



The Naive and the Sentimental Novelist: Understanding What Happens When We Write and Read Novels (Vintage International)

By Orhan Pamuk

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From the Nobel Prize-winning novelist, an inspired, thoughtful, and deeply personal book about reading and writing novels.

In this fascinating set of essays, based on the talks he delivered at Harvard University as part of the distinguished Norton Lecture series, Pamuk presents a comprehensive and provocative theory of the novel and the experience of reading. Drawing on Friedrich Schiller's famous distinction between "naïve" writers—those who write spontaneously—and "sentimental" writers—those who are reflective and aware—Pamuk reveals two unique ways of processing and composing the written word. He takes us through his own literary journey and the beloved novels of his youth to describe the singular experience of reading. Unique, nuanced, and passionate, this book will be beloved by readers and writers alike.

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The Naive and the Sentimental Novelist: Understanding What Happens When We Write and Read Novels (Vintage International) By Orhan Pamuk Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #359436 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-01
- Released on: 2011-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .50" w x 5.20" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Taking his title and inspiration from Schiller's "On Naïve and Sentimental Poetry," Nobel Prize-winning Turkish novelist Pamuk (*The Museum of Innocence*) dissects what happens when we read a novel. Making a distinction between naïve novelists, "unaware" of the novel's artificiality, and "sentimental" novelists (and readers) at the opposite end, who are "reflective," Pamuk is most interested in the "secret center" of literary novels, which is the wisdom they impart. Pamuk brings to the table firsthand knowledge regarding the centrality of character in the novel and how the novelist actually becomes the hero in the very act of writing. Readers, in their own symbiotic act of imagination, also inhabit the hero's character. And through that sense of identification with the hero's decisions and choices, Pamuk says, we learn that we can influence events. Reading novels in his youth, he writes, "I felt a breathtaking sense of freedom and self-confidence." Based on Pamuk's Norton Lectures, the book has some inevitable repetition, but is a passionate amalgam of wonder and analysis. (Nov.) (c)

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Review

"Pamuk's nonfiction voice matches the narrating voice of his novels—grave, thoughtful, wry." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"A full-fledged theory of the novel. . . . His explorations of time and plot, words and objects, and the convolutions of the reader's mind as he seeks the center of the novel are incomparable." —*Huffington Post*, One of the Ten Best Books of 2010

"Anyone who has read Pamuk's exquisite fiction will be interested in these essays on reading and the art of the novel." —*Plain Dealer*

"Fascinating. . . . Every novelist will want to read this, and will learn from a master." —Philip Hensher, *The Telegraph* (UK)

"A pleasure to read. . . . Quite an interesting theoretical map, illuminating, for instance, the difference between literary and genre fiction, or the relationship between art and reality." —*The National*

"Engaging. . . . Charming." —*The Guardian* (UK)

"Full of literary examples and written with a real love for the power of books, *The Naïve and the Sentimental Novelist* will take its place with other classics like E.M. Forster's *Aspects of the Novel*, John Gardner's *The Art of Fiction* and James Wood's *How Fiction Works*." —*Business-Standard*

"A striking interpretation of what goes on in the novelist's mind. . . . Pamuk's great insight is that novels don't necessarily have a single center—the center depends on the point of view of the character, and more importantly, the shifting point of view of the reader." —*The American Statesman*

"Pamuk's book is a reminder that, without this almost metaphysical faith, great fiction can't be truly appreciated or written." —*Bookforum*

About the Author

Orhan Pamuk won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2006. His novel *My Name Is Red* won the 2003 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His work has been translated into more than fifty languages. He lives in Istanbul.

Users Review

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Carol Rodgers:

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People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both everyday life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read will be *The Naive and the Sentimental Novelist: Understanding What Happens When We Write and Read Novels* (Vintage International).

Jason Serrano:

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