

Zeno S Conscience

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zeno's conscience is a novel presented as the fictional autobiography of zeno cosini an unreliable narrator who recounts his life story to his psychoanalyst the novel is structured around zeno's attempts to quit smoking his relationships with his father and wife his business ventures and his extramarital affairs svevo employs a stream of consciousness technique to delve into zeno's psyche revealing his self deceptions rationalizations and contradictions zeno's reflections on his life are marked by irony and humor and his unreliable narration adds layers of complexity to the story one of the central themes of zeno's conscience is the exploration of human irrationality and self delusion zeno's repeated failures to quit smoking serve as a metaphor for his broader inability to control his impulses and understand his true motivations svevo's portrayal of zeno's inner life anticipates many of the themes and techniques later associated with psychoanalysis and modernist literature the novel also reflects svevo's interest in the emerging field of psychoanalysis influenced by his reading of sigmund freud's works svevo's depiction of zeno's sessions with his psychoanalyst serves as a vehicle for exploring the complexities of human consciousness and the limitations of self knowledge

long hailed as a seminal work of modernism in the tradition of joyce and kafka and now available in a supple new english translation italo svevo s charming and splendidly idiosyncratic novel conducts readers deep into one hilariously hyperactive and endlessly self deluding mind the mind in question belongs to zeno cosini a neurotic italian businessman who is writing his confessions at the behest of his psychiatrist here are zeno s interminable attempts to quit smoking his courtship of the beautiful yet unresponsive ada his unexpected and unexpectedly happy marriage to ada s homely sister augusta and his affair with a shrill voiced aspiring singer relating these misadventures with wry wit and a perspicacity at once unblinking and compassionate zeno s conscience is a miracle of psychological realism

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this book pushes literary theory into unexplored grounds to articulate the modern and contemporary condition of interstitiality through an innovative discussion of literary and philosophical underpinnings and interpretation of works by calvino caproni sereni and svevo it will appeal to italianists and anyone studying italian literature

a journal of lay catholic opinion

covers writers who have made significant contributions to european literature includes in depth critical and biographical analysis

italo svevo although neglected until the last few years of his life is now acknowledged as a writer of international stature alongside his contemporaries kafka proust and joyce these essays focus on his three novels una vita senilita and la coscienza di zeno drawing on new biographical and critical research key issues are explored such as svevo s jewishness his debt to psychoanalysis sexuality and love structure and irony and time and narration the opening chapter is devoted to trieste which features so prominently in his oeuvre this book will provide both the general reader and the student with a valuable re evaluation of a unique writer of genius elizabeth schachter has taught at the university college of north wales and is at present a lecturer in italian at the university of kent she has published not only on italo svevo but also on eugenio montale and giovanni verga for several years she was the editor of pirandello studies

an elderly man undergoing psychoanalysis records his autobiography and disillusioned impressions of his analyst's methods

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many of the great writers of modern italian fiction manzoni verga d annunzio and others share a strong belief in the transformational power of the written word according to robert dombroski each embraces literature as an institution and convention and each adopts the novel form as a means of affirming life in the face of troubled reality in properties of writing dombroski explores their work and the social political and historical issues that have emerged in recent italian fiction in each of nine critical readings dombroski offers an original interpretation reconsiders past assumptions and redefines unresolved critical problems the result is the first book in english to focus on the italian novel from the perspective of ideological criticism such an informed and comprehensive history of the modern italian novel has simply not been available in english properties of writing is well documented extremely convincing and takes into account all of the useful recent criticism this is not surprising since dombroski is one of the leading u s experts in the field of modern italian fiction indeed an expert whose recognition is international anthony oldcorn brown university

a family history of smoking is a compelling memoir about two european families living through the last gasps of the austro hungarian empire from great grandfather david who saw his family's fortunes decline with the gradual rise of anti semitism to the ultra modern glamorous mother who held her family together through world war ii andrew riemer paints a beautiful portrait of a now vanished world that literally went up in smoke set against the backdrop of the tumult of early twentieth century europe a family history of smoking is full of eccentric characters literary anecdotes and historical drama and is a moving tribute to a family its strength and its stories

short accessible introductions to european literature and culture twentieth century italy was marked by a profound and often convulsive transformation in both society and culture accompanied at various stages by war violence and dictatorship this was italy's difficult entry into modernity the voices of italian literature responded to this transformation with a bewildering combination of excitement and anxiety from the loud embrace of the new in futurism to melancholy laments for tradition in the process some of the greatest works of modern literature were created robert gordon offers a vivid overview of the century's literature charting a series of motifs of italy's difficult modernity from war to the city from language to geography from marginal groups to avant garde movements through a wide array of writers and texts

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