

Georges Perec (1936 –1982) was a French novelist, essayist and filmmaker whose linguistic talents ranged from fiction to crossword puzzles to authoring the longest palindrome ever written. Winner of the Prix Renaudot in 1965 for his first novel *Things*, and the Prix Medicis in 1978 for his most acclaimed novel *Life A User's Manual*, Perec was also a member of Oulipo, a group of writers and mathematicians devoted to the discovery and use of constraints to encourage literary inspiration. One of their most famous products was Perec's own novel, *A Void*, written entirely without the letter "e." He published *Espèces d'espaces (Species of Spaces)* in 1974. He was originally contracted to write it by a friend and collaborator trained in architecture, hence the subject of the book, which is urban and domestic space. In it, he contemplates the many ways in which we occupy the space around us, depicting the commonplace items with which we are familiar in a startling, engrossing way. A Perec admirer, author Paul Auster writes, "To read Georges Perec one must be ready to abandon oneself to a spirit of play. His books are studded with intellectual traps, allusions and secret systems, and they are prodigiously entertaining."