Ulysses and Us: The Art of Everyday Life in Joyce’s Masterpiece
by Declan Kiberd, W. W. Norton & Company, 2009

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Let’s face it—James Joyce is a nag. His best known work—you know the one—the 600-page modernist romp on everyone’s must read/never finished list (even Hemingway’s copy of *Ulysses* lies in the John F. Kennedy Library with pages uncut) is the subject of a startling refreshing companion volume, *Ulysses and Us*. Professor Declan Kiberd, University College Dublin, provides an inspiring re-mix of how and why reading *Ulysses* will change your life, or at minimum rearrange your ‘molecules.’ This is likely the inoculation you’ll need whether you are a first-time or returning traveler to turn-of-the-century Dublin. Kiberd’s framework reawakens us to the movements of everyday life—eating, walking, drinking, thinking, and loving with Leopold, Molly, Stephen, and Blazes—and the practical magic that Joyce bestows as they mourn the dead, drink a cup of tea, fry the liver, conceal a rendezvous, or gently protect the university student who has lost his way home. The stream of consciousness which everyone experiences everyday has never seemed so accessible, wise, or instructive.

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