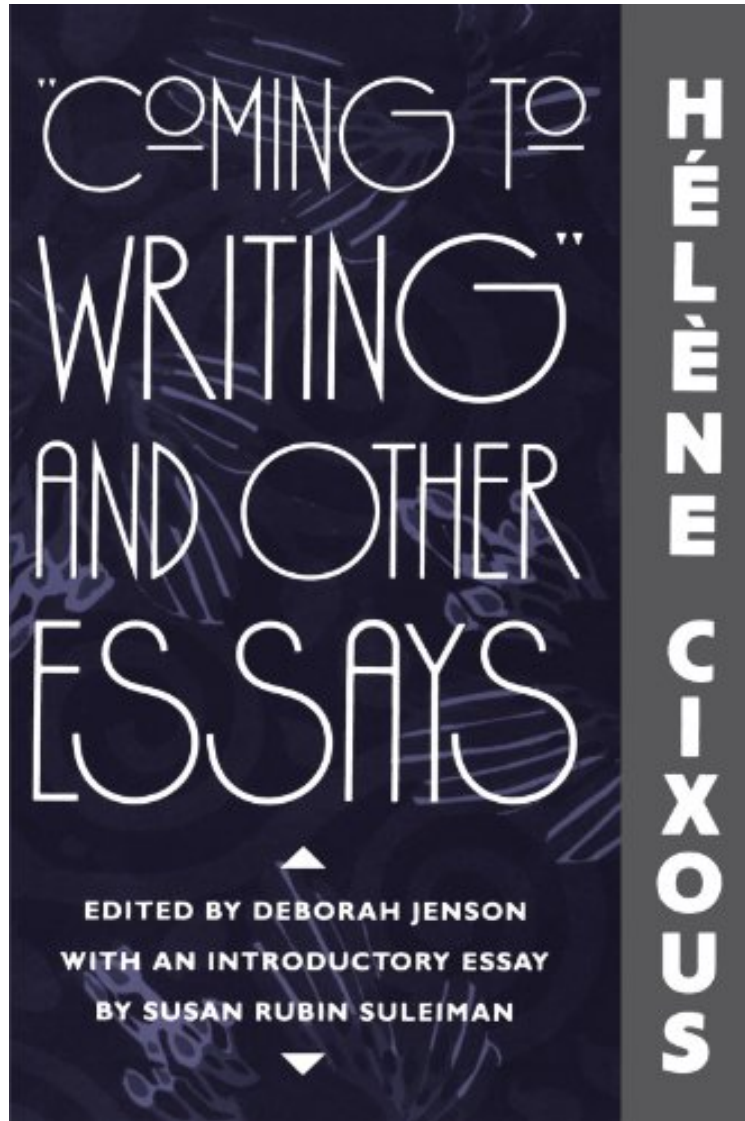


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## "Coming to Writing" and Other Essays

*Helene Cixous, Susan Rubin Suleiman*  
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#836698 in Books Harvard University Press 1992-01-01 1992-01-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .61 x 5.50l, .67 #File Name: 0674144376214 pages | File size: 32.Mb

**Helene Cixous, Susan Rubin Suleiman : "Coming to Writing" and Other Essays** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "Coming to Writing" and Other Essays:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. again and again By Dr.Lynn When I see orange and russet leaves wet with the mist of a rainy day in Central Park I feel as happy to be alive as I do when I read Cixous' essay "The Last Painting," included in this book. I imagine the shimmering surface of the Cathedral at Rouen. I feel glad that a human can write and think with such clarity and beauty and that I can read her words. 14 of 14 people found the following

review helpful. feminist critical theory

By *A Customer\_Coming to Writing Other Essays\_* is a collection of essays dealing with the relationship between a marginalized person and writing-- that is between a person whose voice has been silenced and her voice. Cixous' writing is frequently narrative, rather than expository, so the text reads like so many short stories. She is irreverent and refreshing in the world of drily written critical thought.

This collection presents six essays by one of France's most remarkable contemporary authors. A notoriously playful stylist, Cixous here explores how the problematics of the sexes--viewed as a paradigm for all difference, which is the organizing principle behind identity and meaning--manifest themselves, write themselves, in texts.

From *Library Journal*

The tradition of Cixous's interest in feminine writing and talent at manipulating words continues in this collection. She describes vividly how she was overcome by the intoxication of writing: " 'Writing' seized me, gripped me, between the stomach and the chest, a blast dilated my lungs and I stopped breathing." Other essays explore the influence of music and gender on writing ("Tancredi Continues") and painting ("The Last Painting, or the Portrait of God"). In all cases the language is visual and jewel-like, sparkling with color. Three essays analyze the ongoing influence of the Brazilian writer Clarice Lispector on her work. Introductory and closing essays by Susan Suleiman and editor Jenson illuminate Cixous's accomplishments. For academic libraries. See also Cixous's Readings: *The Poetics of Blanchot, Joyce, Kafka, Lispector, and Tsvetayeva*, reviewed below.--Ed.- Ann Sapp, Montgomery Cty. Dept. of Public Libs., Md. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The tradition of Cixous's interest in feminine writing and talent at manipulating words continues in this collection. [In one essay] she describes vividly how she was overcome by the intoxication of writing...Other essays explore the influence of music and gender on writing...and painting. In all cases the language is visual and jewel-like, sparkling with color. (*Library Journal*)

Hlne Cixous is today, in my view, the greatest writer in what I will call my language, the French language if you like. And I am weighing my words as I say that. For a great writer must be a poet-thinker, very much a poet and a very thinking poet. (Jacques Derrida)

Deborah Jenson judiciously selects from Cixous's output between 1976-89 'Coming to Writing,' 'Clarice Lispector: The Approach,' 'Tancredi continues,' 'The Last Painting or the Portrait of God,' 'By the Light of an Apple,' and 'The Author in Truth.' Her perceptive closing essay, together with Susan Suleiman's introduction...trace the umbilical links between Cixous's end-stopped poetic-philosophic prose and her roots which anchor her perilously between two holocausts, Jewish and colonial, and two tongues, German and the classical French...These essays highlight a wealth of disparate inspiration...[in] an ideal guide to Cixous. (Elizabeth Moles *Times Higher Education Supplement* [UK])

Cixous, important as she is as a feminist theorist and activist, is equally important as an accurate emotional sounding board for women everywhere. As such, her articulation of powerful, if delicate, perceptions in lucid prose/poetry compels the attention of European and American readers...The power of her prose is philosophically sound. (Choice)

Hlne Cixous is today, in my view, the greatest writer in what I will call my language, the French language if you like. And I am weighing my words as I say that. For a great writer must be a poet-thinker, very much a poet and a very thinking poet. --Jacques Derrida