



**THE BOY ON THE
FAR LEFT**

STORY

DENNIS COOPER

"A DISQUIETING GENIUS."—VANITY FAIR

THE BOY ON THE FAR LEFT

SHORT STORY

DENNIS COOPER

 HarperCollins e-books

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Jerk” previously appeared in the book *Jerk* (Artspace Books, 1993).

“Ugly Man” and “The Boy on the Far Left” previously appeared in Scott Treleaven’s art catalog *Some Boys Wander by Mistake* (Kavi Gupta Gallery, John Connelly Presents, and Marc Selwyn Fine Art, 2007) and in *Dennis Cooper: Writing at the Edge* (Sussex Academic Press, 2008).

“Graduate Seminar,” “Santa Claus vs. Johnny Crawford,” “The Worst (1960–1971),” and “Three Boys Who Thought

Experimental Fiction Was for Pussies” previously appeared in *Dennis Cooper: Writing at the Edge* (Sussex Academic Press, 2008).

“Knife/Tape/Rope” was originally the text of a performance art work of the same name created and directed by Ishmael Houston-Jones in 1985.

“One Night in 1979 . . .” previously appeared in the anthology *Thrills, Pills, Chills, and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person* (Alyson Press, 2004).

THE BOY ON THE FAR LEFT

“Why? Because Prada offered the boy on the far right more money than I could earn in my lifetime to be the face of its fall ad campaign, and a portrait of him by Wolfgang Tillmans sold at Sotheby’s for \$350,000.

“Because the boy in the middle has dyed blond hair with an inch of mousey roots and wears far too much makeup on his almost pretty (from certain angles) face and earns a living having sex three times a week with some fat alcoholic in his sixties.

“Because the boy on the far right says he’s only doing this because he has the hots for me, which blows my mind since he’s an irrefutable god among twinks, even though I understand I’m not exactly uncute.

“Because the boy in the middle can’t believe he’s having sex with boys as cute as us and was only hired to do this porn because he’s willing to let us double penetrate him bareback.

“Because the cameraman gave us the highest dosage of Viagra you can take without risking a massive heart attack, then we spent more than an hour doing lines of crystal meth and that combination is intense if you haven’t tried it. I don’t think I could stand up right now if I wanted to, and I don’t even know who the fuck I am.

“Because the boy on the far right had one of his stories published in *The New Yorker*, which got him a six figure advance from Knopf for a first novel he hasn’t even started writing yet.

“Because the boy in the middle got so stoned and drunk last night he couldn’t walk, then suddenly burst into tears for no reason at all and told his friends he wishes he were dead.

“That’s why.”

About the Author

DENNIS COOPER is the author of the George Miles Cycle, an interconnected sequence of five novels that includes *Closer*, *Frisk*, *Try*, *Guide*, and *Period*. His post-George Miles Cycle novels include *My Loose Thread*, *The Sluts*, which won France's Prix Sade and the 2005 Lambda Literary Award for Best Men's Fiction, and his most recent work, the highly acclaimed *God, Jr.* He divides his time between Los Angeles and Paris.

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Credits

Designed by Justin Dodd

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Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader April 2009
ISBN 978-0-06-192733-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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