



## Moral Agents: Eight Twentieth-Century American Writers (Hardback)

By Professor Edward Mendelson

The New York Review of Books, Inc, United States, 2015. Hardback. Book Condition: New. Main. 212 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A deeply considered and provocative new look at major American writers including Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer, and W.H. Auden Edward Mendelson's Moral Agents is also a work of critical biography in the great tradition of Plutarch, Samuel Johnson, and Emerson. Any important writer, in Mendelson's view, writes in response to an idea of the good life that is inseparable from the life the writer lives. Fusing biography and criticism and based on extensive new research, Moral Agents presents challenging new portraits of eight writers novelists, critics, and poets who transformed American literature in the turbulent twentieth century. Eight sharply distinctive individuals inspired, troubled, hugely ambitious who reimagined what it means to be a writer. There's Saul Bellow, a novelist determined to rule as a patriarch, who, having been neglected by his father, in turn neglected his son in favor of young writers who presented themselves as his literary heirs. Norman Mailer's extraordinary ambition, suppressed insecurity, and renegade metaphysics muddled the novels through which he hoped to change the world, yet these...



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