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# Black Swan Green David Mitchell

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**BRENDEN MCDOWELL**

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*John Knowles's A Separate  
Peace Random House*

Trade Paperbacks  
The New York Times  
bestseller by the author of  
The Bone Clocks and

Cloud Atlas | Named One of the Best Books of the Year by San Francisco Chronicle, NPR, Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph, National Post, BookPage, and Kirkus Reviews Keep your eyes peeled for a small black iron door. Down the road from a working-class British pub, along the brick wall of a narrow alley, if the conditions are exactly right, you'll find the entrance to Slade House. A stranger will greet you by name and invite you inside. At first, you won't

want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't. Every nine years, the house's residents—an odd brother and sister—extend a unique invitation to someone who's different or lonely: a precocious teenager, a recently divorced policeman, a shy college student. But what really goes on inside Slade House? For those who find out, it's already too late. . . . Spanning five decades, from the last days of the 1970s to the present, leaping genres, and barreling toward an

astonishing conclusion, this intricately woven novel will pull you into a reality-warping new vision of the haunted house story—as only David Mitchell could imagine it. Praise for Slade House “A fiendish delight . . . Mitchell is something of a magician.”—The Washington Post “Entertainingly eerie . . . We turn to [Mitchell] for brain-tickling puzzle palaces, for character studies and for language.”—Chicago Tribune “A ripping yarn . . . Like Shirley Jackson's Hill

House or the Overlook Hotel from Stephen King's *The Shining*, [Slade House] is a thin sliver of hell designed to entrap the unwary. . . . As the Mitchellverse grows ever more expansive and connected, this short but powerful novel hints at still more marvels to come."—San Francisco Chronicle "Like Stephen King in a fever . . . manically ingenious."—The Guardian (U.K.) "A haunted house story that savors of Dickens, Stephen King, J. K.

Rowling and H. P. Lovecraft, but possesses more psychic voltage than any of them."—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "Tightly crafted and suspenseful yet warmly human . . . the ultimate spooky nursery tale for adults."—The Huffington Post  
The House of Tomorrow  
 Sceptre  
 Having emerged as one the leading contemporary British writers, David Mitchell is rapidly taking his place amongst British novelists with the gravitas of an Ishiguro or a McEwan. Written for a

wide constituency of readers of contemporary literature, *A Temporary Future: The Fiction of David Mitchell* explores Mitchell's main concerns—including those of identity, history, language, imperialism, childhood, the environment, and ethnicity—across the six novels published so far, as well as his protean ability to write in multiple and diverse genres. It places Mitchell in the tradition of Murakami, Sebald, and Rushdie-writers whose works explore narrative in

an age of globalization and cosmopolitanism. Patrick O'Donnell traces the through-lines of Mitchell's work from ghostwritten to *The Bone Clocks* and, with a chapter on each of the six novels, charts the evolution of Mitchell's fictional project. *Black Swan Green* HarperCollins UK  
A meditative novel of a young boy on the cusp of adulthood follows a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor as he grows up in what is for him the sleepest village in Worcestershire,

England, in 1982. By the author of *Cloud Atlas*. 50,000 first printing. **Black Swan Green** Random House  
Random House  
Black Swan Green Random House Trade Paperbacks  
**Black Swan Green** Random House Incorporated  
By the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bone Clocks* and *Cloud Atlas* A gallery attendant at the Hermitage. A young jazz buff in Tokyo. A crooked British lawyer in Hong Kong. A disc jockey in Manhattan. A physicist in Ireland. An elderly

woman running a tea shack in rural China. A cult-controlled terrorist in Okinawa. A musician in London. A transmigrating spirit in Mongolia. What is the common thread of coincidence or destiny that connects the lives of these nine souls in nine far-flung countries, stretching across the globe from east to west? What pattern do their linked fates form through time and space? A writer of pyrotechnic virtuosity and profound compassion, a mind to which nothing human is alien, David

Mitchell spins genres, cultures, and ideas like gossamer threads around and through these nine linked stories. Many forces bind these lives, but at root all involve the same universal longing for connection and transcendence, an axis of commonality that leads in two directions—to creation and to destruction. In the end, as lives converge with a fearful symmetry, *Ghostwritten* comes full circle, to a point at which a familiar idea—that whether the planet is vast

or small is merely a matter of perspective—strikes home with the force of a new revelation. It marks the debut of a writer of astonishing gifts.

*The Emperor's Children*  
University of Toronto Press

David Mitchell is one of the most critically acclaimed authors in contemporary global writing. Novels such as *Ghostwritten*, *Cloud Atlas* and *The Bone Clocks* demonstrate the author's dazzling literary technique in an oeuvre that crosses

genres, genders and borders, moving effortlessly through time and space. David Mitchell: Contemporary Critical Perspectives brings together leading scholars of contemporary fiction to guide readers through the full range of the author's writings, including discussions of all of his novels to-date plus his shorter fictions, essays and libretti. As well as offering extended coverage of Mitchell's most popular work, *Cloud Atlas*, the authors explore Mitchell's genre-hopping

techniques, world-making aesthetics, and engagements with key contemporary issues such as globalization, empire, the environment, disability, trauma and technology. In addition, this book includes an expansive interview with David Mitchell as well as a guide to further reading to help students and readers alike explore the works of this tremendously inventive writer.

DAVID MITCHELL SERIES  
COLLECTION PACK

Black Swan Green  
The dazzling novel from

critically-acclaimed David Mitchell. Shortlisted for the 2006 Costa Novel Award Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2006 January, 1982. Thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor - covert stammerer and reluctant poet - anticipates a stultifying year in his backwater English village. But he hasn't reckoned with bullies, simmering family discord, the Falklands War, a threatened gypsy invasion and those mysterious entities known as girls. Charting thirteen months in the black hole

between childhood and adolescence, this is a captivating novel, wry, painful and vibrant with the stuff of life.

Black Swan Green

Infobase Publishing

By the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bone Clocks* and *Cloud Atlas* | Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize "A novel as accomplished as anything being written."—*Newsweek*  
Number9Dream is the international literary sensation from a writer with astonishing range and imaginative

energy—an intoxicating ride through Tokyo’s dark underworlds and the even more mysterious landscapes of our collective dreams. David Mitchell follows his eerily precocious, globe-striding first novel, *Ghostwritten*, with a work that is in its way even more ambitious. In outward form, *Number9Dream* is a Dickensian coming-of-age journey: Young dreamer Eiji Miyake, from remote rural Japan, thrust out on his own by his sister’s death and his mother’s breakdown, comes to

Tokyo in pursuit of the father who abandoned him. Stumbling around this strange, awesome city, he trips over and crosses—through a hidden destiny or just monstrously bad luck—a number of its secret power centers. Suddenly, the riddle of his father’s identity becomes just one of the increasingly urgent questions Eiji must answer. Why is the line between the world of his experiences and the world of his dreams so blurry? Why do so many horrible things keep happening to

him? What is it about the number 9? To answer these questions, and ultimately to come to terms with his inheritance, Eiji must somehow acquire an insight into the workings of history and fate that would be rare in anyone, much less in a boy from out of town with a price on his head and less than the cost of a Beatles disc to his name. Praise for *Number9Dream* “Delirious—a grand blur of overwhelming sensation.”—*Entertainment Weekly* “To call

Mitchell's book a simple quest novel . . . is like calling Don DeLillo's *Underworld* the story of a missing baseball."—The New York Times Book Review "Number9Dream, with its propulsive energy, its Joycean eruption of language and playfulness, represents further confirmation that David Mitchell should be counted among the top young novelists working today."—San Francisco Chronicle "Mitchell's new novel has been described as a cross between Don DeLillo and William

Gibson, and although that's a perfectly serviceable cocktail-party formula, it doesn't do justice to this odd, fitfully compelling work."—The New Yorker "Leaping with ease from surrealist fables to a teenage coming-of-age story and then spinning back to Yakuza gangster battles and World War II-era kamikaze diaries, Mitchell is an aerial freestyle ski-jumper of fiction. Somehow, after performing feats of literary gymnastics, he manages to stick the

landing."—The Seattle Post-Intelligencer Random House NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The long-awaited new novel from the bestselling, prize-winning author of *Cloud Atlas* and *The Bone Clocks*. New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • "Mitchell's rich imaginative stews bubble with history and drama, and this time the flavor is a blend of Carnaby Street and Chateau Marmont."—The Washington Post "A sheer pleasure to read . . .



Mitchell's prose is suppler and richer than ever . . . Making your way through this novel feels like riding a high-end convertible down Hollywood Boulevard."—Slate  
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post • NPR • USA Today • The Guardian • The Independent • Kirkus Reviews • Men's Health • PopMatters  
Utopia Avenue is the strangest British band you've never heard of. Emerging from London's psychedelic scene in 1967, and

fronted by folk singer Elf Holloway, blues bassist Dean Moss and guitar virtuoso Jasper de Zoet, Utopia Avenue embarked on a meteoric journey from the seedy clubs of Soho, a TV debut on Top of the Pops, the cusp of chart success, glory in Amsterdam, prison in Rome, and a fateful American sojourn in the Chelsea Hotel, Laurel Canyon, and San Francisco during the autumn of '68. David Mitchell's kaleidoscopic novel tells the unexpurgated story of

Utopia Avenue's turbulent life and times; of fame's Faustian pact and stardom's wobbly ladder; of the families we choose and the ones we don't; of voices in the head, and the truths and lies they whisper; of music, madness, and idealism. Can we really change the world, or does the world change us?  
Black Swan Green Signed Ed (Bookplates) Penguin  
From the author of the bestselling *The Reason I Jump*, an extraordinary self-portrait of a young adult with autism

“Essential reading for parents and teachers of those with autism who remain nonverbal.”—Temple Grandin Naoki Higashida was only thirteen when he wrote *The Reason I Jump*, a revelatory account of autism from the inside by a nonverbal Japanese child, which became an international success. Now, in *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8*, he shares his thoughts and experiences as a young man living each day with severe autism. In short, powerful chapters, Higashida

explores school memories, family relationships, the exhilaration of travel, and the difficulties of speech. He also allows readers to experience profound moments we take for granted, like the thought-steps necessary for him to register that it’s raining outside. Acutely aware of how strange his behavior can appear to others, he aims throughout to foster a better understanding of autism and to encourage society to see people with disabilities as people, not as problems. With an

introduction by the bestselling novelist David Mitchell, *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8* also includes a dreamlike short story Higashida wrote especially for the U.S. edition. Both moving and of practical use, this book opens a window into the mind of an inspiring young man who meets every challenge with tenacity and good humor. However often he falls down, he always gets back up. Praise for *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8* “[Naoki Higashida’s] success as a writer now

transcends his diagnosis. . . . His relative isolation—with words as his primary connection to the outside world—has allowed him to fully develop the powers of observation that are necessary for good writing, and he has developed rich, deep perspectives on ideas that many take for granted. . . . The diversity of Higashida’s writing, in both subject and style, fits together like a jigsaw puzzle of life put in place with humor and thoughtfulness.”—The

Japan Times “Profound insights about what the struggle of living with autism is really like . . . . Once again, the invitation to step inside Higashida’s mind is irresistible.”—London Evening Standard “Naoki Higashida’s lyrical and heartfelt account of his condition is a gift to anyone involved with the same challenges. . . . Higashida shows a delicate regard for the difficulties his condition creates . . . and is adept at explaining his experiences in language

that makes sense to neurotypicals.”—The Guardian  
*The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* Vintage Canada  
 When the State Trembled recovers the hitherto untold story of the Citizens' Committee of 1000, formed by Winnipeg's business elite in order to crush the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919.  
Black swan green Vintage  
 Claude has an intuitive faith in something splendid and feels at odds with his contemporaries.

The war offers him the opportunity to forget his farm and his marriage of compromise; he enlists and discovers that he has lacked. But while war demands altruism, its essence is destructive

**A Temporary Future:**

**The Fiction of David**

**Mitchell** Bloomsbury

Publishing USA

From Kevin Brockmeier, one of this generation's most inventive young writers, comes a striking new novel about death, life, and the mysterious place in between. The City is inhabited by those who

have departed Earth but are still remembered by the living. They will reside in this afterlife until they are completely forgotten. But the City is shrinking, and the residents clearing out. Some of the holdouts, like Luka Sims, who produces the City's only newspaper, are wondering what exactly is going on. Others, like Coleman Kinzler, believe it is the beginning of the end. Meanwhile, Laura Byrd is trapped in an Antarctic research station, her supplies are running low, her radio finds only static,

and the power is failing. With little choice, Laura sets out across the ice to look for help, but time is running out. Kevin Brockmeier alternates these two storylines to create a lyrical and haunting story about love, loss and the power of memory.

*Utopia Avenue* Atlantic Books

The New York Times bestseller by the author of *Cloud Atlas* • Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize • Named One of the Top Ten Fiction Books of the Year by Time,

Entertainment Weekly, and O: The Oprah Magazine • A New York Times Notable Book • An American Library Association Notable Book • Winner of the World Fantasy Award “With *The Bone Clocks*, [David] Mitchell rises to meet and match the legacy of *Cloud Atlas*.”—Los Angeles Times Following a terrible fight with her mother over her boyfriend, fifteen-year-old Holly Sykes slams the door on her family and her old life. But Holly is no typical teenage runaway: A sensitive child

once contacted by voices she knew only as “the radio people,” Holly is a lightning rod for psychic phenomena. Now, as she wanders deeper into the English countryside, visions and coincidences reorder her reality until they assume the aura of a nightmare brought to life. For Holly has caught the attention of a cabal of dangerous mystics—and their enemies. But her lost weekend is merely the prelude to a shocking disappearance that leaves her family irrevocably scarred. This unsolved

mystery will echo through every decade of Holly’s life, affecting all the people Holly loves—even the ones who are not yet born. A Cambridge scholarship boy grooming himself for wealth and influence, a conflicted father who feels alive only while reporting on the war in Iraq, a middle-aged writer mourning his exile from the bestseller list—all have a part to play in this surreal, invisible war on the margins of our world. From the medieval Swiss Alps to the nineteenth-

century Australian bush, from a hotel in Shanghai to a Manhattan townhouse in the near future, their stories come together in moments of everyday grace and extraordinary wonder. Rich with character and realms of possibility, *The Bone Clocks* is a kaleidoscopic novel that begs to be taken apart and put back together by a writer. *The Washington Post* calls “the novelist who’s been showing us the future of fiction.” An elegant conjurer of interconnected tales, a

genre-bending daredevil, and a master prose stylist, David Mitchell has become one of the leading literary voices of his generation. His hypnotic new novel, *The Bone Clocks*, crackles with invention and wit and sheer storytelling pleasure—it is fiction at its most spellbinding. Named to more than 20 year-end best of lists, including NPR • *San Francisco Chronicle* • *The Atlantic* • *The Guardian* • *Slate* • *BuzzFeed* “One of the most entertaining and thrilling novels I’ve read in

a long time.”—Meg Wolitzer, NPR “[Mitchell] writes with a furious intensity and slapped-awake vitality, with a delight in language and all the rabbit holes of experience.”—*The New York Times Book Review* “Intensely compelling . . . fantastically witty . . . offers up a rich selection of domestic realism, gothic fantasy and apocalyptic speculation.”—*The Washington Post* “[A] time-traveling, culture-crossing, genre-bending marvel of a novel.”—O:

The Oprah Magazine  
“Great fun . . . a tour de  
force . . . [Mitchell]  
channels his narrators  
with vivid  
expertise.”—San  
Francisco Chronicle  
*Black Swan Green*  
Random House  
A ravishing, luminous  
selection of short stories  
from the prize-winning  
imagination of A. S. Byatt,  
“a storyteller who could  
keep a sultan on the edge  
of his throne for a  
thousand and one nights”  
(The New York Times  
Book Review). With an  
introduction by David

Mitchell, best-selling  
author of *Cloud Atlas*  
*Mirrors* shatter at the  
hairstylist's when a  
middle-aged client  
explodes in rage. Snow  
dusts the warm body of a  
princess, honing it into  
something sharp and  
frosted. Summer sunshine  
flickers on the face of a  
smiling child who may or  
may not be real. Medusa's  
Ankles celebrates the very  
best of A. S. Byatt's short  
fiction, carefully selected  
from a lifetime of writing.  
Peopled by artists, poets,  
and fabulous creatures,  
the stories blaze with

creativity and color. From  
ancient myth to a British  
candy factory, from a  
Chinese restaurant to a  
Mediterranean swimming  
pool, from a Turkish  
bazaar to a fairy-tale  
palace, Byatt transports  
her readers beyond the  
veneer of the  
ordinary—even beyond  
the gloss of the  
fantastical—to places rich  
and strange and wholly  
unforgettable.

### **Black Swan Green**

Gylphi Limited

The outcome of the first  
international conference  
on David Mitchell's

writing, this collection of critical essays focuses on his first three novels - 'Ghostwritten', 'number9dream' and 'Cloud Atlas' - to provide an analysis of Mitchell's complex narrative techniques and the literary, political and cultural implications of his work.

Ghostwritten Bloomsbury Publishing

A bestselling, masterful novel about the intersections in the lives of three friends, now on the cusp of their thirties, making their way—and

not—in New York City. There is beautiful, sophisticated Marina Thwaite—an “It” girl finishing her first book; the daughter of Murray Thwaite, celebrated intellectual and journalist—and her two closest friends from Brown, Danielle, a quietly appealing television producer, and Julius, a cash-strapped freelance critic. The delicious complications that arise among them become dangerous when Murray’s nephew, Frederick “Bootie” Tubb, an

idealistic college dropout determined to make his mark, comes to town. As the skies darken, it is Bootie’s unexpected decisions—and their stunning, heartbreaking outcome—that will change each of their lives forever. A richly drawn, brilliantly observed novel of fate and fortune—of innocence and experience, seduction and self-invention; of ambition, including literary ambition; of glamour, disaster, and promise—The Emperor’s Children is a tour de force



that brings to life a city, a generation, and the way we live in this moment. A New York Times Book Review Best Book of the Year

**Cloud Atlas** Random House

From master storyteller Stewart O'Nan, a timely moral thriller of the Jewish underground resistance in Jerusalem after the Second World War. In 1945, with no homes to return to, Jewish refugees set out for Palestine in their tens of thousands. *City of Secrets* follows one survivor, Brand, as he

tries to regain himself after losing everyone he's ever loved. Now driving a taxi provided - like his new identity - by the underground, he navigates the twisting streets of Jerusalem as well as the overlapping, sometimes deadly loyalties of the resistance. Alone, haunted by memories, he tries to become again the man he was before the war - honest, strong, capable of moral choice. He falls in love with Eva, a fellow survivor and member of his cell, reclaims his faith,

and commits himself to the revolution, accepting secret missions that grow more and more dangerous even as he begins to suspect he's being used by their cell's dashing leader, Asher. By the time Brand understands the truth, it's too late, and the tragedy that ensues changes history. A noirish, deeply felt novel of intrigue and identity written in O'Nan's trademark lucent style, *City of Secrets* asks how both despair and faith can lead us astray, and what happens when, with the

noblest intentions, we join movements beyond our control.

**Study Guide: Black Swan Green by David Mitchell**

**(SuperSummary)**

Penguin

A collection of essays analyzing Knowles's classic work, including a chronology of his works and life.

**The Magician's Book**

Little, Brown

By the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bone Clocks* and *Cloud Atlas* | Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize Selected

by Time as One of the Ten Best Books of the Year | A New York Times Notable Book | Named One of the Best Books of the Year by The Washington Post Book World, The Christian Science Monitor, Rocky Mountain News, and Kirkus Reviews | A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist | Winner of the ALA Alex Award | Finalist for the Costa Novel Award From award-winning writer David Mitchell comes a sinewy, meditative novel of boyhood on the cusp of adulthood and the old on

the cusp of the new. *Black Swan Green* tracks a single year in what is, for thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor, the sleepest village in muddiest Worcestershire in a dying Cold War England, 1982. But the thirteen chapters, each a short story in its own right, create an exquisitely observed world that is anything but sleepy. A world of Kissingeresque realpolitik enacted in boys' games on a frozen lake; of "nightcreeping" through the summer backyards of strangers; of the tabloid-

fueled thrills of the Falklands War and its human toll; of the cruel, luscious Dawn Madden and her power-hungry boyfriend, Ross Wilcox; of a certain Madame Eva van Outryve de Crommelynck, an elderly bohemian emigré who is both more and less than she appears; of Jason's search to replace his dead grandfather's irreplaceable smashed watch before the crime is discovered; of first cigarettes, first kisses, first Duran Duran LPs, and

first deaths; of Margaret Thatcher's recession; of Gypsies camping in the woods and the hysteria they inspire; and, even closer to home, of a slow-motion divorce in four seasons. Pointed, funny, profound, left-field, elegiac, and painted with the stuff of life, Black Swan Green is David Mitchell's subtlest and most effective achievement to date. Praise for Black Swan Green "[David Mitchell has created] one of the most endearing, smart,

and funny young narrators ever to rise up from the pages of a novel. . . . The always fresh and brilliant writing will carry readers back to their own childhoods. . . . This enchanting novel makes us remember exactly what it was like."—The Boston Globe "[David Mitchell is a] prodigiously daring and imaginative young writer. . . . As in the works of Thomas Pynchon and Herman Melville, one feels the roof of the narrative lifted off and oneself in thrall."—Time