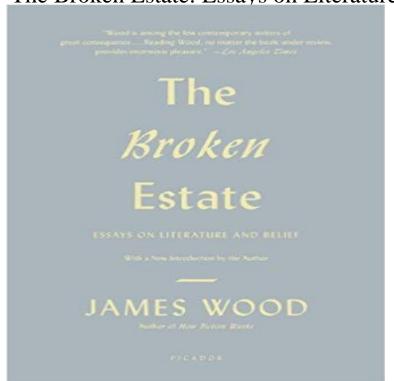
The Broken Estate: Essays on Literature and Belief



Published when he was thirty-three, The Broken Estate is the first book of essays by the man who would become one of Americas most esteemed literary critics. Ranging in subject from Jane Austen to John Updike, this collection introduced American readers to a new kind of humanist criticism. Wood is committed to judging literature through its connection with the soul, its appeal to our appetites and identities, and he examines his subjects rigorously, without ever losing sight of the mysterious human impulse that has made these works valuable to generations of readers.

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