



Reading Realism in Stendhal (Cambridge Studies in French)

By Ann Jefferson

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This book poses the question: what happens when reading enters the realist process? and answers it by way of a critical study of Stendhal's writing. Ann Jefferson argues that a recognition of the role of reading in representation is particularly crucial to an understanding of Stendhal's realism, and her account includes substantial discussions of *De l'Amour*, *Le Rouge et le Noir*, the *Vie de Henry Brulard* and *La Chartreuse de Parme*. Her study also draws a number of illuminating parallels between Stendhal and aspects of modern critical theory, and uses them in order to reveal the high degree of sophistication and self-consciousness in Stendhal's writing, qualities which are attributed here to the intensity of his preoccupation with his readers. By focusing on the issue of reading in Stendhal this book not only proposes a reassessment of Stendhal's own work, but also opens up lines of enquiry on the critical problem that is realism.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Ann Jefferson is professor of French literature at the University of Oxford and fellow and tutor in French at New College, Oxford. Her books include "Reading Realism in Stendhal" and "Biography and the Question of Literature in France".

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