



Literature and Transformation

A Narrative Study of Life-Changing Reading Experiences

By Thor Magnus Tangerås

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'This highly original and illuminating book is a methodological tour de force offering rich and compelling means to analyse, understand and demonstrate the transformative power of literary reading in its living context. Essential reading for everyone concerned with the place of literature in the world today.' —Josie Billington, Professor of English Literature, University of Liverpool, UK

Thor Magnus Tangerås's book on life-changing encounters with literature is a groundbreaking work within reading research and the psychology of reading, adding new perspectives and knowledge to our understanding of the reading experience.' —Ragnar Audunson, Professor, Library and Information Science, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

It has long remained a tacit assumption in hermeneutics and literary theory that works of imaginative literature have the potential to change the reader's self. Literature and Transformation develops a method called Intimate Reading to investigate how ordinary readers are deeply moved by what they read and the transformative impact such experiences have on their sense of self. The book presents unique narratives of such experiences and suggests a theory of transformative affective patterns that may form the basis of an affective literary theory.

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Preface; Acknowledgements; Chapter One: Introduction; Chapter Two: Intimate Reading: A Narrative Method; Chapter Three: Veronica's Bruise; Chapter Four: Nina's Life- Long Friend Flicka; Chapter Five: Esther's Episode; Chapter Six: Jane's Visionary Reading; Chapter Seven: Sue's Buried Life; Chapter Eight: Reading by Heart: Lexithymia and Transformative Affective Patterns; Bibliography; Index.

About the Author

Thor Magnus Tangerås is associate professor of rhetoric at Kristiania University College, Norway. He is also interested in bibliotherapy and trains librarians in the method of shared reading. Tangerås's key research interests are psychagogy, transformation, empathy and narrative approaches to interviewing.

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