, 2024-08-06 Science fiction as a vital bridge between technoscience and culture, an early warning system, a method for imagining differently. In the new millennium, science fiction has moved from the margins to the mainstream. At the same time, it has undergone massive transformations. No longer can it be derided as indigestible technobabble or escapist trash or a white man's playground—not that it ever really was. Sf is rich and diverse, serious, and fun. A vital bridge between technoscience and culture, it is an early warning system, a method for imagining differently, and a way of experiencing our increasingly science-fictional world. It is the vernacular of the 21st century. *This Is Not A Science Fiction Textbook* brings together leading sf scholars, including some of the most exciting new critical voices, to introduce the genre for the general reader. Its first part outlines some key ideas used to think about sf, such as Estrangement, Extrapolation, and Alterity. Its second part maps some of the genre's global history, from the Enlightenment and European colonialism to Indigenous and African Futurisms. Its third part surveys sf at the turn of the 2020s, organised by concepts, movements and new academic disciplines, from Afrofuturism and Animal Studies to Queer Theory and the Weird—and each chapter, whether it is on Climate Fiction or Neurodiversity, is accompanied by an introduction to a major contemporary novel and film.

the death of grass john christopher: *Hawkwind: Days of the Underground* Joe Banks, 2020-10-13 An account of the English rock band Hawkwind shows them to be one of the most innovative and culturally significant bands of the 1970s. Fifty years on from when it first formed, the English rock band Hawkwind continues to inspire devotion from fans around the world. Its influence reaches across the spectrum of alternative music, from psychedelia, prog, and punk, through industrial, electronica, and stoner rock. Hawkwind has been variously, if erroneously, positioned as the heir to both Pink Floyd and the Velvet Underground, and as Britain's answer to the Grateful Dead and Krautrock. It has defined a genre—space rock—while operating on a frequency that's uniquely its own. Hawkwind offered a form of radical escapism and an alternative account of a strange new world for a generation of young people growing up on a planet that seemed to be teetering on the brink of destruction, under threat from economic meltdown, industrial unrest, and political polarization. While other commentators confidently asserted that the countercultural experiment of the 1960s was over, Hawkwind took the underground to the provinces and beyond. In

Days of the Underground, Joe Banks repositions Hawkwind as one of the most innovative and culturally significant bands of the 1970s. It's not an easy task. As with many bands of this era, a lazy narrative has built up around Hawkwind that doesn't do justice to the breadth of its ambition and achievements. Banks gives the lie to the popular perception of Hawkwind as one long lysergic soap opera; with Days of the Underground, he shows us just how revolutionary Hawkwind was.

the death of grass john christopher: The Self-Isolation Activity Book Ian Doors, 2020-05-28 'Extremely silly, fiendishly clever, genuinely helpful and very, very funny' Bruno Vincent, bestselling author of Five on Brexit Island Are you stuck inside, bored out of your brain, desperate for things to do? Looking to fill the ever-diminishing gap between stopping drinking coffee and starting drinking booze? Has the incessant comforting warmth of your laptop on top of your lap started to genuinely freak you out? Then you need The Self Isolation Activity Book. Written by Ian Doors, a man who spent all of his time alone in his flat ages before you all started doing it. Packed full of quick and easy activities, including games, mental exercises and colouring in, as well as handy hints and kitchen cupboard food and drink tips, this is the only book you'll need to make the most of your time inside. Also, the last few pages can be ripped out and used as toilet paper. Can't help but feel like all other books are missing a trick there.

the death of grass john christopher: Hinterland Remixed Andrew Burke, 2019-11-06 Like the flute melody from Hinterland Who's Who, the 1970s haunt Canadian cultural memory. Though the decade often feels lost to history, Hinterland Remixed focuses on boldly innovative works as well as popular film, television, and music to show that Canada never fully left the 1970s behind. Andrew Burke reveals how contemporary artists and filmmakers have revisited the era's cinematic and televisual residues to uncover what has been lost over the years. Investigating how the traces of an analogue past circulate in a digital age, Burke digs through the remnants of 1970s Canadiana and examines key audiovisual works from this overlooked decade, uncovering the period's aspirations, desires, fears, and anxieties. He then looks to contemporary projects that remix, remediate, and reanimate the period. Exploring an idiosyncratic selection of works - from Michael Snow's experimental landscape film La Région Centrale, to SCTV's satirical skewering of network television, to L'Atelier national du Manitoba's video lament for the Winnipeg Jets - this book asks key questions about nation, nostalgia, media, and memory. A timely intervention, Hinterland Remixed demands we recognize the ways in which the unrealized cultural ambitions and unresolved anxieties of a previous decade continue to resonate in our current lives.

the death of grass john christopher: The Dead City Paul Dobraszczyk, 2017-06-30 The Dead City unearths meanings from such depictions of ruination and decay, looking at representations of both thriving cities and ones which are struggling, abandoned or simply in transition. It reveals that ruination presents a complex opportunity to envision new futures for a city, whether that is by rewriting its past or throwing off old assumptions and proposing radical change. Seen in a certain light, for example, urban ruin and decay are a challenge to capitalist narratives of unbounded progress. They can equally imply that power structures thought to be deeply ingrained are temporary, contingent and even fragile. Examining ruins in Chernobyl, Detroit, London, Manchester and Varosha, this book demonstrates that how we discuss and depict urban decline is intimately connected to the histories, economic forces, power structures and communities of a given city, as well as to conflicting visions for its future.

the death of grass john christopher: Imagining the End James Craig Holte, 2019-11-11 Imagining the End provides students and general readers with contextualized examples of how the apocalypse has been imagined across all mediums of American popular culture. Detailed entries analyze the development, influence, and enjoyment of end-times narratives. Imagining the End provides a contextual overview and individual description and analysis of the wide range of depictions of the end of the world that have appeared in American popular culture. American writers, filmmakers, television producers, and game developers inundated the culture with hundreds of imagined apocalyptic scenarios, influenced by the Biblical Book of Revelation, the advent of the end of the second millennium (2000 CE), or predictions of catastrophic events such as nuclear war,

climate change, and the spread of AIDS. From being raptured to surviving the zombie apocalypse, readers and viewers have been left with an almost endless sequence of disasters to experience. *Imagining the End* examines this phenomenon and provides a context for understanding, and perhaps appreciating, the end of the world. This title is composed of alphabetized entries covering all topics related to the end times, covering popular culture mediums such as comic books, literature, films, and music.

the death of grass john christopher: *Law, Fiction and Activism in a Time of Climate Change* Nicole Rogers, 2019-08-14 The book examines the narratives of climate change which have developed and which are currently evolving in three areas: law, fiction and activism. Narratives of climate change generated by litigants, judges, writers of fiction and activists are having, and will have, a profound effect on the way we respond to the climate change crisis. Acknowledging the prevalence of unreliable narrators, this book explores the reliability and significance of different forms of climate narrative. The author analyses overlapping themes and points of intersection, considering the recurrent motif of the trickster, the prominence of the child, the significance and ongoing viability of the rights discourse, and the increasingly prevalent emergency framing with its multiple implications for law's empire. She asks how law, fiction and activism measure up as textual and performative fora for telling the story of climate change and anticipating a climate-changed future. And, in addition, how can they help foster transformative narratives which empower us to confront the climate change crisis? This highly topical, cross-disciplinary work will be of interest to anyone concerned about the growing climate emergency and makes a valuable contribution to climate law, environmental law, the environmental humanities and ecocriticism.

the death of grass john christopher: *Images of the Anthropocene in Speculative Fiction* Tereza Dedinová, Weronika Laszkiewicz, Sylwia Borowska-Szerszun, 2021-03-01 In order to demonstrate that speculative fiction provides a valuable contribution to the discussion about the challenges of the Anthropocene, *Images of the Anthropocene in Speculative Fiction* investigates a range of novels whose subject matter pertains to various aspects of the Anthropocene. These include the destruction and protection of the natural environment, the relationship between human and non-human inhabitants of the planet, the role of myth in the shaping of and combat against the Anthropocene, the political dimensions of the Anthropocene, the ensuing threat of the Apocalypse, and the role of post-apocalyptic narratives. To explore these topics our authors examine the works of Patricia Briggs, M.R. Carey, Dmitry Glukhovsky, Ursula K. Le Guin, N.K. Jemisin, Stephenie Meyer, China Miéville, James Patterson, Maggie Stiefvater, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Scott Westfield. Their essays demonstrate that speculative fiction, given its ability to pursue scenarios of alternative history and present familiar things in an unfamiliar way, can alter the readers' perception of their duties and responsibilities towards their communities and the world, so that the threat of human-wrought destruction might ultimately be averted.

the death of grass john christopher: *Hard Reading* T. A. Shippey, 2016 An exploration of politics and the role of the 'soft sciences' in Science Fiction.

the death of grass john christopher: *Making Eden* David Beerling, 2019-01-31 Over 7 billion people depend on plants for healthy, productive, secure lives, but few of us stop to consider the origin of the plant kingdom that turned the world green and made our lives possible. And as the human population continues to escalate, our survival depends on how we treat the plant kingdom and the soils that sustain it. Understanding the evolutionary history of our land floras, the story of how plant life emerged from water and conquered the continents to dominate the planet, is fundamental to our own existence. In *Making Eden* David Beerling reveals the hidden history of Earth's sun-shot greenery, and considers its future prospects as we farm the planet to feed the world. Describing the early plant pioneers and their close, symbiotic relationship with fungi, he examines the central role plants play in both ecosystems and the regulation of climate. As threats to plant biodiversity mount today, Beerling discusses the resultant implications for food security and climate change, and how these can be avoided. Drawing on the latest exciting scientific findings, including Beerling's own field work in the UK, North America, and New Zealand, and his

experimental research programmes over the past decade, this is an exciting new take on how plants greened the continents.

the death of grass john christopher: The Story Cure Ella Berthoud, Susan Elderkin, 2016-10-27 The stories that shape our children's lives are too important to be left to chance. With *The Story Cure*, bibliotherapists Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin have put together the perfect manual for grown-ups who want to initiate young readers into one of life's greatest pleasures. There's a remedy for every hiccup and heartache, whether it's between the covers of a picture book, a pop-up book, or a YA novel. You'll find old favourites like *The Borrowers* and *The Secret Garden* alongside modern soon-to-be classics by Michael Morpurgo, Malorie Blackman and Frank Cottrell-Boyce, as well as helpful lists of the right reads to fuel any obsession - from dogs or dinosaurs, space or spies. Wise and witty, *The Story Cure* will help any small person you know through the trials and tribulations of growing up, and help you fill their bookshelves with adventure, insight and a lifetime of fun.

the death of grass john christopher: Sense of Wonder Leigh Grossman, 2011-12-20 A survey of the last 100 years of science fiction, with representative stories and illuminating essays by the top writers, poets, and scholars, from Edgar Rice Burroughs and Samuel Butler to Robert A. Heinlein and Jack Vance, from E.E. Doc Smith and Clifford D. Simak to Ted Chiang and Charles Stross--and everyone in between. More than one million words of classic fiction and essays!

the death of grass john christopher: Reading the Ruins Leo Mellor, 2011-09-15 From fires to ghosts, and from flowers to surrealist apparitions, the bombsites of London were both unsettling and inspiring terrains. Yet throughout the years prior to the Second World War, British culture was already filled with ruins and fragments. They appeared as content, with visions of tottering towers and scraps of paper; and also as form, in the shapes of broken poetics. But from the outbreak of the Second World War what had been an aesthetic mode began to resemble a proleptic template. During that conflict many modernist writers - such as Graham Greene, Louis MacNeice, David Jones, J. F. Hendry, Elizabeth Bowen, T. S. Eliot and Rose Macaulay - engaged with devastated cityscapes and the altered lives of a nation at war. To understand the potency of the bombsites, both in the Second World War and after, *Reading the Ruins* brings together poetry, novels and short stories, as well as film and visual art.

the death of grass john christopher: Hype Jon Helgason, Sara Kärrholm, Ann Steiner, 2015-01-01 In the world of books and literature, "hype" is associated with bestsellerism - the books that sell the most, are read by vast numbers, and constantly talked about in media and staff rooms. Often, it is the success in itself that generates an interest because popularity begets popularity. Quite often though, a hyped bestseller is met with a skeptic criticism of poor language, a badly constructed plot, a predictable story line, or all three. The bestseller phenomenon is sometimes conceived as a threat against "real" literature. Research into the creation, reception, and meaning of bestsellers is utterly scarce and *Hype: Bestsellers and Literary Culture* is an important contribution to the understanding of the literature read by the masses. Popular literature plays an important role in the lives of millions of readers, offering entertainment, social commentary, and alternate perspectives on everyday life. This volume brings together such diverse issues as the creation of hype, the role and the meaning of the author in the present-day media landscape, changes in the book trade, and the relationship between bestsellers and research into them. Further articles give an historical overview on postapocalyptic stories, desert romances and the role of the authors. This book offers new knowledge on a subject that is increasingly popular within university curricula. Although the anthology is a work of academic research the texts are of equal interest to general readers.

the death of grass john christopher: Brazil Paul McAuley, 2019-07-25 Widely believed to be Terry Gilliam's best film, *Brazil*'s brilliantly imaginative vision of a retro-futuristic bureaucracy has had a lasting influence on genre cinema. Exploring its complex history and relationship with other dystopias, Paul McAuley explains why this satire on the unchecked power of the state is more relevant than ever.

the death of grass john christopher: The Knowledge Lewis Dartnell, 2014-04-17 How would you go about rebuilding a technological society from scratch? If our technological society collapsed tomorrow what would be the one book you would want to press into the hands of the postapocalyptic survivors? What crucial knowledge would they need to survive in the immediate aftermath and to rebuild civilization as quickly as possible? Human knowledge is collective, distributed across the population. It has built on itself for centuries, becoming vast and increasingly specialized. Most of us are ignorant about the fundamental principles of the civilization that supports us, happily utilizing the latest—or even the most basic—technology without having the slightest idea of why it works or how it came to be. If you had to go back to absolute basics, like some sort of postcataclysmic Robinson Crusoe, would you know how to re-create an internal combustion engine, put together a microscope, get metals out of rock, or even how to produce food for yourself? Lewis Dartnell proposes that the key to preserving civilization in an apocalyptic scenario is to provide a quickstart guide, adapted to cataclysmic circumstances. The Knowledge describes many of the modern technologies we employ, but first it explains the fundamentals upon which they are built. Every piece of technology rests on an enormous support network of other technologies, all interlinked and mutually dependent. You can't hope to build a radio, for example, without understanding how to acquire the raw materials it requires, as well as generate the electricity needed to run it. But Dartnell doesn't just provide specific information for starting over; he also reveals the greatest invention of them all—the phenomenal knowledge-generating machine that is the scientific method itself. The Knowledge is a brilliantly original guide to the fundamentals of science and how it built our modern world.

the death of grass john christopher: Grasses Stephen A. Harris, 2014-04-15 Most people have memories of playing on well-manicured lawns or running across the flat green surface of a local park, but we often don't think of grasses as something we consume. Indeed, grasses include four species—wheat, rice, maize, and sugar—that provide sixty percent of human calorie intake, and we become more and more dependent on these as the world's population increases. In this book, Stephen Harris explains the history of our relationship with these vital plants from the end of the last Ice Age to the present day. Combining biology, sociology, and cultural history, Grasses explores how these staple crops bear the mark of human influence more visibly than any other plant and how we, in turn, are motivated to protect green space such as public parks. Harris describes this symbiotic connection against the background of climate change, contending that humans must find a way to balance their need for grass as food, as living space, and potentially even as fuel. Providing an impressive exploration of the profound impact these plants have on our survival and our pleasure, this well-illustrated book is a must have for gardeners, foodies, and environmentalists.

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Hidden secrets in Death Stranding? : r/DeathStranding - Reddit This is a subreddit for fans of Hideo Kojima's action video game Death Stranding and its sequel Death Stranding 2: On The Beach. The first title was released by Sony

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