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The Weather In Proust (Series Q)



Synopsis

The Weather in Proust gathers pieces written by the eminent critic and theorist Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick in the last decade of her life, as she worked toward a book on Proust. This book takes its title from the first essay, a startlingly original interpretation of Proust. By way of Neoplatonism, Buddhism, and the work of Melanie Klein, Sedgwick establishes the sense of refreshment and surprise that the author of the Recherche affords his readers. Proust also figures in pieces on the poetry of C. P. Cavafy, object relations, affect theory, and Sedgwick's textile art practices. More explicitly connected to her role as a pioneering queer theorist are an exuberant attack against reactionary refusals of the work of Guy Hocquenghem and talks in which she lays out her central ideas about sexuality and her concerns about the direction of US queer theory. Sedgwick lived for more than a dozen years with a diagnosis of terminal cancer; its implications informed her later writing and thinking, as well as her spiritual and artistic practices. In the book's final and most personal essay, she reflects on the realization of her impending death. Featuring thirty-seven color images of her art, The Weather in Proust offers a comprehensive view of Sedgwick's later work, underscoring its diversity and coherence.

Book Information

Series: Series Q

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books; 1st US edition (December 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822351587

ISBN-13: 978-0822351580

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

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Nonfiction > Sexuality #43 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism

#385 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Weather

Customer Reviews

The essays collected in this volume are more than a random selection of already in-process works but the late critic. Together they compose a narrative that points to the enduring value of queer theory's application to critical literary study. For lovers of Proust, this volume is simply invaluable

and will provide readers with an excursion into a novel they already supposed they knew but have never in fact read in a way comparable to Sedgwick. In the latter half of the book, her thinking on the legacy of queer theory as an analytical resource is unmatched for its simplicity of presentation and complexity of thought. The essay on affect theory is also similarly eye-opening, while at the same time demonstrating a elegance of language that is rarely seen with topics so mired in scientific language. A joy to read. [Edit]: after rereading this collection again, I upped the stars. A great book.

This is an inspired and inspiring book. Her insights into Proust and Cavafy really set me off into other worlds of thought and exploration.

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