



Sylvia Plath: The Wound and the Cure of Words

By Steven Gould Axelrod

Johns Hopkins University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 272 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 0.8in. This is a biography of the imagination, an inner narrative of Sylvia Plaths life and work. Combining psychoanalytical, feminist, and intertextual methods, Steven Gould Axelrod traces what Roland Barthes has called the bodys journey through language. After an introductory look at the roles played by language and silence in Plaths verbal universe, Axelrod explores the ways in which the poets father -- and father figures, including male literary precursors - interfered with her imagination even as they helped shape it. He describes Plaths ambiguous relations with her mother and with the two literary forebears who took the mothers place -- Virginia Woolf and Emily Dickinson. And he examines Plaths doubling relationship to her husband, describing how she eventually transferred her doubling impulse to her texts. Axelrod concludes by suggesting a link between Plaths discontinuous narrative of the double and her personal fate. Sylvia Plath: The Wound and the Cure of Words offers illuminating and often revolutionary readings of all of Plaths major texts, including such poems as Daddy and Three Women, her novel, The Bell Jar, and her letters and journals. At once sympathetic...



Reviews

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