



Sincerity's Shadow : Self-Consciousness in British Romantic and Mid-Twentieth-Century American Poetry

By Deborah Forbes

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In a work of surprising range and authority, Deborah Forbes refocuses critical discussion of both Romantic and modern poetry. *Sincerity's Shadow* is a versatile conceptual toolkit for reading poetry.

Ever since Wordsworth redefined poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings," poets in English have sought to represent a "sincere" self-consciousness through their work. Forbes's generative insight is that this project can only succeed by staging its own failures. Self-representation never achieves final sincerity, but rather produces an array of "sincerity effects" that give form to poetry's exploration of self. In essays comparing poets as seemingly different in context and temperament as Wordsworth and Adrienne Rich, Lord Byron and Anne Sexton, John Keats and Elizabeth Bishop, Forbes reveals unexpected convergences of poetic strategy. A lively and convincing dialectic is sustained through detailed readings of individual poems. By preserving the possible claims of sincerity longer than postmodern criticism has tended to, while understanding sincerity in the strictest sense possible, Forbes establishes a new vantage on the purposes of poetry.

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Editorial Review

Review

The ambitious project undertaken by Deborah Forbes in *Sincerity's Shadow* is to reinvigorate sincerity as a critical concept...Overall...this is a wonderfully stimulating book, which should energize debate about poetic selfhood. (*Year's Work in English Studies* 2006-01-01)

From the Back Cover

From the Conclusion

"In spite of modern experiments in communal authorship, writing poetry remains one of the most individual of acts, and yet, because it provides the ground upon which the paradoxes of self-consciousness can move most freely, one of the acts most skeptical about the authority of any individual claim to self-understanding. . . . In undertaking its experiments, poetry may separate itself from certain contexts (economic, political, historical), but is itself as local and concrete as these contexts, an experience as well as a meditation on our experiences. In its particularity, its flexibility, its sensual and sonic complexity, its consideration of the extra-rational experiences of pleasure and desire, and above all in the ways in which it speaks with both more and less authority, more and less presence than an actual human voice, poetry offers us the experience of the unknown at the core of proposed self-knowledge. This is lyric poetry's enduring -- though not sole -- claim on us."

About the Author

Deborah Forbes is a writer and teacher currently living in Zambia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Bauer:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled *Sincerity's Shadow : Self-Consciousness in British Romantic and Mid-Twentieth-Century American Poetry* can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Walter Miller:

The reason why? Because this *Sincerity's Shadow : Self-Consciousness in British Romantic and Mid-Twentieth-Century American Poetry* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic

author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Jack Alexandre:

The book untitled Sincerity's Shadow : Self-Consciousness in British Romantic and Mid-Twentieth-Century American Poetry contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official website and also order it. Have a nice read.

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