

Susan Sontag Essays Of The 1960s 70s Loa 246 Agai

Interpreting Susan Sontag’s Essays: Radical Contemplative offers its readers a scholarly examination of her essays within the context of philosophy and aesthetic theory. This study sets up a dialogue between her works and their philosophical counterparts in France and Germany, including the works of Hannah Arendt, Jacques Derrida, Roland Barthes, and Walter Benjamin. Artists and concepts discussed in relation to Sontag’s essays include the works of Andy Warhol, Pop Art, French New Wave Cinema, the music of John Cage, and the cinematic art of Robert Bresson, Leni Riefenstahl, Ingmar Bergman, and Jean-Luc Godard. Her aesthetic formalism is compared with Harold Bloom, and this is the first volume to examine her late works and their position within the American events of 9/11/01 and the War on Terrorism).

Susan Sontag: An Annotated Bibliographycatalogues the works of one of America’s most prolific and important 20th century authors. Known for her philosophical writings on American culture, topics left untouched by Sontag’s writings are few and far between. This volume is an exhaustive collection that includes her novels, essays, reviews, films and interviews. Each entry is accompanied by an annotated bibliography.

In this entertaining and enlightening collection David Lodge considers the art of fiction under a wide range of headings, drawing on writers as diverse as Henry James, Martin Amis, Jane Austen and James Joyce. Looking at ideas such as the Intrusive Author, Suspense, the Epistolary Novel, Magic Realism and Symbolism, and illustrating each topic with a passage taken from a classic or modern novel, David Lodge makes the richness and variety of British and American fiction accessible to the general reader. He provides essential reading for students, aspiring writers and anyone who wants to understand how fiction works.

The Benefactor is Susan Sontag’s first book and first novel. It was originally published in 1963, and introduced a unique writer to the world. In the form of a memoir by a latter-day Candide named Hippolyte, The Benefactor leads us on a kind of psychic Grand Tour, in which Hippolyte’s violently imaginative dream life becomes indistinguishable from his surprising experiences in the ‘real world’.

A Susan Sontag Reader

Trip to Hanoi

A Play

Sontag

Against Interpretation and Other Essays

Alice in Bed

Susan Sontag’s third essay collection brings together her most important critical writing from 1972 to 1980. In these provocative and hugely influential works she explores some of the most controversial artists and thinkers of our time, including her now-famous polemic against Hitler’s favourite film-maker, Leni Riefenstahl, and the cult of fascist art, as well as a dazzling analysis of Hans-Jürgen Syberberg’s Hitler, a Film from Germany. There are also highly personal and powerful explorations of death, art, language, history, the imagination and writing itself. The book also includes three volumes of Susan Sontag’s journals and notebooks, begins where the first volume left in the middle of the 1960s. It features and documents Sontag’s participation in the artistic and intellectual world of New York City to world-renowned critic and dominant force in the world of ideas with the publication of the groundbreaking Against Interpretation in 1966. As Consciousness is Harnessed to Flesh follows Sontag through the turbulent years of the 1960s—from her trip to Hanoi at the peak of the Vietnam War to her time making films in Sweden—up to 1981 and the beginning of the Reagan era. This is an invaluable record of the inner workings of one of the most inquisitive and analytical thinkers of the twentieth century at the height of her power. It is also a remarkable document of one individual’s political and moral awakening.

‘The ultimate Camp statement: it’s good because it’s awful.’ These two classic essays were the first works of criticism to break down the boundaries between ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture, and made Susan Sontag a literary sensation. Penguin Modern: fifty new books celebrating the pioneering spirit of the iconic Penguin Modern Classics series, with each one offering a concentrated hit of its contemporary, international flavour. Here are authors ranging from Kathy Acker to James Baldwin, Truman Capote to Stanislaw Lem and George Orwell to Shirley Jackson; essays radical and inspiring; poems moving and disturbing; stories surreal and fabulous; taking us from the deep South to modern Japan, New York’s underground scene to the farthest reaches of outer space.

The story of In America is inspired by the emigration to America in 1876 of Helena Modrzewska, Poland’s most celebrated actress, accompanied by her husband, Count Karol Chlapowski, her fifteen-year-old son, Rudolf, the young journalist and future author of Quo Vadis, Henryk Sienkiewicz, and a few friends; their brief sojourn in Anaheim, California; and Modrzewska’s subsequent triumphant career on the American stage under the name Helena Modjeska.

On Photography

A Memoir of Susan Sontag

Collected Stories

Freud

Notes on Camp

Sempre Susan

The candid and far-reaching interview with the public intellectual and author of *Illness as Metaphor*, conducted in 1978 Paris and New York. Over the summer and fall of 1978, Susan Sontag engaged in a series of deeply stimulating, provocative and intimate conversations with Jonathan Cott of Rolling Stone magazine. While the printed interview was extensive, it covered only a third of their twelve hours of discussion. Now, for the first time, the entire transcript of Sontag’s remarkable conversation is available in book form, accompanied by Cott’s preface and recollections. An acclaimed author of novels and essays, a renowned cultural critic and radical anti-war activist, Sontag was at the height of her powers in the late 1970s. Her musings and observations in this interview reveal the breadth and depth of her critical intelligence and curiosities at the time. These hours of conversation offer a revelatory and indispensable look at the self-described “besotted aesthete” and “obsessed moralist.”

From the author of *The Friend*, winner of the 2018 National Book Award. “The masterpiece of the ‘I knew Susan’ minigenre” – A.O. Scott, *The New York Times* A poignant, intimate memoir of one of America’s most esteemed and fascinating cultural figures, and a deeply felt tribute. Sigrid Nunez was an aspiring writer when she first met Susan Sontag, already a legendary figure known for her polemical essays, blinding intelligence, and edgy personal style. Sontag introduced Nunez to her son, the writer David Rieff, and the two began dating. Soon Nunez moved into the apartment that Rieff and Sontag shared. As Sontag told Nunez, “Who says we have to live like everyone else?” Sontag’s influence on Nunez, who went on to become a successful novelist, would be profound. Described by Nunez as “a natural mentor” who saw educating others as both a moral obligation and a source of endless pleasure, Sontag inevitably infected those around her with her many cultural and intellectual passions. In this poignant, intimate memoir, Nunez speaks of her gratitude for having had, as an early model, “someone who held such an exalted, unironic view of the writer’s vocation.” Published more than six years after Sontag’s death,

Sempre Susan is a startlingly truthful portrait of this outsized personality, who made being an intellectual a glamorous occupation.

Pulitzer-prize-winning poet Mary Oliver collects 26 of her poems about the birds that have been such an important part of her life. Within these pages you will find hawks, hummingbirds, and herons; kingfishers, catbirds, and crows; swans, swallows and, of course, the snowy owl, among a dozen others—including ten poems that have never before been collected. She adds two beautifully crafted essays, “Owls,” selected for the Best American Essays series, and “Bird,” a new essay that will surely take its place among the classics of the genre. In the words of the poet Stanley Kunitz, “Mary Oliver’s poetry is fine and deep; it reads like a blessing. Her special gift is to connect us with our sources in the natural world, its beauties and terrors and mysteries and consolations.” For anyone who values poetry and essays, for anyone who cares about birds, Owls and Other Fantasies will be a treasured gift; for those who love both, it will be essential reading.

A historical romance, Sontag’s book is based on the lives of Sir William Hamilton, his wife, Emma, and Lord Nelson in the final decades of the eighteenth century. Passionately examining the shape of Western civilization since the Age of Enlightenment, Sontag’s novel is an exquisitely detailed picture of revolution, the fate of nature, art and love.

Illness as Metaphor

Journals and Notebooks, 1964-1980

Owls and Other Fantasies

Against Interpretation / Styles of Radical Will / On Photography / Illness as Metaphor / Uncollected Essays

The 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time

Where the Stress Falls

First published in 1973, this is a study of the force of photographic images which are continually inserted between experience and reality. Sontag develops further the concept of transparency. When anything can be photographed and photography has destroyed the boundaries and definitions of art, a viewer can approach a photography freely with no expectations of discovering what it means. This collection of six lucid essays, the most famous being Plato’s Cave make up a deep exploration of how the image has affected society.

At the Same Time contains sixteen illuminating essays by Susan Sontag. With a preface by David Rieff. The sixteen essays gathered here represent the last pieces written by Susan Sontag in the years before her dth in 2004. Reflecting on literature, photography and art, post 9/11 America and political activism, these essays encompass the themes that dominated Sontag’s life and work, revealing why she remains one of the twentieth century’s preeminent writers and thinkers. These sixteen pieces brim over with vitality . . . every one of them opening up fresh lines of thought’ John Gray, *New Statesman* ‘One of America’s greatest public intellectuals’ Observer ‘Excellent and essential’ Financial Times Reads like a greatest-hits album - a little politics, something on photography, some lit. crit. - of Sontag’s passions’ Daily Telegraph ‘Sontag’s clear thinking . . . shines like a spotlight in dark places’ The Times One of America’s best-known and most admired writers, Susan Sontag was also a leading commentator on contemporary culture until her death in December 2004. Her books include four novels and numerous works of non-fiction, among them Regarding the Pain of Others, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, At the Same Time, Against Interpretation and Other Essays and Reborn: Early Diaries 1947-1963, all of which are published by Penguin. A further eight books, including the collections of essays Under the Sign of Saturn and Where the Stress Falls, and the novels The Volcano Lover and The Benefactor, are available from Penguin Modern Classics.

Susan Sontag (1933-2004) spoke of the promiscuity of art and literature?the willingness of great artists and writers to scandalize their spectators through critical frankness, complexity, and beauty. Sontag’s life and thought were no less promiscuous. She wrote deeply and engagingly about a range of subjects?theater, sex, politics, novels, torture, and illness?and courted celebrity and controversy both publicly and privately. Throughout her career, she not only earned adulation but also provoked scorn. Her living was the embodiment of scandal. In this collection, Terry Castle, Nancy K. Miller, Wayne Koestenbaum, E. Ann Kaplan, and other leading scholars revisit Sontag’s groundbreaking life and work. Against Interpretation, “Notes on Camp,” Letter from Hanoi, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, I, Etcetera, and The Volcano Lover?these works form the center of essays no less passionate and imaginative than Sontag herself. Debating questions raised by the thinker’s own images and identities, including her sexuality, these works question Sontag’s status as a female intellectual and her parallel interest in ambitious and prophetic fictional women; her ambivalence toward popular culture; and her personal and professional “scandals.” Paired with rare photographs and illustrations, this timely anthology expands our understanding of Sontag’s images and power.

A collection of five great thinkers, writers and artists - as they come to terms with the reality of approaching death Katie Roiphe’s extraordinary book is filled with intimate and surprising revelations. Susan Sontag, consummate public intellectual, finds her rational thinking tested during her third bout with cancer. Seventy-six year old John Updike’s response to a fatal diagnosis is to begin a poem. Dylan Thomas’s fatal collapse on the floor of a Greenwich Village tavern is preceded by a fortnight of almost suicidal excess. Sigmund Freud understands his hastening decline. Maurice Sendak shows his lifelong obsession with death in his beloved books. The Violet Hour - urgent and unsentimental - helps us to be less afraid in the face of death.

Reborn

Susan Sontag: Later Essays (LOA #292)

Regarding the Pain of Others

At the Same Time

A Romance

In America

With the publication of her first book of criticism, Against Interpretation, in 1966, Susan Sontag placed herself at the forefront of an era of cultural and political transformation. “What is important now,” she wrote, “is to recover our senses In place of a hermeneutics we need an erotics of art.” She would remain a catalyzing presence, whether writing about camp sensibility, the films of Jean-Luc Godard and Alain Resnais, her experiences as a filmmaker at the height of the Vietnam War, the aesthetics of science-fiction and pornography, or a range of modern thinkers from Simone Weil to E. M. Cioran. She opened dazzling new perspectives on any subject she addressed, whether the nature of photography or cultural attitudes toward illness. This volume, edited by Sontag’s son David Rieff, presents the full texts of four essential books: Against Interpretation, Styles of Radical Will (1969), On Photography (1977), and Illness as Metaphor (1978). Also here as a special feature are six previously uncollected essays including studies of William S. Burroughs and the painter Francis Bacon and a series of reflections on beauty, aging, and the emerging feminist movement. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation’s literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America’s best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

A collection of one of our most powerful intellectual’s short fiction. Susan Sontag’s shorter fiction, a form she turned to intermittently throughout her writing life. The book ranges from allegory to parable to autobiography and shows her wrestling with problems not assimilable to the essay, her more customary mode. Here she catches fragments of life on the fly, dramatizes her private griefs and fears, lets characters take her where they will. The result is a collection of remarkable brilliance, versatility, and charm. Sontag’s work has typically required time for people to catch up to it. These challenging works of literary art-made more urgent by the passage of years-await a new generation of readers. This is an invaluable record of the creative output of one of the most inquisitive and analytical thinkers of the twentieth century at the height of her power.

In eight stories, this singular collection of short fiction written over the course of ten years explores the terrain of modern urban life. In reflective, telegraphic prose, Susan Sontag confronts the reader with exposed workings of an impassioned intellect in narratives seemed with many of the themes of her essays—the nature of knowing, our relationship with the past, and the future in an alienated present.

Sontag’s On Photography is a seminal and groundbreaking work on the subject. Susan Sontag’s groundbreaking critique of photography asks forceful questions about the moral and aesthetic issues surrounding this art form. Photographs are everywhere, and the “insatiability of the photographic eye” has profoundly altered our relationship with the world. Photographs have the power to shock, idealize or seduce, they create a sense of nostalgia and act as a memorial, and they can be used as evidence against us or to identify us. In these six incisive essays, Sontag examines the ways in which we use these omnipresent images to manufacture a sense of reality and authority in our lives. ‘Sontag offers enough food for thought to satisfy the most intellectual of appetites’The Times ‘A brilliant analysis of the profound changes photographic images have made in our way of looking at the world, and at ourselves’Washington Post ‘The most original and illuminating study of the subject’New Yorker One of America’s best-known and most admired writers, Susan Sontag was also a leading commentator on contemporary culture until her death in December 2004. Her books include four novels and numerous works of non-fiction, among them Regarding the Pain of Others, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, At the Same Time, Against Interpretation and Other Essays and Reborn: Early Diaries 1947-1963, all of which are published by Penguin. A further eight books, including the collections of essays Under the Sign of Saturn and Where the Stress Falls, and the novels The Volcano Lover and The Benefactor, are available from Penguin Modern Classics.

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The Friedenspreis Acceptance Speech

Under the Sign of Saturn

As Consciousness Is Harnessed to Flesh

Susan Sontag: Essays of the 1960s & 70s (LOA #246)

An Annotated Bibliography 1948-1992

Swimming In A Sea Of Death

Regarding the Pain of Others is Susan Sontag’s searing analysis of our numbed response to images of horror. From Goya’s Disasters of War to news footage and photographs of the conflicts in Vietnam, Rwanda and Bosnia, pictures have been charged with inspiring dissent, fostering violence or instilling apathy in us, the viewer. Regarding the Pain of Others will alter our thinking not only about the uses and meanings of images, but about the nature of war, the limits of sympathy, and the obligations of conscience. Powerful, fascinating. Sontag is our outstanding contemporary writer in the moralist traditionSunday Times ‘A concussing sermon on how we picture suffering’The New York Times ‘A far-reaching set of ruminations on human suffering, the nature of goodness, the lures, deceptions and truth of images . . . in short, a summary of what it means to be alive and alert in the twentieth century’Independent ‘Sontag is on top form: firing devastating questions’Los Angeles Times ‘Simple, elegant, fiercely persuasive’Metro One of America’s best-known and most admired writers, Susan Sontag was also a leading commentator on contemporary culture until her death in December 2004. Her books include four novels and numerous works of non-fiction, among them Regarding the Pain of Others, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, At the Same Time, Against Interpretation and Other Essays and Reborn: Early Diaries 1947-1963, all of which are published by Penguin. A further eight books, including the collections of essays Under the Sign of Saturn and Where the Stress Falls, and the novels The Volcano Lover and The Benefactor, are available from Penguin Modern Classics.

In May of 1968, Susan Sontag visited Hanoi. The report of her trip is neither a political treatise nor a travelogue, but a sensitive observer’s response to a world totally foreign to the Western mind. During her trip, Susan Sontag discovered her preconception of North Vietnam and it’s people had little relevance to the actual situation. By reassessing her own point of view, Miss Sontag creates a startling picture of life in Hanoi.”—Page 4 of cover.

Susan Sontag (1933-2004) spoke of the promiscuity of art and literature the willingness of great artists and writers to scandalize their spectators through critical frankness, complexity, and beauty. Sontag’s life and thought were no less promiscuous. She wrote deeply and engagingly about a range of subjects theater, sex, politics, novels, torture, and illness and courted celebrity and controversy both publicly and privately. Throughout her career, she not only earned adulation but also provoked scorn. Her living was the embodiment of scandal. In this collection, Terry Castle, Nancy K. Miller, Wayne Koestenbaum, E. Ann Kaplan, and other leading scholars revisit Sontag’s groundbreaking life and work. Against Interpretation, “Notes on Camp,” Letter from Hanoi, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, I, Etcetera, and The Volcano Lover these works form the center of essays no less passionate and imaginative than Sontag herself. Debating questions raised by the thinker’s own images and identities, including her sexuality, these works question Sontag’s status as a female intellectual and her parallel interest in ambitious and prophetic fictional women; her ambivalence toward popular culture; and her personal and professional “scandals.” Paired with rare photographs and illustrations, this timely anthology expands our understanding of Sontag’s images and power.

Printed 2-color throughout on high-quality Teton Felt paper. Typography in Lexicon.

I, etcetera

Literature is Freedom

The Complete Rolling Stone Interview

Her Life

Poems and Essays

Susan Sontag

Now a classic, this book was hailed upon its original publication in 1959 as “An event to be acclaimed . . . a book of genuine brilliance on Freud’s cultural importance. . . . a permanently valuable contribution to the human sciences.”—Alastair MacIntyre, Manchester Guardian “This remarkably subtle and substantial book, with its finely ordered sequences of skilled dissections and refined appraisals, is one of those rare products of profound analytic thought. . . . The author weighs each major article of the psychoanalytic canon in the scales of his sensitive understanding, then gives a superbly balanced judgment.”—Henry A. Murray, American Sociological Review “Rieff’s tremendous scholarship and rich reflections fill his pages with memorable treasures.”—Robert W. White, Scientific American “Philip Rieff’s book is a brilliant and beautifully reasoned example of what Freud’s influence has really been: an increasing intellectual vigilance about human nature. . . . What the analyst does for the patient—present the terms for his new choices as a human being.—Mr. Rieff does in respect to the cultural significance of Freudianism. His style has the same closeness, the same undertone of hypertense alertness. Again and again he makes brilliant points.”—Alfred Kazin, The Reporter

Reborn is the compelling and frank early diary of Susan Sontag. ‘Vivid, exhilarating, often moving . . . charts the development of a good writer and an important critic’Sunday Telegraph ‘I intend to do everything. . . I shall anticipate pleasure everywhere and find it too, for it is everywhere! I shall involve myself wholly . . .everything matters!’ This first selection from Susan Sontag’s diaries (from 1947-1963) takes us from early adolescence though to when Sontag was in her early thirties. It is an astonishingly affecting, honest self-portrait which is also a fascinating, revealing account of an artist and critic being born. We see Sontag honing her skills and fashioning herself, by a supreme act of will, into an intellectual force. Fascinating. One can feel Sontag’s mind beginning to ripen and bloom, and the full force of the intellectual originality that would be her hallmark emerging’ Guardian ‘Inspirational. Sontag shows us not just the importance, but the exhilaration of being earnest’ New Statesman ‘A fascinating document of her apprenticeship, charting her earnest quest for education, identity, and voice. Reborn is overwhelmingly a record of an inner landscape’ New York Review of Books ‘One of the finest American writers, thinkers, and political activists of the past four decades . . . an intimate portrait of her early life’ Independent on Sunday One of America’s best-known and most admired writers, Susan Sontag was also a leading commentator on contemporary culture until her death in December 2004. Her books include four novels and numerous works of non-fiction, among them Regarding the Pain of Others, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor, At the Same Time, Against Interpretation and Other Essays and Reborn: Early Diaries 1947-1963, all of which are published by Penguin. A further eight books, including the collections of essays Under the Sign of Saturn and Where the Stress Falls, and the novels The Volcano Lover and The Benefactor, are available from Penguin Modern Classics.

An unprecedented collection of the controversial later writings of the greatest and most provocative critic of our time. Susan Sontag was the most influential critic of her time. This second volume in Library of America’s definitive Sontag edition gathers all the collected essays and speeches from her last quarter-century, brilliant works whose subjects, from the AIDS epidemic, 9/11, the Iraq war, and the perverse allure of Fascism to painting, dance, music, film, and scintillating literary portraits of such writers as Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes, Antonin Artaud, Machado de Assis, Jorge Luis Borges, Nadine Gordimer, Joseph Brodsky, W. G. Sebald, Marina Tsvetayeva, and Robert Walser, bear enduring witness to passionate curiosity and expansive intellect. She brings to every subject an unwavering focus and intensity, and a deep commitment to “extending our sense of what a human life can be,” as she said on accepting the Jerusalem Prize in 2000. An account of her 1993 residence in war-torn Sarajevo to stage a production of Waiting for Godot becomes a meditation on the meaning of culture: “In any culture, the expression of human dignity—which is what people in Sarajevo feel they have lost—AIDS and its metaphor marks a further development of the central ideas of her classic Illness as Metaphor, while Regarding the Pain of Others explores eloquently the troubling moral issues surrounding photographic depictions of violence, cruelty, and atrocity. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation’s literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America’s best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

Where the Stress Falls is divided into three sections: the first, ‘Reading’, includes ardent pieces on writers from Sontag’s own private canon - Machado de Assis, Barthes, W. G. Sebald, Borges, Tsvetayeva and Elizabeth Hardwick. In the second, ‘Seeing’, she shares her passions for film, dance, photography, painting, opera and theatre. And in the final section, ‘There and Here’, Sontag explores her own commitments to the work (and activism) of conscience and to the vocation of the writer.

The Art of Fiction

Interpreting Susan Sontag’s Essays

The Benefactor

Death Kit

Styles of Radical Will

Radical Contemplative

In spring 2004, Susan Sontag was diagnosed with the incurable blood cancer. She had a huge appetite for experience, and a wild, extravagant desire to live. Rieff writes movingly about being by her side during that last year and at her death, and about his own contradictory emotions: his guilt both for not consoling her enough, and for somehow colluding with her in her belief that she could beat the disease. Drawing on Sontag’s journals and letters, which Rieff read after her death, and on the writings about the deaths of other great thinkers, Swimming in a Sea of Death provides a vivid portrait of Sontag in the last year of her life and a haunting meditation on mortality.

Alice in Bed is a free dramatic fantasy which merges the life of Alice James, the brilliant sister of William and Henry James, with the heroine of Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland. It is a play about the anguish and grief and rage of women; and about the triumphs and limitations of the imagination.

100 Best Non Fiction Books has its origins in the recent 2-year-long Observer serial which every week featured a work of non fiction). It is also a companion volume to McCrum’s very successful 100 Best Novels published by Gallieo in 2015. It is also a companion volume to McCrum’s recent 100 Best Novels published by Gallieo in 2015. The list of books starts in 1611 with the King James Bible and ends in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction. And in between, on this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture we meet Peppy’s Diaries, Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species, Stephen Hawking’s A Brief History of Time and a whole host of additional works.

A Biography

Under the Sign of Saturn / AIDS and its Metaphors / Where the Stress Falls / Regarding the Pain of Others / At the Same Time

The Volcano Lover

The Mind of the Moralst

Debriefing

Essays

WINNER OF THE 2020 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY Selected as a Book of the Year 2019 by the SPECTATOR, TELEGRAPH, NEW STATESMAN and FINANCIAL TIMES ‘Definitive and delightful’ Stephen Fry ‘There can be no doubting the brilliance - the sheer explanatory vigour - of Moser’s biography. . . a triumph of the virtues of seriousness and truth-telling that Susan Sontag espoused’ New Stateman The definitive portrait of one of the twentieth century’s most towering figures: her writing and her radical thought, her public activism and her private face Susan Sontag was our last great literary star. Her brilliant mind, political activism and striking image made her an emblem of the seductions - and the dangers - of the twentieth-century world. Her writing on art and politics, feminism and homosexuality, celebrity and style, medicine and ethics, socialism and Freudianism, Communism and Americanism, reflected the conflicted meanings of a most conflicted world: modernity. She was there when the Cuban Revolut ion began and the Berlin Wall came down, in Vietnam under American bombardment, in wartime Israel. Sontag tells these stories and examines the work upon which her reputation was based, exploring the private woman hidden behind the formidable public face. Drawing on hundreds of interviews conducted from Maui to Stockholm and from Manhattan to Sarajevo - and featuring nearly one hundred images, many never seen before - Sontag is the first book based on the writer’s restricted archives, and on access to many people who have never before spoken about her, including Annie Leibovitz. It is an indelible portrait of one of the twentieth century’s greatest thinkers, who lived one of that century’s most romantic - and most anguished - lives.

A discussion of the ways in which illness is regarded pays particular attention to fantasies that pertain to cancer

First published in 1967, Death Kit is a classic of modern fiction. Blending realism and dream, Susan Sontag’s second novel offers a passionate exploration of the recesses of the American conscience. The novel is a narrative of the suffering of Dalton ‘Diddy’ Harron, told through his own observations. He works in advertising for a microscope manufacturer, is thirty-three and divorced and a month ago tried to commit suicide. The haphazard events of his life, including killing a railway worker and falling in love with a blind girl, are brought to us through the lens of Diddy’s own mind. We follow him through his journey to justify his actions and exorcise his inner demons, but we can see what is happening to Diddy only from inside his head, in the present, and the balance of his mind does not always bear close scrutiny.

Drawing on newly available sources and interviews with those closest to her, an intimate portrait of one of America’s first celebrity intellectuals, who was also known as a filmmaker, stage director and dramatist, explores the many roles she played in influencing American cultural and political conversations.

Stories

Early Diaries 1947-1963

The Violet Hour

The Scandal of Susan Sontag

A Son’s Memoir

Great Writers at the End

This collection of essays contains some of the most important pieces of criticism of the twentieth century, including the classics ‘The Aesthetics of Silence’, a brilliant account of language, thought and consciousness, and ‘Trip to Hanoi’, written during the Vietnam War. Here too is an excoriating account of America’s identity and future, a robust and surprising discussion of pornography and other richly rewarding writings on art, film, literature and politics.

Winner of the National Book Critics’ Circle Award for Criticism. One of the most highly regarded books of its kind. ‘On Photography’ first appeared in 1977 and is described by its author as “a progress of essays about the meaning and career of photographs.” It begins with the famous “In Plato’s Cave” essay, then offers five other prose meditations on this topic, and concludes with a fascinating and far-reaching “Brief Anthology of Quotations.”

A series of provocative discussions on everything from individual authors to contemporary religious thinking. Against Interpretation and Other Essays is the definitive collection of Susan Sontag’s best known and important works published in Penguin Modern Classics. Against Interpretation was Susan Sontag’s first collection of essays and made her name as one of the most incisive thinkers of our time. Sontag was among the first critics to write about the intersection between ‘high’ and ‘low’ art forms, and to give them equal value as valid topics, shown here in her epoch-making pieces ‘Notes on Camp’ and ‘Against Interpretation’. Here too are impassioned discussions of Sartre, Camus, Simone Weil, Godard, Beckett, Lévi-Strauss, science-fiction movies, psychoanalysis and contemporary religious thought. Originally published in 1966, this collection has never gone out of print and has been a major influence on generations of readers, and the field of cultural criticism, ever since. Susan Sontag (1933-2004) was born in Manhattan and studied at the universities of Chicago, Harvard and Oxford. She is the author of four novels - The Benefactor, Death Kit, The Volcano Lover and In America, which won the 2000 US National Book Award for fiction - a collection of stories, several plays, and six books of essays, among them Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors. Her books are translated into thirty-two languages. In 2001 she was awarded the Jerusalem Prize for the body of her work, and in 2003 she received the Prince of Asturias Prize for Literature and the Peace Prize on German Book Trade. If you enjoyed Against Interpretation and Other Essays, you might like Sontag’s On Photography, also available in Penguin Modern Classics. ‘A dazzling intellectual performance’ Vogue ‘Sontag offers enough food for thought to satisfy the most intellectual of appetites’ The Times