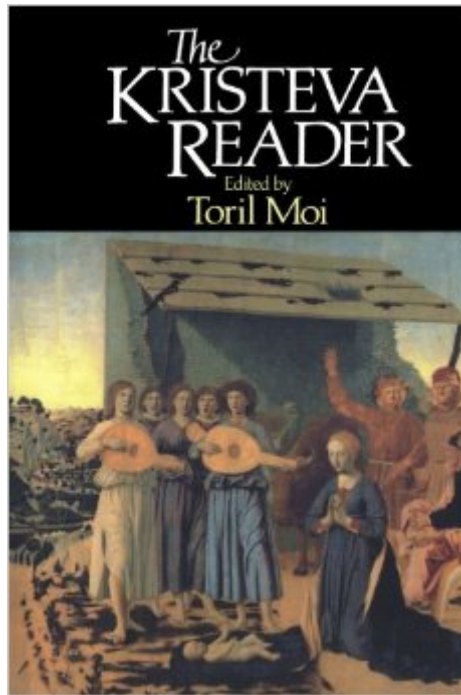


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The Kristeva Reader



Synopsis

An easily accessible introduction to Kristeva's work in English. The essays have been selected as representative of the three main areas of Kristeva's writing--semiotics, psychoanalysis, and political theory--and are each prefaced by a clear, instructive introduction. For beginners or those familiar with Kristeva's work this is a good complement to *The Portable Kristeva* with a convenient selection of articles from Kristeva's earlier work some of which are otherwise hard to come by.

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Customer Reviews

The *Kristeva Reader* is a good, even great, introduction to the work of Julia Kristeva. Some of Kristeva's most important works are brilliantly excerpted in readable prose by Toril Moi. Lovers of linguistics, rhetoric, literary theory, and psychology will find Kristeva's work compelling. One interesting aspect of the text is that it offers the reader a glimpse into the creative process. In an early essay, "Word, Dialogue, and Novel," Kristeva responds to the theory of Mikhail Bakhtin. Her later essay, "Revolution in Poetic Language," shows the evolution of Kristeva's language theory. Unfortunately, in order to make Kristeva accessible, Moi had to make some difficult choices in her editing. A serious scholar will undoubtedly find herself looking for the complete essays in another text.

...abjection (If you also read 'Powers of Horror' by Kristeva) Quite comprehensive although it would be hard to make a choice in the work of Kristeva. Kristeva's work focuses heavily on semiotics and

women's role in politics and religion. Many of the theories will stir the soul, especially 'Stabat Mater' if you grew up forced into any European or Western dogma. 'Women's Time' is a good possible evaluation of women and politics. Freud gets thrown into this in a very different manner than one expects, which leaves us to wonder, is Kristeva supporting the old 'Dr.' or not?

I was raised in a rustic stupidity that felt superior, like the apostle Paul, to the kind of thinking that considers drifting helplessly like waste the kind of useless expense that would attract the marginal thinking of millionaires, billionaires, and floating turds. What people are afraid to say is what Julia Kristeva calls: The proof lies in its silence, in its expenditure of exuberant activity. (p. 291). An interview called *Why the United States?* is translated from a discussion with Marcelin Pleynet and Philippe Sollers published in 1977, in which Sollers observed: It's very obvious that in American society, signifiers of money and sexual signifiers have a presence and a capacity for repetition that is far greater than elsewhere. (p. 288). Reading as a chore that has to be taught in school is being surpassed like the artisan, occultish-rustic stupidity that limited art appreciation to the style of a particular time and space imposing authority over what people could do as part of an ongoing community. Our leap from faith into urban multiplicity is already blending ourselves with apocalyptic literature. Julia Kristeva's reactions to the United States includes: you do have a common discourse haunted by the demonic (p. 288). As a Freudian expert in the humor of the Vietnam war, I felt special rejection in comparison with the Roman: *veni, vidi, vici* (Julius Caesar) I came, I saw, I was exterminated (who called the Saint Paul Police Department this time?) But the eruption of pornography . . . etc. . . . produces its own particular chapels and dead ends. (p. 279). People in the United States do not control a language for saying what they think: because they have no language, since English, in America, is a code. Can psychoanalysis be implanted in a code? It's a shame, in fact it's a great disaster, the PLAGUE as Freud said. (p. 279). We can only find displaced memory because there's no mainstream. (see p. 281). People who have tried to create real history produce a completely academic cultural anachronism. (p. 283). In 1977, Julia Kristeva was worried about becoming too idiosyncratic (p. 273). She had gone to China to experience how breaks within history can occupy the thoughts of so many people, but only saw it as: an anarchist outbreak within Marxism (p. 273). America is too large to unite. It grows in opposition to what exists anywhere: For each opposition an enclave is created where it stagnates. (p. 274). A split history produces all the flashes of psychosis. Non-truth does not increase its influence as much as everywhere else. Just mentioning anything in a wilted two power pornography can produce an anti-intellectual witch-hunt. (See p. 277). Because Julia Kristeva was taught a very Marxist Russian language as she was

growing up, she was one of the first people to introduce French intellectuals to the literary criticism of Mikhail Bakhtin. An English translation of her French publication on how deeply semiotics becomes intertextual with culture forsaking itself in order to go beyond itself appears early in this book. It shows her familiarity with Bakhtin's Problems in Dostoevsky's Poetics.

This is one of my most cherished volumes of critical theory. Any self-respecting lit student should own this tome, and read it carefully. Many useful pieces for different scenarios.

Great for understanding more of the Kristevian philosophy.

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