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Everything And Nothing (New Directions Pearls)



Synopsis

A pocket-sized Pearls edition of some of Borges's best fictions and essays. Everything and Nothing collects the best of Borges's highly influential work written in the 1930s and '40s that foresaw the internet (The Library of Babel, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius), quantum mechanics (The Garden of Forking Paths), and cloning (Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote). David Foster Wallace described Borges as "scalp-crinkling . . . Borges's work is designed primarily as metaphysical arguments...to transcend individual consciousness."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The indefinability of the self and the multiplicity of personal identity are the main lines of thought connecting these 11 pieces of excellent literature, among the finest of Borges's. An author of short fiction stories, essayist and poet -though perhaps too much of a thinker for poetry-, Borges is, without hesitation, one of the greatest writers of all time. This careful, well-thought selection gives a brilliant account of one of Borges's conspicuous, recurrent themes: the difficulty of defining self-identity, since a man's distinctive features, whether mental, physical or even metaphysical, are not unique to him. As in some of the most noted masterpieces of literature, the philosophical substrate provides the background for fascinating and intriguing stories, frequently trespassing the fantastic or the bizarre. So, we witness the struggle of an early 20th Century French novelist to write The Quixote -not a contemporary version of Cervantes's renowned work, but the original -- and succeeding! We have the occasion to come to terms with the strange world of Tlön and its

uncanny understanding of reality, as shown by its diverse, odd languages. The Lottery of Babylon gives every man the opportunity to become rich, powerful and exultant...or appallingly miserable and abject -by chance? The Garden of Forking Paths is a legacy of innumerable futures -which, however, does not include all of them. Death and the Compass displays the confrontation of a detective with his murderer, whom he is chasing, in a labyrinth of clues spread throughout space and time.

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