

AM    B            FI            CT

The ideal novel would not be necessary to read at all. It would have no inside or outside. All words would flow outwards like soft data. All "events" would be migratory or reduced to background clutter. All novels would aspire to the condition of Muzak. Production, dissemination and consumption would become one. All attention would be leftover for an indeterminate amount of time. No one would fall asleep while reading a book again. Aristotle was wrong. A novel like an event should not take place in 24 hours or less. Comprehension would cease to matter or would be deflected so that all actions would seem to be taking place "somewhere else." Or not at all. Or in slow motion. Or invisibly. Or against the grain of the visible. As everyone who has ever watched a TV show about nature or wild animals mating can tell you, beauty like reading lies in increasing forms of inexactitude. It is best to behave like an animal or an insect when reading. In this way reading is more readily absorbed by the human body. The most beautiful things in a novel are the things one didn't know one was thinking about. For this reason, a novel should not tell a story of anything in particular. It should be an exercise in non-attention and non-development and the gradual erasure of content. Of course all of this inexactitude, non-comprehension and non-memory should all take place in time and be subject to duration rather than chronology. Smaller fonts are more readily absorbed by the eye. I have never felt like an insect except when I was in high school and I was asked to make a miniature pencil holder in shop class.

KEY

time of day, nationality, *v.*

Muzak, start of color, division, an other side

freq., media, order, statehood, prelude to

