



James Thurber

A Strange Little Man



Early Life

- ❖ Born December 8th, 1894, on a self-described "night of wild portent" in Columbus, Ohio, to Mary Fisher Thurber and Charles L. Thurber, the second of the family's three sons.
- ❖ At age 7 Thurber was shot in the eye by an arrow while playing with his brothers. He lost sight in that eye, and later went increasingly blind in the other.
- ❖ 1912-1918 attended Ohio State University but couldn't pass the ROTC tests with his poor eyesight. Awarded a degree posthumously, 1995.
- ❖ 1922 Married Althea Adams, who he met at OSU.
- ❖ Spent a few years working for the U.S. Department of State, and then a few years reporting for papers including the Chicago Tribune and the Columbus Dispatch.



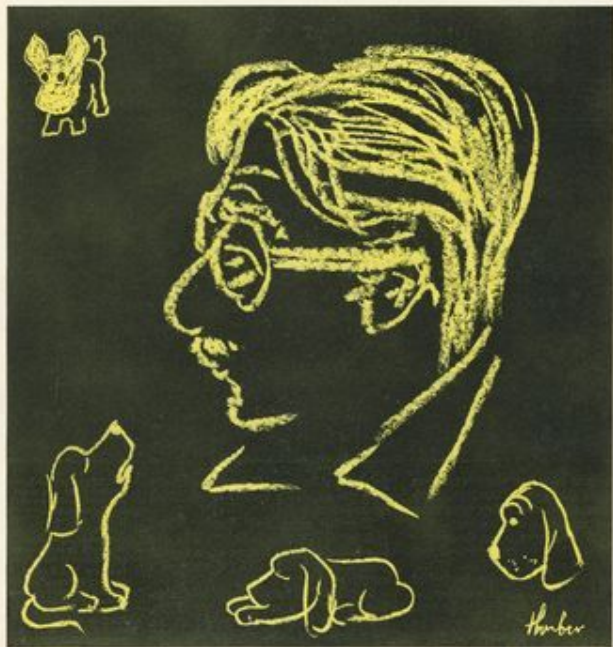
New York

- ❖ Moved to Greenwich 1925 and writes for the New York Post
- ❖ Met E.B. White, and Harold Ross hired him as the editor of the New Yorker in 1927.
- ❖ 1931 Rosemary Thurber born.
- ❖ In 1935 Thurbers marriage ended in divorce. He married Helen Wismar, an editor, and they move to Connecticut.
- ❖ Thurber continued to freelance for the New Yorker and publish work prolifically until his death in 1961.



TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

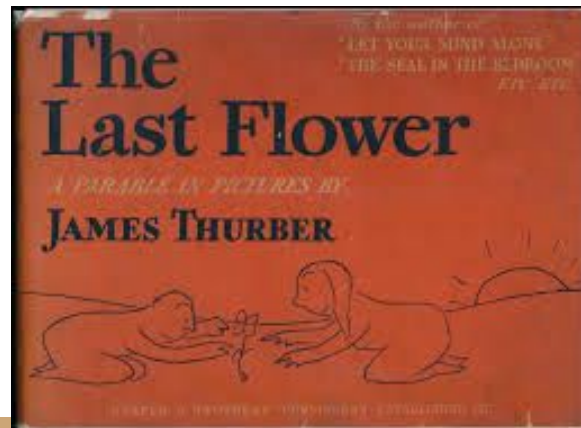
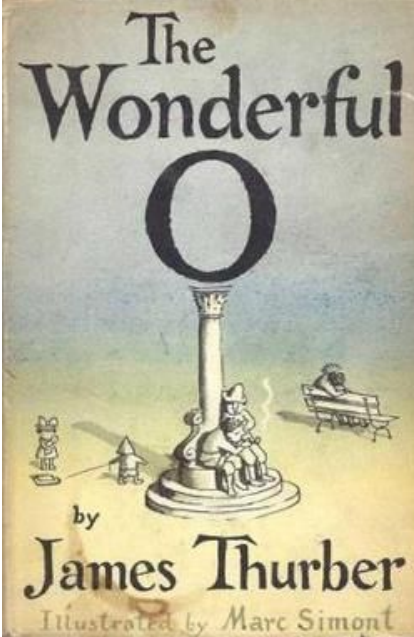
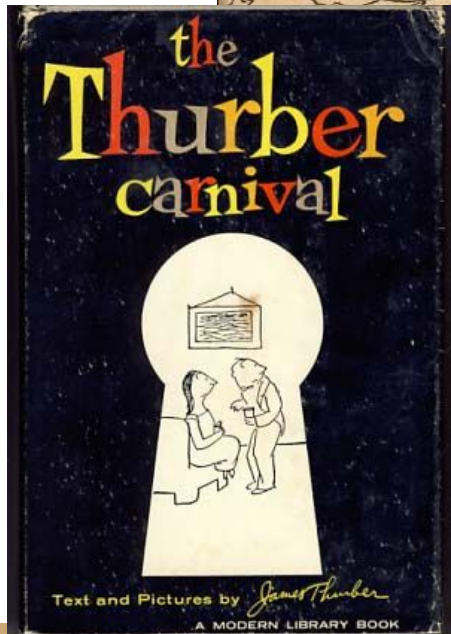
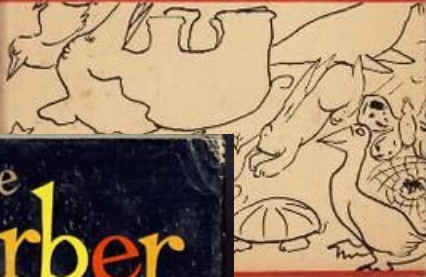


JAMES THURBER
A sure grasp of confusion.

By the author of
**LET YOUR MIND
ALONE,
THE SEAL IN THE
BEDROOM, Etc.**

James Thurber's FABLES FOR OUR TIME

HARPER & BROTHERS — ESTABLISHED 1817



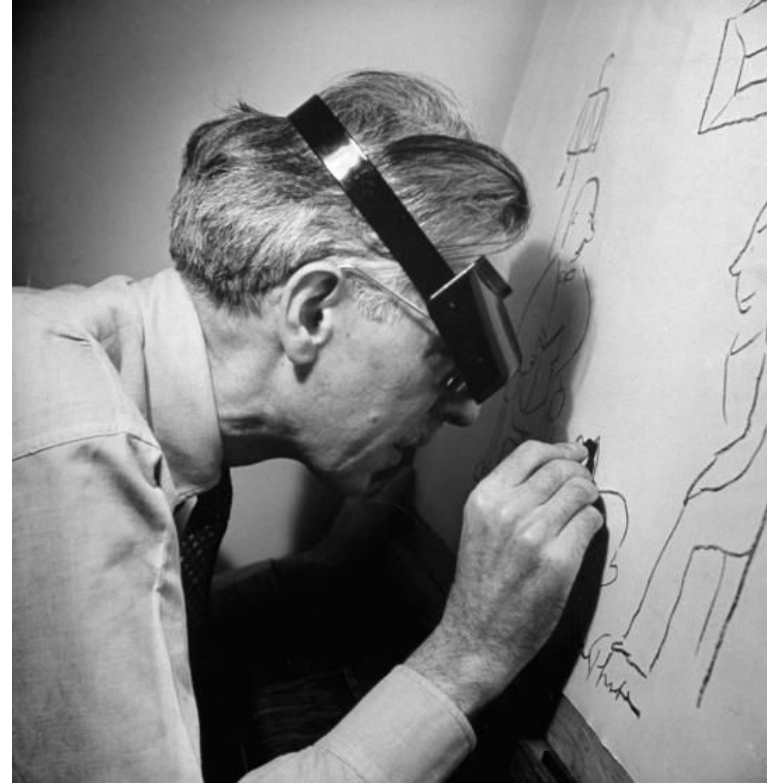
Writing

Notable stories at the New Yorker:

- ❖ The Catbird Seat, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, A Couple of Hamburgers etc.

Later publications:

- ❖ My Life and Hard Times, The Male Animal (with Elliot Nugent), The Years with Ross, A Thurber Carnival, Fables for Our Time, The Middle Aged Man on the Flying Trapeze, Men Women and Dogs, Is Sex Necessary? etc.





Honors and Recognition

- ❖ Honorary Doctorates from Kenyon College in Ohio, Williams College in Massachusetts, and Yale University. As well as a Posthumous Humane Doctor of Letters from alma mater Ohio State.
- ❖ The Thurber Prize was established in 1997 for outstanding humorists.
- ❖ Two of his residences are now historic places.

