

William Burroughs and the Secret of Fascination (Paperback)

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Reviews

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WILLIAM BURROUGHS AND THE SECRET OF FASCINATION (PAPERBACK)



Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. William Burroughs is both an object of widespread cultural fascination and one of America's great writers. In this study, Oliver Harris elucidates the complex play of secrecy and revelation that defines the allure of fascination. Unraveling the mystifications of Burroughs the writer, Harris discovers what it means to be fascinated by a figure of major cultural influence and unearths a secret history behind the received story of one of America's great original writers. In William Burroughs and the Secret of Fascination , Harris examines the major works Burroughs produced in the 1950s - Junky , Queer, The Yage Letters , and Naked Lunch - to piece together an accurate, material record of his creative history during his germinal decade as a writer. Refuting the junk paradigm of addiction that has been used to categorize and characterize much of Burroughs oeuvre, Harris instead focuses on the significance of Burroughs letter writing and his remarkable and unsuspected use of the epistolary for his fiction As Burroughs said to Allen Ginsberg about Naked Lunch , the real nove is letters to you. Drawing on rare access to manuscripts, the book suggests new ways of comprehending Burroughs unique politics and aesthetics and offers the first accurate account of the writing of Naked Lunch .

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