

Mortimer, Armine Kotin

The Gentlest Law

Roland Barthes's *The Pleasure of the Text*

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Book synopsis

Rich in informative and provocative suggestions for interpreting all of Barthes's texts, this unique work proposes a comprehensive commentary on Barthes's brilliant, programmatic book, *The Pleasure of the Text*. Fully explained *intertexts* illustrate the theory of intertextuality and clarify the book's most enigmatic and complex concepts. Also included are corrections of the serious errors in the English translation. The introduction assesses the importance of *The Pleasure of the Text* in Barthes's evolution and defines intertextuality and other key Barthesian notions such as *écriture*; a bibliography and index complete this valuable and most unusual study. Students and professors alike will find it indispensable.

Contents

Contents: A commentary on Barthes's *The Pleasure of the Text*, including 285 *intertexts* and corrections of translation errors. Informative and provocative suggestions for understanding all Barthes. Indispensable for both students and professors.

Reviews

«Armine Kotin Mortimer not only provides an indispensable guide to the study of Roland Barthes's writing and the way it plays with and against other texts; 'The Gentlest Law' is also a fascinating exploration of intertextuality in its own right.» (Jonathan Culler, Director, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University) «This book is a Michelin guide to that Babel. ... It is an Ariadne's thread through the tapestry of Barthes's work. And just as readers would no longer choose to read 'Sarrasine' without S/Z, so too we would never again wish to venture into Barthes without 'The Gentlest Law'.» (Carol Rigolot, French Review)

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