

ZADIE
SMITH
FEEL
FREE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

White Teeth

The Autograph Man

On Beauty

NW

The Embassy of Cambodia

Swing Time

NONFICTION

The Book of Other People (*editor*)

Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays

FEEL FREE

ESSAYS

ZADIE SMITH



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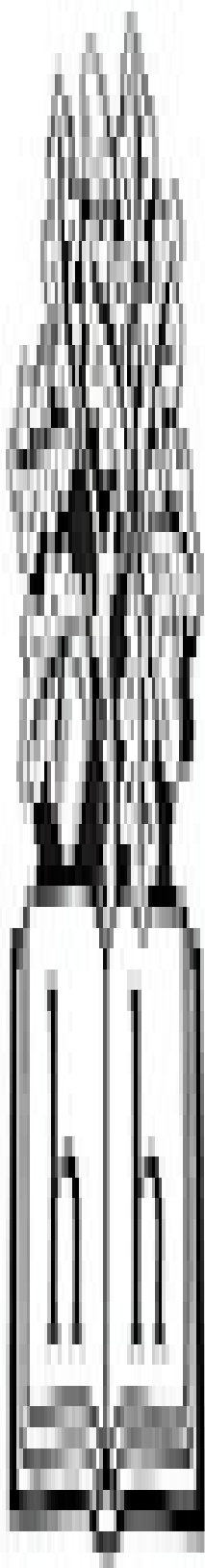
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Random House

HANS HAMILTON CANADA

Version_1

For Kit and Hal
and
For Robert B. Silvers, *in memoriam*

“People can be slave-ships in shoes.”

—Zora Neale Hurston

“The eyes are not windows. There are nerve impulses, but no one reads them, counts them, translates them, and ruminates about them. Hunt for as long as you want, there’s nobody home. The world is contained within you, and you’re not there.”

—Daniel Kehlmann

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*Bieber and Buber are alternative spellings of the same German surname. Who am I to ignore these hints from the universe?

*To use the most commonly cited examples.

*Dear Reader—will you google them? Originally, they were included in the essay but it turns out that reproducing lyrics is incredibly expensive.

* It's also a spookily accurate definition of much of our online lives, seventy years before the Internet existed.

*Taken from a series of Bieber's texts to Gomez, leaked and posted to the Internet.