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# Tom Playfair Or Making A Start

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## **TIMOTHY WERNER**

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*Tom Playfair* Literary Licensing, LLC  
Tom Playfair; Or Making a Start is a book by a Roman

Catholic priest, Fr. Francis J. Finn S.J., originally published in 1890, and written for youths ages 9-12. Translated into many languages, it is a constant favourite among children of all

countries. Suffering from insomnia, Finn started writing using two of his sleepless hours every night on this story, which tells of the ordinary familiar incidents of Catholic residential school life. Finn hoped to give his readers his ideal of a genuine Catholic American boy.

**Synopsis and narrative style** The popularity of Percy Wynn, a story he wrote after Tom Playfair, but published before it, prepared the way for the appearance of this first and most popular novel. Idealism and deft moral teaching hid themselves in the pranks of Tom Playfair and his fellows. Hardly had the book appeared in 1890 than it came out in a German translation. That boys of all nations liked Tom Playfair can be seen

from the following: besides several editions in German, a Portuguese version appeared in 1908, an Italian in 1910, a Dutch version in 1912, a Polish in 1913, and a French one in 1925. Its universal appeal, manifested by the volume of sales, ranks it with the Frank Merriwell and Tom Brown books. Tom Playfair was always to remain Finn's favourite character, and became in the eyes of hundreds of thousands the typical American Catholic boy. An unusual letter, which arrived at St. Marys about 1910 attests the universal appeal this book was to have. A young Bavarian boy, anxious to find out if Tom Playfair really lived, addressed a letter in his native

tongue to "The Very Distinguished Father President of the Jesuit College, near Pawnee River, U. S. A." The state of Kansas was not mentioned; not even the Kaw river; the "Pawnee" was the name Finn gave in his stories to Bourbonnais creek near the college. Yet the letter arrived in due time..... Father Francis J. Finn, (October 4, 1859 - November 2, 1928) was an American Jesuit priest who wrote a series of 27 popular novels for young people. The books contain fun stories, likeable characters and themes that remain current in today's world. Each story conveys an important moral precept. Life: The son of Irish immigrant parents, Francis J. Finn was born

on October 4, 1859, in St. Louis, Missouri; there he grew up, attending parochial schools. As a boy, Francis was deeply impressed with Cardinal Wiseman's famous novel of the early Christian martyrs, *Fabiola*. Eleven-year-old Francis was a voracious reader; he read the works of Charles Dickens, devouring *Nickleby* and *The Pickwick Papers*. From his First Communion at age 12, Francis began to desire to become a Jesuit priest. Fr. Charles Coppens urged Francis to apply himself to his Latin, to improve it by using an all-Latin prayerbook, and to read good Catholic books. Fr. Finn credited his vocation to this advice and to his membership in the

Sodality of Our Lady. Jesuit: He entered the Society of Jesus in 1879 after graduating from St. Louis University. Francis began his Jesuit novitiate and seminary studies on March 24. As a young Jesuit scholastic, he suffered from repeated bouts of sickness. He would be sent home to recover, would return in robust health, then would come down with another ailment. Normally this would have been seen as a sign that he did not have a vocation, yet his superiors kept him on. Fr. Finn commented, "God often uses instruments most unfit to do His work." In 1881 Finn was assigned as a prefect of St. Mary's boarding school or "college" in St. Mary's College,

Kansas (which became the fictional "St. Maure's"). Francis was ordained to the priesthood in 1891, and after some time at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he came to St. Xavier College (now Xavier University) in Cincinnati. Fr. Finn spent many years of his priestly life at St. Xavier's.....

### **Can You Survive the Zombie Apocalypse?**

Villard

Percy Wynn is a "girlish" boy raised with 10 sisters, but Tom Playfair, his new friend at a Jesuit boarding school, decides "to make a boy" of him.

*Tom Playfair Or, Making a Start*

Independently Published

WINNER OF THE BSFA AWARD FOR BEST

NOVEL Jack Glass is the murderer. We know this from the start. Yet as this extraordinary novel tells the story of three murders committed by Glass the reader will be surprised to find out that it was Glass who was the killer and how he did it. And by the end of the book our sympathies for the killer are fully engaged. Riffing on the tropes of crime fiction (the country house murder, the locked room mystery) and imbued with the feel of golden age SF, JACK GLASS is another bravura performance from Roberts. Whatever games he plays with the genre, whatever questions he asks of the reader, Roberts never loses sight of the need to entertain and JACK GLASS has some

wonderfully gruesome moments, is built around three gripping HowDunnits and comes with liberal doses of sly humour. Roberts invites us to have fun and tricks us into thinking about both crime and SF via a beautifully structured novel set in a society whose depiction challenges notions of crime, punishment, power and freedom. It is an extraordinary novel.

Percy Wynn

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enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**Tom Playfair** Trieste Publishing

Tom Playfair; Or Making a Start is a book by a Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Francis J. Finn S.J., originally published in 1890, and written for youths ages 9-12. Translated into many languages, it is a constant favourite among children of all countries. Suffering from insomnia, Finn started writing using two of his sleepless hours every night on this story, which tells

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Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he came to St. Xavier College (now Xavier University) in Cincinnati. Fr. Finn spent many years of his priestly life at St. Xavier's.....  
*Tom Brown at Oxford*  
Simon and Schuster  
When Tom Chantry comes west to buy cattle, he quickly runs into trouble. During a drunken scuffle in a bar, Dutch Akin challenges Chantry to a gunfight. Leaving town rather than face Akin, Chantry is quickly branded a coward. Later, when hiring men to take his herd to the railroad, Chantry faces a dilemma: No one wants to make the long, dangerous ride with a leader of questionable courage. So when French Williams, a shrewd and

ruthless cattleman, makes Chantry an offer, Tom reluctantly accepts his unusual terms: Tom must remain with the drive from start to finish. If he fails to do so, the entire herd will belong to French. Tom quickly learns that life is not going to be made easy for him. The first man French hires is Dutch Akin.

**Tom Playfair; Or, Making a Start**

Scholar's Choice  
 Readers continue to be charmed by bestselling author Georgette Heyer, the Queen of Regency Romance, and her flashes of wit, wonderful dialogue, and delightful intrigue. An impetuous flight... Tiffany Wield's bad behavior is a serious trial to her chaperone. "On the shelf" at twenty-eight, Ancilla

Trent strives to be a calming influence on her tempestuous charge, but then Tiffany runs off to London alone and Ancilla is faced with a devastating scandal. A gallant rescue... Sir Waldo Hawkrige, confirmed bachelor and one of the wealthiest men in London, comes instantly to the aid of the intrepid Ancilla to stop Tiffany's flight, and in the process discovers that it's never too late for the first bloom of love. Praise for Georgette Heyer: "A writer of great wit and style... I've read her books to ragged shreds."—Kate Fenton, Daily Telegraph  
 "Triumphantly good...Georgette Heyer is unbeatable."—India Knight, Sunday

Telegraph

**The Art of Betrayal**

Simon and Schuster

Burke brings his brilliant feel for time and place to a stunning story of Appalachia in the early 1960s.

**Tom Playfair; Or Making a Start - Scholar's Choice Edition**

Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

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part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**Tom Playfair** Gollancz  
 Excerpt from Tom Playfair: Or Making a Start HE vicissitudes of the Tom Playfair manna script would alone make a story. How it was written over seven years ago, for the sake of a. College class, and with no ulterior thought of public. Cation; how portions of it gradually found their way into print; how the writer hesitated for years whether to consign the remaining parts to the book publisher or to the waste-basket; how the cordial reception of Percy Wynn, and the kind words concerning Tom Playfair from critics and from readers inspired him to take the venerable manuscript -done at all

manner of odd times, in lead pencil and ink, upon all sorts and conditions of paper from his trunk, and subsequently devote no small part of his vacation days (july, August, 1891) to its revisal; how the valued advice and kind words of literary friends served him in the revision - are not all these things indelibly impressed upon the author's memory? And now he ventures to offer this story to the boys and girls of the land, in the hope that it may afford them healthful pleasure. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an

important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works. *Tom Playfair* Penguin Percy Wynn is a "girlish" boy raised with 10 sisters, but Tom Playfair, his new friend at a Jesuit boarding school,

decides "to make a boy" of him.

**Harry Dee** Simon and Schuster

Dolls can't move by themselves. . . . Or can they? This special anniversary edition of the hair-raising mystery that's kept readers up at night for thirty-five years features a foreword by Goosebumps creator R.L. Stine. Amy is terrified. She hears scratching and scurrying noises coming from the dollhouse in the attic, and the dolls she was playing with are not where she left them. Dolls can't move by themselves, she tells herself. But every night when Amy goes up to check on the dollhouse, it's filled with an eerie light and the dolls have moved again! Are the dolls

trying to tell her something? Could this all be connected to the murders of her great-grandparents? Sinister secrets unravel as Amy gets closer to revealing the mystery of the dolls in this haunting novel that combines complicated family relationships with a bone-chilling mystery. Even readers who love scary stories will want to keep the lights on after finishing! The all-new foreword and jacket art make this spooky classic, an Edgar award nominee, perfect for sharing with a new generation.

*Lines, Bars and Circles*  
Bantam

Jack Ryan Jr.—along with the covert warriors of the Campus—continues to uphold his legendary father’s legacy of courage and honor in

this thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Tom Clancy. Privately trained with special forces, he’s honing his combat skills to continue his work within the Campus, hunting down and eliminating terrorists wherever he can—even as Jack Ryan Sr. campaigns to become President of the United States again. But what neither father nor son knows is that the political and personal have just become equally dangerous. A devout enemy of Jack Sr. launches a privately-funded vendetta to discredit him and connect him to a mysterious killing in his longtime ally John Clark’s past. All they have to do is catch him. With Clark on the run, it’s up to

Jack Jr. to stop a growing threat emerging in the Middle East, where a corrupt Pakistani general has entered into a deadly pact with a fanatical terrorist to procure four nuclear warheads they can use to blackmail any world power into submission—or face annihilation.

**Tom Playfair Or, Making a Start**

Wentworth Press  
This Is A New Release  
Of The Original 1891  
Edition.

*Cupid of Campion*  
Crooked Lane Books  
Donkeys by the hundreds! Twelve-year-old Chico Filippo, whose own donkeys were confiscated years before by the German army, can't stay away from the newly set up American Remount Depot. Here, in the last months of World War II

in Italy, thousands of supply mules and donkeys are processed and sent onto the fierce mountain fighting in the Apennines. One of the handlers introduces Chico to a small courageous animal the boy names Sergeant Donkey. Drawn into friendship and then into unexpected danger, Chico must demonstrate his own simple courage. More than an animal or war story, this short book has a depth of truth about people of different ages and nationalities who still share a common love of the land and of human dignity. Age 8-up"

That Football Game  
Holiday House  
From the Nobel Prize-winning author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow*

and the coauthor of *Nudge*, a revolutionary exploration of why people make bad judgments and how to make better ones—"a tour de force" (*New York Times*). Imagine that two doctors in the same city give different diagnoses to identical patients—or that two judges in the same courthouse give markedly different sentences to people who have committed the same crime. Suppose that different interviewers at the same firm make different decisions about indistinguishable job applicants—or that when a company is handling customer complaints, the resolution depends on who happens to answer the phone. Now imagine that the same doctor, the same

judge, the same interviewer, or the same customer service agent makes different decisions depending on whether it is morning or afternoon, or Monday rather than Wednesday. These are examples of noise: variability in judgments that should be identical. In *Noise*, Daniel Kahneman, Olivier Sibony, and Cass R. Sunstein show the detrimental effects of noise in many fields, including medicine, law, economic forecasting, forensic science, bail, child protection, strategy, performance reviews, and personnel selection. Wherever there is judgment, there is noise. Yet, most of the time, individuals and organizations alike are unaware of it. They



neglect noise. With a few simple remedies, people can reduce both noise and bias, and so make far better decisions. Packed with original ideas, and offering the same kinds of research-based insights that made *Thinking, Fast and Slow* and *Nudge* groundbreaking New York Times bestsellers, *Noise* explains how and why humans are so susceptible to noise in judgment—and what we can do about it.

**Claude Lightfoot; Or, How the Problem was Solved**

Sourcebooks, Inc.  
After a decade of industry-wide downsizing, companies are finding poor morale to be a serious problem. This book presents a step-by-step programme for building an

enthusiastic, high-performance team  
**Percy Wynn** *Forgotten Books*  
Father Francis J. Finn, (born St. Louis, Missouri, 1859, died Cincinnati, OH, November 2, 1928). was an American Jesuit priest who wrote a series of 27 popular novels for young people. The books contain fun stories, likeable characters and themes that remain current in today's world. Each story conveys an important moral precept. The son of Irish immigrant parents, Francis J. Finn was born on October 4, 1859, in St. Louis, Missouri; there he grew up, attending parochial schools. As a boy, Francis was deeply impressed with Cardinal Wiseman's famous novel of the

early Christian martyrs, Fabiola. Eleven-year-old Francis was a voracious reader; he read the works of Charles Dickens, devouring Nicholas Nickleby and The Pickwick Papers.

### Managing to Have Fun

Little, Brown

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to contact us directly to enquire about our tailored bulk rates.

**Percy Wynn** Kids Can Press Ltd

Father Francis J Finn (1859-1928) was an American Jesuit priest who wrote a series of 27 popular novels for young people, with each story conveying an important moral precept. According to the American Catholic Who's Who Fr. Finn is "universally acknowledged the foremost Catholic writer of fiction for young people." His first book Tom Playfair; or Making a Start was published in 1890 and this work appeared in 1916.