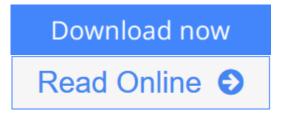


Why Does Tragedy Give Pleasure?

By A. D. Nuttall



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Why *does* tragedy give pleasure? Why do people who are neither wicked nor depraved enjoy watching plays about suffering and death? Is it because we see horrific matter controlled by majestic art? Or because tragedy actually reaches out to the dark side of human nature? Nuttall's wide-ranging, lively, and engaging book offers a new answer to this perennial question. Writers discussed include Aristotle, Shakespeare, Nietzsche, and Freud.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Why Does Tragedy Give Pleasure? offers a highly engaging discussion of its title question and a very suggestive answer....I would recommend that any one who wants to take his or her own run at the problem of tragedy should first spend some time engaging with the arguments in Why Does Tragedy give Pleasure?."--Review

"This delightful little book not only attracts the reader with its enigmatic title, it ensnares her into following its argument like a detective story, whose solution is not disclosed before its final pages. In a style more reminiscent of poetry than a philological treatise it deserves to be handled with care...."--Bryn Mawr Classical Review

About the Author

A. D. Nuttall is Professor of English and Fellow of New College, Oxford

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