

Clive James CBE (Estate)

Writer

Clive James is the author of more than thirty books. As well as his three previous volumes of autobiography, *UNRELIABLE MEMOIRS*, *FALLING TOWARDS ENGLAND*, and *MAY WEEK WAS IN JUNE*, he has published collections of literary and television criticism, essays, travel writing, verse, and novels. As a television performer he has appeared regularly for both the BBC and ITV, most notably as writer and presenter of the Postcard series of travel documentaries.



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
GATE OF LILACS: A Verse Commentary on Proust 2016 Picador	Over a period of fifteen years Clive James learned French by almost no other method than reading <i>À la recherche du temps perdu</i> . Then he spent half a century trying to get up to speed with Proust's great novel in two different languages. Gate of Lilacs is the unique product of James's love and engagement with Proust's eternal masterpiece.

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Latest Readings 2015 Picador	<p>In 2010, Clive James was diagnosed with terminal leukemia. Deciding that "if you don't know the exact moment when the lights will go out, you might as well read until they do," James moved his library to his house in Cambridge, where he would "live, read, and perhaps even write." James is the award-winning author of dozens of works of literary criticism, poetry, and history, and this volume contains his reflections on what may well be his last reading list. A look at some of James's old favorites as well as some of his recent discoveries, this book also offers a revealing look at the author himself, sharing his evocative musings on literature and family, and on living and dying. As thoughtful and erudite as the works of Alberto Manguel, and as moving and inspiring as Randy Pausch's <i>The Last Lecture</i> and Will Schwalbe's <i>The End of Your Life Book Club</i>, this valediction to James's lifelong engagement with the written word is a captivating valentine from one of the great literary minds of our time.</p>
Poetry Notebook: 2006-2014 2014 Picador UK/ W.W Norton US	<p>Clive James is one of our finest critics and best-loved cultural voices. He is also a prize-winning poet. Since he was first enthralled by the mysterious power of poetry, he has been a dedicated student. In fact, for Clive, poetry has been nothing less than the occupation of a lifetime, and in this book he presents a distillation of all he's learned about the art form that matters to him most. With his customary wit, delightfully lucid prose style and wide-ranging knowledge, Clive explains the difference between the innocuous stuff that often passes for poetry today and a real poem: the latter being a work of unity that insists on being heard entire and threatens never to leave the memory. A committed formalist and an astute commentator, Clive offers close and careful readings of individual poems and poets (from Shakespeare to Larkin, Keats to Pound), and in some case second readings or re-readings late in life - just to be sure he wasn't wrong the first time! Whether discussing technical details of metaphorical creativity or simply praising his five favourite collections of all time, he is never less than captivating.</p> <p>Filled with insight and written with an honest, infectious enthusiasm, <i>Poetry Notebook</i> is the product of over fifty years of writing, reading, translating and thinking about poetry.</p>
A Point of View 2011 Picador	<p>The BBC Radio 4 series <i>A Point of View</i> has been on the air since 2007. Over the years, it's had a variety of presenters - including the national treasure that is Clive James - talking for ten minutes about anything and everything that has captured their imagination, piqued their interest, raised their blood pressure or just downright incensed them that week.</p> <p>Clive James was one of the favourite presenters, and now, for the first time, his original pieces - sixty in total - and all-new postscripts are collected together in one volume.</p> <p>Read along with Clive James as he reflects on everything from wheelie bins to plastic surgery, Elizabeth Hurley to the Olympics, 24 to Damien Hirst, Harry Potter to giving up smoking, car parks to Chinese elections, Britain's Got Talent to the expenses scandal - and plenty more besides.</p> <p>Essentially a chronicle of life in twenty-first century Britain, <i>A Point of View</i> is informed and informative, thoughtful and thought-provoking - but above all, entertaining. In fact, in short, it's a damn good read.</p>

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Unreliable Memoirs 2010 The Folio Society	From causing havoc on building sites to hitting small girls with a wet handkerchief, from inopportune reactions in the swimming pool to obsessive longing for one girl after another, Clive James's outspoken and delightful memoir of growing up in post-war Australia has won a place in the hearts of readers the world over.
The Blaze of Obscurity: The TV Years 2009 Picador	For many people, Clive James will always be a TV presenter first and foremost, and a writer second - this despite the fact that his adventures with the written word took place before, during and after his time on the small screen. Nevertheless, for those who remember clips of Japanese endurance gameshows and Egyptian soap operas, Clive reinventing the news or interviewing Hefner and Hepburn, Polanski and Pavarotti, Clive's 'Postcards' from Kenya, Shanghai and Dallas, or Clive James Racing Driver, Clive's rightful place does seem to be right there - on the box, in our homes, and almost one of the family. However you think of him, though, and whatever you remember him for, "The Blaze of Obscurity" is perhaps Clive's most brilliant book yet. Part Clive James on TV and part Clive James on TV, it tells the inside story of his years in television, shows Clive on top form both then and now, and proves - once and for all - that Clive has a way with words ...whatever the medium.
The Revolt of the Pendulum 2009 Picador	Illuminating, insightful, informed, inspired, and intelligent, these are words that could - and do - apply equally to book or author; in fact, "The Revolt of the Pendulum", Clive James' latest essay collection, shows James at his most dazzling and versatile best yet. From the rules of grammar to the fundamentals of religion, from the culture of fandom to the cult of the critic, it's all there: his customary wit, learning and understanding; his precise way with words and pointed comments; his ear for language and eye for detail; and, his ability to focus on the finer points and the bigger picture simultaneously - not to mention the sheer scope of his subject matter.
Cultural Amnesia: Notes in the Margin of My Time 2008 Picador	'A gigantic book on a gigantic theme' - "Sunday Times". 'Aphoristic and acutely provocative: a crash course in civilization' - J. M. Coetzee. A lifetime in the making, "Cultural Amnesia" is the book Clive James has always wanted to write. Organized from A through to Z, and containing over 100 essays, it's the ultimate guide to the twentieth-century, illuminating the careers of many of its greatest thinkers, humanists, musicians, artists and philosophers.
Falling Towards England : Unreliable Memoirs II 2008 Pan	'When we got off the ship in Southampton in that allegedly mild January of 1962 I had nothing to declare at customs except goose-pimples under my white nylon drip-dry shirt.' In the first volume of "Unreliable Memoirs", we said farewell to our hero as he set sail from Sydney Harbor, bound for London, fame and fortune. Finding the first of these proved relatively simple; the second two less so.

Poetry

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The Book of My Enemy: Collected Verse 1953 - 2003 2017 Picador	The reputation of Clive James as a poet was slow to form, perhaps because he was too famous as a star journalist and television entertainer. There was also the drawback that his poetry was so entertaining it was hard for many critics to take seriously. But after the notoriety achieved by a single self-satirizing poem, 'The Book of My Enemy Has Been Remaindered', one of the most anthologized poems of recent times, James's poetic output became impossible to ignore, and his 1985 collection <i>Other Passports</i> was greeted with praise for its thematic scope and technical accomplishment, even by critics who still doubted his seriousness. Since then, James has emerged unarguably as one of the most prominent poets of his generation - and <i>The Book of My Enemy</i> (which includes <i>Other Passports</i>) shows why.
Collected Poems: 1958 - 2015 2016 Picador	<p>Clive James's reputation as a poet has become impossible to ignore. His poems looking back over his extraordinarily rich life with a clear-eyed and unflinching honesty, such as 'Japanese Maple' (first published in the <i>New Yorker</i> in 2014), became global news events upon their publication.</p> <p>In this book, James makes his own rich selection from over fifty years' work in verse: from his early satires to these heart-stopping valedictory poems, he proves himself to be as well suited to the intense demands of the tight lyric as he is to the longer mock-epic. <i>Collected Poems</i> displays James's fluency and apparently effortless style, his technical skill and thematic scope, his lightly worn erudition and his emotional power; it will undoubtedly cement his reputation as one of the most versatile and accomplished of contemporary writers.</p>
SENTENCED TO LIFE 2015 Picador	<p>In his new, bestselling, collection of poems - several of which have already become famous before their book publication - Clive James looks back over an extraordinarily rich life with a clear-eyed and unflinching honesty. There are regrets, but no trace of self-pity in these verses, which - for all their open dealings with death and illness - are primarily a celebration of what is treasurable and memorable in our time here.</p> <p>Again and again, James reminds us that he is not only a poet of effortless wit and lyric accomplishment: he is also an immensely wise one, who delights in using poetic form to bring a razor-sharp focus to his thought. Miraculously, these poems see James writing with his insight and energy not only undiminished but positively charged by his situation: <i>Sentenced to Life</i> represents a career high point from one of the greatest literary intelligences of the age</p>

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The Divine Comedy 2013 W.W. Norton	The Divine Comedy is the precursor of modern literature, and Clive James's new translation--decades in the making--presents Dante's entire epic poem in a single song. While many poets and translators have attempted to capture the full glory of The Divine Comedy in English, many have fallen short, according to Clive James, the best-selling author of Cultural Amnesia. Victorian verse translations established an unfortunate tradition of reproducing the sprightly rhyming measures of Dante but at the same time betraying the strain on the translator's powers of invention. For Dante, the dramatic human stories of Hell were exciting, but the spiritual studies in Purgatory and the sublime panoramas of Heaven were no less so. In this incantatory, new translation, James--defying the convention by writing in quatrains--tackles these problems head-on and creates a striking and hugely accessible translation that gives us The Divine Comedy as a whole, unified, and dramatic work.
Opal Sunset: Selected Poems 1958-2008 2009 Picador	"Opal Sunset" gathers together fifty years of Clive James' poetry, and will undoubtedly enhance his reputation as one of the most versatile and accomplished of contemporary writers. Indeed - as with "Other Passports", "The Book of my Enemy" and "Angels Over Elsinore" before it - "Opal Sunset" proves Clive James to be as well suited to the intense demands of the poetic form as he is to prose.
Nefertiti in the Flak Tower 2012 Picador	A new collection of poetry from the great Australian writer Clive James' power as a poet has increased year by year, and there has been no stronger evidence for this than Nefertiti in the Flak Tower.
Angels Over Elsinore: Collected Verse 2003-2008 2008 Picador	Well-known for his prose, as well as his TV appearances, Clive James has also established a name for himself in the world of poetry.