

An exploration of the relationship between literature and life, this study examines the effect on readers of suicidal literature -- novels and poems that depict, and sometimes glorify, the act of suicide. Beginning with a discussion of the growing incidence of suicide in American culture, Jeffrey Berman investigates the portrayal of suicide in the works of four authors who later took their own lives -- Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Sylvia Plath, and Anne Sexton -- and two who did not -- Kate Chopin and William Styron. In each case Berman discusses the writers shifting attitude toward suicide, the tendency of critics to romanticize fictional suicide, and the impact of writing about suicide on the artists own life. At the same time, Berman draws on his experiences as a teacher of these writings, analyzing student reactions to literary suicide as recorded in class diaries -- responses ranging from grief and confusion to anger and guilt. By looking at the connection between real and imagined suicide, Berman seeks to shed fresh light on a subject long enshrouded in silence, fear, and mystery.

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At the same time, Berman draws on his experiences as a teacher of these writings, analyzing student reactions to literary suicide as recorded in class diaries. An examination of the effect of suicidal literature on readers -novels and poems that depict, and sometimes glorify, the act of suicide. In particular it explores the.

Jeffrey Berman's Surviving Literary Suicide (University of Massachusetts Press; pages; \$60 hardcover, \$ paperback) opposes any.

Surviving Literary Suicide has 11 ratings and 1 review. X-ray said: Over the years I've read a lot alot a LOT about ol' Sylvia Plath. I used to never wan. Surviving Literary Suicide. By Jeffrey Berman. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. xii + pp. 54 [pounds sterling] (paperbound 18 [pounds.

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