



# Scenes of Intimacy: Reading, Writing and Theorizing Contemporary Literature

*Jennifer Cooke*

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# Scenes of Intimacy: Reading, Writing and Theorizing Contemporary Literature

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*Scenes of Intimacy* analyzes the representation of acts and relationships of intimacy in contemporary literature, the effect this has upon readers, and the ways these representations resonate with, complement, and challenge the concerns of contemporary theory. Opening with an in-depth interview with literary critic, Derridean, and novelist Professor Nicholas Royle, the volume contains eleven further essays that move from intimate scenes of familial and pedagogic legacy, on to representations of love, of sex, and finally to scenes of death and dying. The essays are textually attentive to how literary techniques create intimacy, and draw upon new and notable theoretical positions and critics from queer theory, affect studies, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism and deconstruction to ask difficult and uncomfortable questions about intimacy and its representation. Across the genres of poetry, autobiography, journals, love letters, short stories and novels, *Scenes of Intimacy* shows that contemporary literature poses new possibilities and questions about our intimate relationalities, their failures and their futures.

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