



The Broken Fountain (Columbia Classics in Anthropology)

By Thomas Belmonte

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Belmonte describes Fontana del Re, an impoverished Neapolitan neighborhood, documenting the struggles of Neapolitans surrounded by crumbling buildings and economic insecurity. Resisting standard depictions of the social and moral lives of the poor, Belmonte presents nuanced portraits of his subjects. He was also one of the first anthropologists to reflect on his own reactions and emotions. He describes the traumatic experience of living alone in a strange urban environment and his social interactions with the residents of Fontana del Re.

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The Broken Fountain (Columbia Classics in Anthropology) By Thomas Belmonte Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #930554 in Books
- Published on: 2005-04-13
- Released on: 2005-06-12
- Format: Deluxe Edition
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .62" w x 6.00" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

At a time when we have so much difficulty understanding poverty in our own country, it is interesting to look at some other country's poor, to examine their anger and frustration. . . . The forms taken by their aggressions and their defenses, the configurations of their pride and their sense of self, the degree to which they fall back on love for consolation, or on friendship. . . . This is what Thomas Belmonte does in "The Broken Fountain."

About the Author

Thomas Belmonte was a professor of anthropology at Hofstra University. Ida Susser is professor of anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her books include *Norman Street: Poverty and Politics in an Urban Neighborhood*; *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*; and *Wounded Cities: Destruction and Reconstruction in a Globalized World*.

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