



The Best American Magazine Writing 2012

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Chosen from the 2012 National Magazine Awards finalists and winners, this anthology is filled with compelling features and profiles, eye-opening reporting, and incisive criticism and analysis of contemporary culture and society. Written by today's leading journalists, the selections cover a range of developments in politics, international affairs, culture, and business—from the increasingly short shelf lives of celebrity marriages to the ongoing fallout from Wall Street's financial malpractice, from the insidious effects of the lingering wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the resurgent battle over issues pertaining to women's safety and health. Always engaging and informative, *Best American Magazine Writing 2012* is an incomparable resource for the most noteworthy journalism and literary achievements of the year.

Essays include Lawrence Wright (*The New Yorker*) on the history of Scientology and recent challenges to its mission and methods; Matthieu Aikins (*The Atlantic*) on the shady dealings and shifting sands of the war in Afghanistan; the late Christopher Hitchens (*Vanity Fair*) on the physical and emotional toll of cancer; and Joel Stein (*Time*) on the propensity for politicians and other popular figures to get into trouble on the Internet. John Jeremiah Sullivan (*GQ*) immerses himself in David Foster Wallace's curious legacy; Tim Crothers (*ESPN*) follows the inspiring story of Phiona Mutesi, a chess prodigy from the slums of Uganda; Chris Ballard (*Sports Illustrated*) recounts Dewayne Dedmon's struggle to reconcile his faith with a career in sports; Wesley Yang (*New York*) explores the pressure on Asian Americans to succeed and the psychological and cultural consequences when they don't; and Luke Dittrich (*Esquire*) shares the raw experiences of those who survived one of 2011's worst natural disasters: the tornado that hit Joplin, Missouri. The sparkling dialogue and vividly imagined, eccentric characters of Karen Russell's award-winning short story, "The Hox River Window" (*Zoetrope: All-Story*), rounds out the collection.

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