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Paperback reviews: Updike by Adam Begley, The Pink Suit by Nicole Mary Kelby, I Knew The Bride by Hugo Williams

Begley's account of John Updike's life is balanced, fair, clear-eyed and fascinating.

Lesley McDowell | Friday 01 May 2015 17:25 | [comments](#)



The Hidden Light of Objects by Mai Al-Nakib (Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation, £8.99)

Al-Nakib's debut collection takes us from the glitter of 1970s Beirut to the destruction of present-day Gaza, and shows an assurance in her subject matter and her characters, which perhaps speaks to her impressive academic life. This is hardly the collection of a shy novice, and Al-Nakib revels in the challenge of mixing myth with reality, as she does in the beautifully told "Echo Twins", the tale of independent, rebellious Hayat who has an affair with a blond, British oil digger, Alexander. The twin boys who are born as a result of this liaison are kept indoors until they are eight because of the spite of the locals. A small criticism is in her stylistic resorting to the rhetorical "threes", so beloved of politicians, that can mark some of her prose.