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Mary Caputi

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Mary Caputi : Voluptuous Yearnings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voluptuous Yearnings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy John J.Difficult slow read but well worth the effort. A heavy History lesson.I know and respect the author.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Feminism in a male freindly form.By Flavio Acosta III (icemanx@hotmail.com)For anyone who is interested in what femenity as a metaphor means, and what it means to apply the metaphor of feminity to our modernized world, then this is a book for you. Dr. Caputi developes her ideas clearly and in a way that is easy for the reader to follow. Dr. Caputi ties in Derrida's concepts of differance vs. logocentrism with Marcuse's critical theory and his Marxist views on man's alienation, to provide the reader with an interesting new way for understanding the obscene in its relation to the human body. Specifically, the female body. The obscene is seen as being necessary, but it seems to attack the female body by fragmenting her to a sum of her body parts (genitalia), in an attempt to contain her inherent threat to man and his accomplishments (civilization). Finally, I should let you know that I am a man, not a woman, moreover, I have little to no interest in feminist theory. However, I found this book to be both very interesting and very enlightening. I highly recomend this book to any person who has an interest in modernint and post-modernist theory.

Caputi offers a broad theory of obscenity in contemporary American culture by answering the questions "What is obscenity?" and "How does obscenity operate within the confines of our society?" Drawing on psychoanalytic,

postmodernist and feminist theory, she examines examples from many areas of contemporary art and culture ranging from Robert Mapplethorpe's controversial photography to Madonna's mixture of the religious and the erotic in the song "Like a Prayer," from novels including Joyce Rehta-Burditt's *The Cracker Factory*, and Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, to films including Bertolucci's *Last Tango in Paris*, Wim Wender's *Wings of Desire*, and Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*.

This is a remarkably good piece of work. In making her provocative and thoughtful case for the necessity of the obscene, Caputi's mastery of theoretical agendas and vocabularies is so good that she is able to write about them in a language that is accessible to the non-specialist and acceptable as well as interesting to the specialist. Beautifully written, carefully argued, and well-organized. (Christine Di Stefano, University of Washington, Seattle) Caputi has provided us with an original contribution to the analysis of debates about pornography. By focusing on the 'obscene' as an important category of human culture, Caputi's analysis promises to push debates about pornography in a more philosophical direction. (Kathleen Jones, San Diego State University) Caputi, drawing on Freud, Lacan, and French feminist theorists, has written lucidly about a difficult topic. She argues forcefully that obscenity is essential because it demonstrates the fragileness of the culture and reminds us of another realm, the one without boundaries, the realm of continuity and nonbeing. (Sewsa News)...a fascinating analysis of the status of the obscene and its representation in pornography in modern culture.... Caputi's thesis is masterfully argued.... (James Glass, University of Maryland) About the Author Mary Caputi is assistant professor of political science at Saint Mary's College.