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## The Sex Appeal of the Inorganic

"Cosima" tells the story of an aspiring writer growing up in Nuoro, Sardinia during the last decades of the nineteenth century when formal education for women was rare and literary careers unheard-of. Based on Deledda's own life, the work describes a young woman's struggle against the dismay and disapproval of her family and friends at her creative ambitions. Yet it also reads like a charming fable with details of family life, rural traditions and wild bandits, and it is as much a novel of memory as of character or action. Deledda's characters are poor country folk driven by some predetermined force. Their loves are tragic, their lives as hard and as rigidly controlled as nature itself in the hills of Sardinia. Deledda creates memorable figures who play out their lives against this backdrop of mountains and bare plains, sheepfolds and vineyards. Shimmering in the distance is the sea and escape - for a few - to the Continent or America. In 1926 Grazia Deledda became the second woman and the second Italian to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. She wrote thirty-three novels, including "Reeds in the Wind," and many books of short stories, almost all set on Sardinia. Her work has become well known to English-speaking readers through Martha King's translations for Italica Press.

## The Transgender Phenomenon

This award-winning collection confirms Giorgio Pressburger as a European master of the short story. Each tale is wondrous in its situation and its telling, but each refined truth it contains is hauntingly familiar in its resonance. In the title story, four rabbis on a trip through the mountains offer marvelous interpretations of the similarities between snow and guilt, just before an avalanche, killing three of them, provides the most concrete interpretation of all for the survivor. In other stories, horrors await a scientist who provokes unrequited passion in a young girl; a wheelchair-bound philosopher rails at cosmic injustice; and a man who saves a kitten from death unwittingly changes his life through a random act of kindness. Giorgio Pressburger was born in Budapest in 1937 and later settled in Italy. He is now the Director of the Institute of Italian Culture in Hungary. Among his previous books is *The Law of White Spaces*.

## Introduction to the Analysis of the Literary Text

In *The Sex Appeal of the Inorganic*, Mario Perniola puts forth the radical argument that we are shifting away from organic sexuality, based on desire and pleasure, and moving towards a more neutral inorganic and artificial sexuality, a sexuality always available but indifferent to beauty, age or form. Perniola takes the reader on a tour of Western philosophy, from Descartes, Kant and Hegel to Heidegger, Wittgenstein and Sartre, to reframe our understanding of personal experience and the aesthetic world around us. In order to realize the sex appeal of the inorganic Perniola argues that we must become 'things that feel', we must think ourselves closer to the inorganic, creating an alliance between senses and things. Examples from contemporary culture that, for Perniola, are emblems of the sex appeal of the inorganic, include progressive rock music, fashion, deconstructive architecture and the novels of Georges Perec.

## **Told in Letters**

William Simon argues that we can only make sense of our sexuality within the larger project of understanding our humanity. This book will be essential reading for all those with an interest in sexuality.

## **Architecture and Embodiment**

Meet Bror Telemann. 42 years old. Husband to Nina Telemann. Father to Heidi, Berthold and Sabine. Currently: stage director at the Norwegian National Theatre. Soon to be: world-famous playwright and general talking head. Now he's on holiday with his family at the foot of the Alps, south of Munich. That's in Germany. Nina loves Germany. Telemann does not. Telemann loves Nigella Lawson. Ahem... he loves the theatre. That's better. So, whilst his wife and children frolic in the dusky sunshine with lederhosen-sporting, schnitzel-scoffing locals, Telemann prefers to spend his time thinking about theatre... except when his mind wanders... again. Subversive and original, this is the 2009 Norwegian bestseller from the deliciously dark mind of Erlend Loe.

## **The Volcano Under the City**

Winner of the 2011 Strega Prize, this blend of essay, social criticism, and memoir is a striking portrait of the effects of globalization on Italy's declining economy. Starting from his family's textile factory in Prato, Tuscany, Edoardo Nesi examines the recent shifts in Italy's manufacturing industry. Only one generation ago, Prato was a thriving industrial center that prided itself on craftsmanship and quality. But during the last decade, cheaply made goods—produced overseas or in Italy by poorly paid immigrants—saturated the market, making it impossible for Italian companies to keep up. In 2004 his family was forced to sell the textile factory. How this could have happened? Nesi asks, and what are the wider repercussions of losing businesses like his family's, especially for Italian culture? *Story of My People* is a denouncement of big business, corrupt politicians, the arrogance of economists, and cheap manufacturing. It's a must-read for anyone seeking insight into the financial crisis that's striking Europe today.

## **Postmodern Sexualities**

A fifteen-year-old girl and her father, Johannes, take a cruise to Greece on the *Proleterka*. Jaeggy recounts the girl's youth in her distinctively strange, telescopic prose: the remarried mother, cold and unconcerned; the father who was allowed only rare visits with the child; the years spent stashed away with relatives or at boarding school. For the girl and her father, their time on the ship becomes their 'last and first chance to be together.' On board, she becomes the object of the sailors' affection, receiving a violent, carnal education. Mesmerised by the desire to be experienced, she crisply narrates her trysts as well as her near-total neglect of her father. *Proleterka* is a ferocious study of distance, diffidence and 'insomniac resentment.'

## **Story of My People**

Piersanti uses sharp detail and nuance to construct an everyday life. *Luisa and the Silence* is the portrait of an ordinary person, distinctive neither in appearance nor in the depth of her thoughts. Avoiding any pretension to social criticism, Piersanti instead has created a daring novel where the main character simply is.

## **Applied Anthropology**

*DIVDIV* An abandoned wife travels into the heart of the Eastern bloc in search of an elusive

writer and her own identity in this wry and captivating satire/divDIV Valentina has spent the last decade as a most dutiful wife: cooking meals, cleaning house, and translating dry liturgical writings for her husband, Ricardo, to use in his own bestselling literary endeavors. When Ricardo leaves her for another woman, Valentina realizes there is little in her life that is truly hers. So she resolves to strike out on her own as a journalist and track down the elusive novelist Milos Jarco, hiding somewhere in pre-glasnost Eastern Europe. Perhaps in finding Jarco, she can find herself as well./divDIV The gray world she enters is marked by tight lips, guarded secrets, and universal mistrust. Her search for Jarco hits roadblock after roadblock. But on her odyssey through the Soviet hinterland, Valentina encounters something unexpected. She discovers passion . . . and oddly enough, freedom./divDIV/div/div

## **Lazy Days**

An account of the draft-riot of 1863, New York.

## **Snow and Guilt**

A town in World War II Italy receives a shock upon the arrival of a division of Cossack troops. The experience of the inhabitants with these wild allies of the Germans is seen through the eyes of a woman whose villa is requisitioned by their commander. By the author of *The Wooden Throne*.

## **Outside**

"Dave King and Richard Ekins are the leading world sociologists in this field. The book brings together a brilliant synthesis of history, case studies, ideas and positions as they have emerged over the past thirty years, and brings together a rich but always grounded account of this field, providing a state of the art of critical concepts and ideas to take this field further during the twenty first century.\" - Ken Plummer, University of Essex \"An outstanding survey of the evolution of trans phenomena, splendidly written, highly informative, scholarly at its best, yet easy to read even for those neither trans nor sociologist. Ekins and King, experts in the field, unroll the panoramas of sex, gender, and transgendering that have evolved during the last decades. For everyone wanting to understand the interaction of women and men and of those who cannot or will not identify with either of these two categories, reading this book is a must, and a real pleasure.\" - Friedmann Pfaefflin, University of ULM This groundbreaking study sets out a framework for exploring transgender diversity for the new millennium. It sets forth an original and comprehensive research and provides a wealth of vivid illustrative material. Based on two decades of fieldwork, life history work, qualitative analysis, archival work and contact with several thousand cross-dressers and sex-changers around the world, the authors distinguish a number of contemporary transgendering ?stories? to illustrate: The binary male/female divide The interrelations between sex, sexuality and gender The interrelations between the main sub-processes of transgendering. Wonderfully insightful, *The Transgender Phenomenon* develops an original and innovative conceptual framework for understanding the full range of the transgender experience.

## **Cosima**

In recent years we have seen a number of dramatic discoveries within the biological and related sciences. Traditional arguments such as \"nature versus nurture\" are rapidly disappearing because of the realization that just as we are affecting our environments, so too do these altered environments restructure our cognitive abilities and outlooks. If the biological and technological breakthroughs are promising benefits such as extended life expectancies, these same discoveries also have the potential to improve in significant

ways the quality of our built environments. This poses a compelling challenge to conventional architectural theory... This is the first book to consider these new scientific and humanistic models in architectural terms. Constructed as a series of five essays around the themes of beauty, culture, emotion, the experience of architecture, and artistic play, this book draws upon a broad range of discussions taking place in philosophy, psychology, biology, neuroscience, and anthropology, and in doing so questions what implications these discussions hold for architectural design. Drawing upon a wealth of research, Mallgrave argues that we should turn our focus away from the objectification of architecture (treating design as the creation of objects) and redirect it back to those for whom we design: the people inhabiting our built environments.

## Proleterka

Luisa and the Silence

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