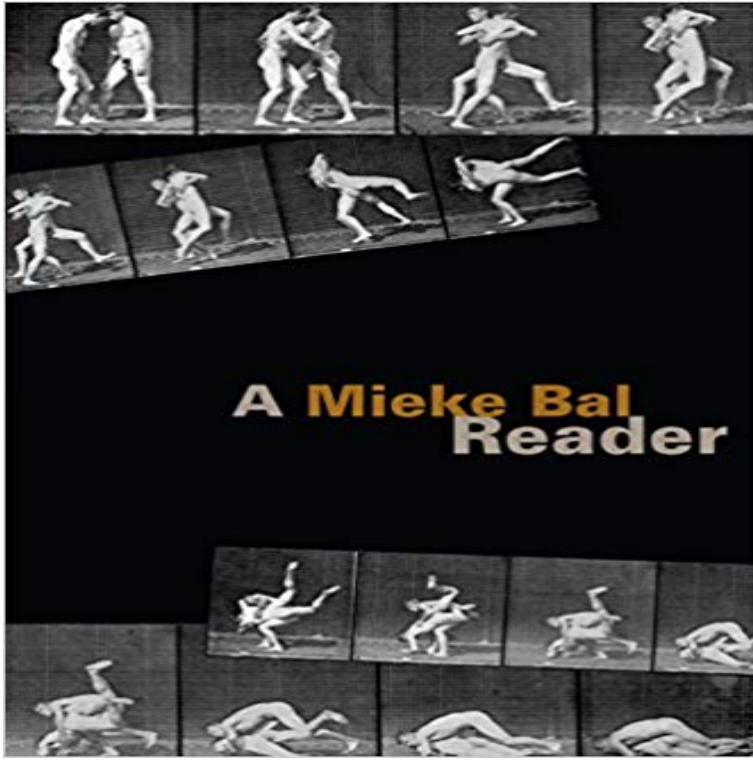


A Mieke Bal Reader



Mieke Bal has had a significant impact on every field she has touched, from Old Testament scholarship and narratology to critical methods and visual culture. This brilliant and controversial intellectual invariably performs a high-wire act at the point where critical issues and methods intersector collide. She is deeply interested in the problems of cultural analysis across a range of disciplines. *A Mieke Bal Reader* brings together for the first time a representative collection of her work that distills her broad interests and areas of expertise. This Reader is organized into four parts, reflecting the fields that Bal has most profoundly influenced: literary study, interdisciplinary methodology, visual analysis, and postmodern theology. The essays include some of Bal's most characteristic and provocative work, capturing her at the top of her form. *Narration and Focalization*, for example, provides the groundwork for Bal's ideas on narrative, while *Reading Art?* clearly outlines her concept of reading images. *Religious Canon and Literary Identity* reenvisions Bal's own work at the intersection of theology and cultural analysis, while *Enfolding Feminism* argues for a new feminist rallying cry that is not a position but a metaphor. More than a dozen other essays round out the four sections, each of which is interdisciplinary in its own right: the section devoted to literature, for instance, ranges widely over psychoanalysis, theology, photography, and even autobiography. *A Mieke Bal Reader* is the product of a capacious intellect and a sustained commitment to critical thinking. It will prove to be instructive, maddening, and groundbreaking in short, all the hallmarks of intellectual inquiry at its best.

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