

The book was found

# Reality Hunger

"A literary battle cry for the creation of a new genre, one that doesn't draw distinctions between fiction and nonfiction, originality and plagiarism, memoir and fabrication, scripted and unscripted. . . . David Shields [is] brilliant, thoughtful, and yes, original."

—Cathy Acker, *The Atlantic*

"*Reality Hunger* urgently and succinctly addresses matters that have been in the air, have relentlessly gathered momentum, and have just been waiting for someone to link them together. . . . [It] heralds what will be the dominant modes in years and decades to come."

—Luc Sante, *The New York Times Book Review*

"David Shields draws on a wide range of references—crime history, classical texts, personal events, discussions of new media, and literary canons (the very ones he then dissects)—to construct a *poetic potemkin* that is also an account . . . of his own mental life. . . . Most importantly, Shields knows how to provide argument without appealing to usual old positions. Reality is the future between reader and author, and the attack on reality in *Reality Hunger* is itself a real act. It is itself the aesthetic experience he is after."

—Tim Parks, *The New York Review of Books*

"*A Manifesto* is a provocative, often beautiful, and at times over-the-top, manifesto for a new kind of writing. . . . It is a call to action, a call to arms, a call to arms. . . . After the opening call to action, a variety of minds turn their attention to the same problem. For the human ideal of clarity and order, Shields contends, is a very fragile one. . . . David Shields's *Reality Hunger* has just the immodest ambition and exhorter's zeal to bring about this happy scenario."

—Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*



## Synopsis

With this landmark book, David Shields fast-forwards the discussion of the central artistic issues of our time. Who owns ideas? How clear is the distinction between fiction and nonfiction? Has the velocity of digital culture rendered traditional modes obsolete? Exploring these and related questions, Shields orchestrates a chorus of voices, past and present, to reframe debates about the veracity of memoir and the relevance of the novel. He argues that our culture is obsessed with a reality, precisely because we experience hardly any, and urgently calls for new forms that embody and convey the fractured nature of contemporary experience. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

File Size: 3249 KB

Print Length: 242 pages

Publisher: Vintage (February 19, 2010)

Publication Date: February 23, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B0036S49D2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #431,087 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements &

Periods > Modernism #71 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social

Sciences > Philosophy > Aesthetics #71 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism >

Movements & Periods > Modernism

## Customer Reviews

1. Despite this book's praise for collage and appropriation, cutting passages from the jacket copy and/or Shields' own description of the book, then pasting as a five-star review, isn't valuable in any way. 2. Speaking of the jacket copy, by writing a negative review of this book it seems I will be "defending the status quo." Always useful to caricature your opponents in advance. And I thought the status quo totally depressed me ... 3. What is this "conventional literary novel" Shields keeps

talking about? Yeah, I also have no desire to read Olive Kittredge, but my lack of interest in the latest celebrity memoir hardly discredits the genre of memoir as a whole. Is Shields reading Hemon, Javier Marias, Percival Everett, Kathryn Davis? For someone who persuasively writes of the novel as a hybrid genre and wants to stake out an indefinite space for his own work, Shields really likes drawing lines in the sand.<sup>4</sup> When Shields does admire a fiction writer (i.e. Bernhard, Coetzee, Sebald) he pretends the writer is a sort of essayist in disguise. This is bizarre. All of the above writers create imaginary characters and involve them in invented narratives. Photos in Sebald do not make him a documentarian. The reason their books do not seem like fiction is that they are incredibly well executed, that is to say artistic. Fiction that does not seem like fiction is simply good fiction. Shields can't admit that the magic is working.<sup>5</sup> How can a book about reality-based forms of art and writing not mention historical fiction even once? Is it because historical fiction sounds staid and proves that Shields' ideas aren't as new and exciting as they want to be? Anybody remember postmodernism, by the way?<sup>6</sup>

This book is much more than an intriguing manifesto about art and reality. Most of the laudatory reviews on and the breathless notices on the book jacket miss the fact that lurking in the background of *Reality Hunger* is a character/narrator/trickster named David Shields. His praise or derision of various works of art is energized by a wistful sadness about most present moments, about life. This character -and, presumably, the writer who is telling us about him-- hungers desperately for wisdom because he wants to feel better, he wants to feel real, he wants to feel. Usually insightful riffs and joyfully plagiarized quotes about fiction, non-fiction, music, TV, movies and the visual arts are a cry from a wounded heart. When it comes to reality T.V., he tells us, "the success of the genre reflects our lust for emotional meaning. We really do want to feel, even if that means indulging in someone else's joy or woe. We have a thirst for reality (other people's reality, edited) even as we suffer a surfeit of reality (our own-boring/painful)." I found myself rooting for this character (as well as David Shields, the writer) to figure everything out, to come up with a coherent aesthetic. Full disclosure: I hung around with the writer 30 years ago and I want him to be happy, and he clearly needs a coherent aesthetic to make him happy. I am not sure that he came up with one, alas, although the attempt is scintillating and heroic. For one thing, the same David Shields who takes great pleasure in garnering pearls of wisdom and lessons about life from Proust or Kafka also enjoys two songs mixed together by Kanye West, the buzz that surrounded James Frey's book and Tina Fey's impression of Sarah Palin.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Everlasting Hunger (The Hunger Mate Series) Reality Hunger Virtual Reality - die digitale Welt wird zur Wirklichkeit: Augmented Reality, VR-Brillen, Cardboards, Cyberspace (German Edition)  
Augmented Reality for Beginners!: Principles & Practices for Augmented Reality & Virtual Computers Paleo Diet: Top Delicious Paleo Diet Recipes to Lose Weight, Boost Energy, Live Healthy, and Satisfy Your Hunger! (Beginners Cookbook Includes a 31 Day Paleo Diet Challenge - Best for Weight Loss) The Hunger Fix: The Three-Stage Detox and Recovery Plan for Overeating and Food Addiction The Organic Makeover Diet: 21-Day Program to Reset Your Hormones so You Can Lose Body Fat & Increase Energy Without Hunger! Drop 10 Lbs Fat in Just 3 Weeks. The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change Hunger for Understanding: A Workbook for helping young people to understand and overcome anorexia nervosa Anorexia Nervosa and Recovery: A Hunger for Meaning (Haworth Women's Studies) Inward Hunger: The Education of a Prime Minister The Hunger Winter: Occupied Holland 1944-1945 The Battle for Hunger Hill: The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment at the Joint Readiness Training Center EROTICA: HUNGER FOR HEAVYWEIGHTS (BBW BBC short hot story) MADE FOR ALL Especially THE BIG ONES (LUST FOR SEXY THICK WOMEN) HUNGER: Last Man Standing Book 1 Katniss the Cattail: An Unauthorized Guide to Names and Symbols in Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games Self-Discipline: Become A Greek Spartan: Everything You Need to Know to Transform Your Life into A Modern Day Spartan & Gain More Confidence, Hunger and ... (Greek Spartan Mindset, Spartan Discipline) A Hunger for Healing: The Twelve Steps as a Classic Model for Christian Spiritual Growth The Atlas of World Hunger The Hunger Pains (An Eat, Pray, Die Humorous Mystery Book 2)

[Dmca](#)