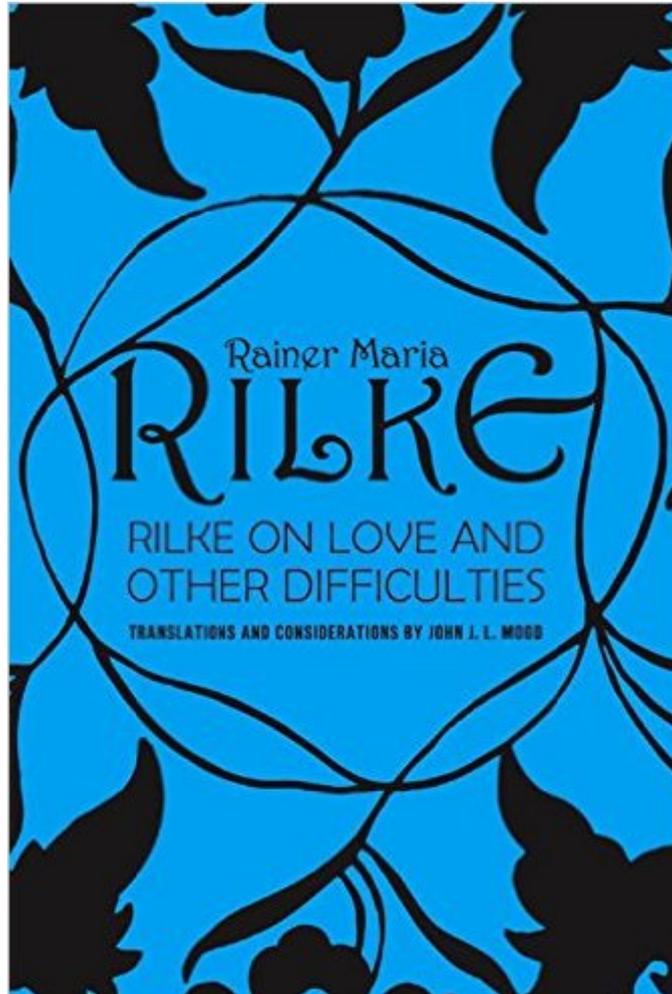


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Rilke On Love And Other Difficulties: Translations And Considerations



Synopsis

An anthology of Rilke's strongest poetry and prose for both aficionados and new readers. Here is a mini-anthology of poetry and prose for both aficionados and those readers discovering Rainer Maria Rilke for the first time. John J. L. Mood has assembled a collection of Rilke's strongest work, presenting commentary along with the selections. Mood links into an essay passages from letters that show Rilke's profound understanding of men and women and his ardent spirituality, rooted in the senses. Combining passion and sensitivity, the poems on love presented here are often not only sensual but sexual as well. Others pursue perennial themes in his work—death and life, growth and transformation. The book concludes with Rilke's reflections on wisdom and openness to experience, on grasping what is most difficult and turning what is most alien into that which we can most trust.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Despite its virtues, this book does not give some sources (and has no notes or bibliography, or index). The section called "The Dragon-Princess" is actually Letter 8 in Rilke's Letters to a Young Poet (letter 8, dated August 12, 1904; originally entitled Briefe an einen jungen Dichter) and I have been unable to find the edition with this next part in full. Page 119 (Look Inside as page 95) gives ONLY THE FIRST PARAGRAPH of the quote below, ending with the words "wants help from us." The next page is blank. "How should we be able to forget those ancient myths that are the beginning of all peoples? The myths about dragons that, at the last moment, turn into princesses. Perhaps all the dragons of our lives are princesses, who are only waiting to see us, once beautiful and brave.

Perhaps everything terrible is, in its deepest being, something helpless that wants help from us."So, you must not be frightened if a sadness rises up before you, larger than any you have ever seen. If a restiveness like light and cloud-shadows, passes over your hands and over all you do. You must think that something is happening to you. That life has not forgotten you. That it holds you in its hand. It will not let you fall. Why do you want to shut out of your life any uneasiness, any miseries, or any depressions? For after all, you do not know what work these conditions are doing inside you."THIS is a most beautiful passage, the most poetic translation of it I have found, but if could have been used for it, or better, for the rest of the Letter 8 on the blank page on the reverse of the page ending "...wants help from us.

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