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ELIZABETH HARDWICK

SIGHT-READINGS

A M E R I C A N F I C T I O N S

Sight Readings American Fictions

Elizabeth Hardwick



Sight Readings American Fictions:

Sight-Readings Elizabeth Hardwick, 1999-07-01 It is only in a country where newness and change and brevity of tenure are the common substance of life wrote Henry James that the fact of one's ancestors having lived for a hundred and seventy years in a single spot would become an element of one's morality Newness and rootedness are the twin poles of Sight Readings Elizabeth Hardwick's brilliant new collection of essays Her first Seduction and Betrayal was nominated for the National Book Award Hardwick's focus here is on American writers at home and abroad and especially women as writers and as characters Edith Wharton Djuna Barnes Gertrude Stein Mary McCarthy Elizabeth Bishop Katherine Anne Porter and Joan Didion among others In sections on Old New York Americans Abroad and Fictions of America Hardwick considers writers and their landscapes real and imagined Her essays on Edith Wharton and Henry James illuminate aspects of their inventions of New York From there she takes us to the Paris of Gertrude Stein and Djuna Barnes into the hermetic world of Boston Transcendentalism and on to the suburbs of John Cheever the America of Philip Roth and John Updike and the restless expanses of Richard Ford and the Prairie poets Elizabeth Hardwick has achieved a permanent place in American letters for her sharp and elegant criticism Her essays on American writers are themselves a work of literature **Reading**

Irish-American Fiction M. Hallissy, 2006-03-01 This book analyzes five novels all published between 1989 and 1999 in which the main characters are hyphenated people Americans who are ancestrally joined to yet realistically separated from the Irish Hallissy explores why these characters think of themselves as Irish though they have know little of Ireland or its people The Collected Essays of Elizabeth Hardwick Elizabeth Hardwick, 2017-10-17 The first ever collection of essays from across Elizabeth Hardwick's illustrious writing career including works not seen in print for decades A New York Times Notable Book of 2017 Elizabeth Hardwick wrote during the golden age of the American literary essay For Hardwick the essay was an imaginative endeavor a serious form criticism worthy of the literature in question In the essays collected here she covers civil rights demonstrations in the 1960s describes places where she lived and locations she visited and writes about the foundations of American literature Melville James Wharton and the changes in American fiction though her reading is wide and international She contemplates writers lives women writers rebels Americans abroad and the literary afterlife of biographies letters and diaries Selected and with an introduction by Darryl Pinckney the Collected Essays gathers more than fifty essays for a fifty year retrospective of Hardwick's work from 1953 to 2003 For Hardwick writes Pinckney the poetry and novels of America hold the nation's history Here is an exhilarating chronicle of that history **Southern Writers** Joseph M. Flora, Amber Vogel, 2006-06-21 This new edition of Southern Writers assumes its distinguished predecessor's place as the essential reference on literary artists of the American South Broadly expanded and thoroughly revised it boasts 604 entries nearly double the earlier edition's written by 264 scholars For every figure major and minor from the venerable and canonical to the fresh and innovative a biographical sketch and chronological list of published works provide comprehensive

concise up to date information Here in one convenient source are the South s novelists and short story writers poets and dramatists memoirists and essayists journalists scholars and biographers from the colonial period to the twenty first century What constitutes a southern writer is always a matter for debate Editors Joseph M Flora and Amber Vogel have used a generous definition that turns on having a significant connection to the region in either a personal or literary sense New to this volume are younger writers who have emerged in the quarter century since the dictionary s original publication as well as older talents previously unknown or unacknowledged For almost every writer found in the previous edition a new biography has been commissioned Drawn from the very best minds on southern literature and covering the full spectrum of its practitioners *Southern Writers* is an indispensable reference book for anyone intrigued by the subject **Encyclopedia of American Literature** Manly, Inc.,2013-06 Susan Clair Imbarrato Carol Berkin Brett Barney Lisa Paddock Matthew J Bruccoli George Parker Anderson Judith S **American Literature and Culture in an Age of Cold War** Steven Belletto, Daniel Grausam,2012-10-01 The time is right for a critical reassessment of Cold War culture both because its full cultural impact remains unprocessed and because some of the chief paradigms for understanding that culture confuse rather than clarify A collection of the work of some of the best cultural critics writing about the period *American Literature and Culture in an Age of Cold War* reveals a broad range of ways that American cultural production from the late 1940s to the present might be understood in relation to the Cold War Critically engaging the reigning paradigms that equate postwar U S culture with containment culture the authors present suggestive revisionist claims Their essays draw on a literary archive including the works of John Updike Joan Didion Richard E Kim Allen Ginsberg Edwin Denby Alice Childress Frank Herbert and others strikingly different from the one typically presented in accounts of the period Likewise the authors describe phenomena such as the FBI s surveillance of writers especially African Americans biopolitics development theory struggles over the centralization and decentralization of government and the cultural work of Reaganism that open up new contexts for discussing postwar culture Extending the timeline and expanding the geographic scope of Cold War culture this book reveals both the literature and the culture of the time to be more dynamic and complex than has been generally supposed *The Kentucky Anthology* Wade Hall,2005-11-11 Long before the official establishment of the Commonwealth intrepid pioneers ventured west of the Allegheny Mountains into an expansive alluring wilderness that they began to call Kentucky After blazing trails clearing plots and surviving innumerable challenges a few adventurers found time to pen celebratory tributes to their new homeland In the two centuries that followed many of the world s finest writers both native Kentuckians and visitors have paid homage to the Bluegrass State with the written word In *The Kentucky Anthology* acclaimed author and literary historian Wade Hall has assembled an unprecedented and comprehensive compilation of writings pertaining to Kentucky and its land people and culture Hall s introductions to each author frame both popular and lesser known selections in a historical context He examines the major cultural and political developments in the history of the Commonwealth finding

both parallels and marked distinctions between Kentucky and the rest of the United States While honoring the heritage of Kentucky in all its glory Hall does not blithely turn away from the state's most troubling episodes and institutions such as racism slavery and war Hall also builds the argument bolstered by the strength and significance of the collected writings that Kentucky's best writers compare favorably with the finest in the world Many of the authors presented here remain universally renowned and beloved while others have faded into the tides of time waiting for rediscovery Together they guide the reader on a literary tour of Kentucky from the mines to the rivers and from the deepest hollows to the highest peaks The Kentucky Anthology traces the interests and aspirations the achievements and failures and the comedies and tragedies that have filled the lives of generations of Kentuckians These diaries letters speeches essays poems and stories bring history brilliantly to life Jesse Stuart once wrote If these United States can be called a body Kentucky can be called its heart The Kentucky Anthology captures the rhythm and spirit of that heart in the words of its most remarkable chroniclers

A Splendid Intelligence Cathy Curtis, 2021-11-16 The first biography of the extraordinary essayist critic and short story writer Elizabeth Hardwick author of the semiautobiographical novel *Sleepless Nights* Born in Kentucky Elizabeth Hardwick left for New York City on a Greyhound bus in 1939 and quickly made a name for herself as a formidable member of the intellectual elite Her eventful life included stretches of dire poverty romantic escapades and dustups with authors she eviscerated in *The New York Review of Books* of which she was a cofounder She formed lasting friendships with literary notables including Mary McCarthy Adrienne Rich and Susan Sontag who appreciated her sharp wit and relish for gossip progressive politics and great literature Hardwick's life and writing were shaped by a turbulent marriage to the poet Robert Lowell whom she adored standing by faithfully through his episodes of bipolar illness Lowell's decision to publish excerpts from her private letters in *The Dolphin* greatly distressed Hardwick and ignited a major literary controversy Hardwick emerged from the scandal with the clarity and wisdom that illuminate her brilliant work most notably *Sleepless Nights* a daring lyrical and keenly perceptive collage of reflections and glimpses of people encountered as they stumble through lives of deprivation or privilege *A Splendid Intelligence* finally gives Hardwick her due as one of the great postwar cultural critics Ranging over a broad territory from the depiction of women in classic novels to the civil rights movement from theater in New York to life in Brazil Kentucky and Maine Hardwick's essays remain strikingly original fiercely opinionated and exquisitely wrought In this lively and illuminating biography Cathy Curtis offers an intimate portrait of an exceptional woman who vigorously forged her own identity on and off the page

Hyperobject Reading, Scale Variance, and American Fiction in the Anthropocene Chingshun J. Sheu, 2023-03-25 This book proposes a model of reading called hyperobject reading that bridges the Anthropocene scale variance between humans and humanity by focusing on the large scale problems and phenomena themselves Hyperobject reading draws on narratology and reader response theory as well as newer developments such as the postcritical turn and object oriented ontology The theoretical introduction sets out the building blocks of hyperobject reading Chapter 2

intervenes in critical disability studies and debates about the ecosomatic paradigm Chapter 3 intervenes in debates about technological evolution analogue vs digital subjectivity and affect theory and Chapter 4 intervenes in debates about autofiction contemporary metafiction and the position and role of the narrator in first person narratives where the narrator and protagonist can be distinguished The analytical conclusion sketches the conceptual anatomy of the hyperobject and three possible responses No part of the Earth today is free from human influence but literary success suggests effective real world strategies

Walking New York Stephen Miller, 2014-12-01 Walk along with New York's most celebrated writers on a tour of the city that inspired them in this evolving portrait of New York through the centuries The New York Observer ONE OF THE NEW YORK OBSERVER'S TOP 10 BOOKS FOR FALL It's no wonder that New York has always been a magnet city for writers Manhattan is one of the most walkable cities in the world But while many novelists poets and essayists have enjoyed long walks in New York their experiences varied widely Walking New York is a study of celebrated writers who walked the streets of New York and wrote about the city in fiction nonfiction and poetry Though the writers were often irritated disturbed and occasionally shocked by what they saw on their walks they were still fascinated by the city Cynthia Ozick called faithfully inconstant magnetic man made unnatural the synthetic sublime Returning to New York after an absence of two decades Henry James loathed many things about bristling New York while native New Yorker Walt Whitman both celebrated and criticized Mannahatta in his writings This idiosyncratic guidebook combines literary scholarship with urban studies to reveal how this crowded dirty noisy and sometimes ugly city gave these restless analysts plenty of fodder for their craft In Walking New York you'll see the city through the eyes of Walt Whitman Herman Melville William Dean Howells Jacob Riis Henry James Stephen Crane Theodore Dreiser James Weldon Johnson Alfred Kazin Elizabeth Hardwick Colson Whitehead and Teju Cole

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