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Reading Like a Serpent: What the Scarlet A Is About

By Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Synopsis: Many remember The Scarlet Letter as required reading for reluctant sixteen year olds. The unnamed, elusive narrator of Hawthorne s tale of human frailty and sorrow is-some readers might say maddeningly-indirect, ambiguous, and inconsistent. Readers who hope to arrive at satisfying judgments about the book s four iconic characters-Hester, Arthur, Roger, and Pearl-are often left to arrive at their conclusions by guess and inference. The narrator provides what seems to be willfully incomplete information. His point of view shifts from one moral or historical perspective to another without announcement or apology. Reading Like a Serpent invites readers to reconsider this American classic as Hawthorne s challenge to the American public to become more generous, versatile, and responsible readers-especially of the Bible, a book Hawthorne hoped to rescue from moralistic literalists and legalists, reminding us that the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. Endorsements: Marilyn McEntyre s meditation on The Scarlet Letter offers fresh insights on every page, in a lively invitation to reflect on the way words constrain-and convey-our apprehension of mystery. Ultimately, McEntyre...



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