

# Download Free Abram David The Spell Of The Sensuous Read Pdf Free

**The Spell of the Sensuous** **The Spell of the Sensuous** The Spell of the Sensuous **The Spell of the Sensuous** The Spell of the Sensuous The Sensuous Woman Summary of David Abram's The Spell of the Sensuous **Panpsychism Sensuous Geographies** Sensuous Knowledge *The Sensuous Woman* *The Sensuous in the Counter-Reformation Church* Spa Sensuous Scholarship The Sensuous Garden The Sensuous and the Sacred Other Creations *The Sensuous Man* **Becoming Animal** *The Sensuous Cinema of Wong Kar-wai* You Call it Madness **Sensuous Surfaces** Rendezvous with the Sensuous *Lifting the Veil, Secrets of the Sensuous Woman* *Sensuous Cognition* **The Sensuous Immortals** **Touch In the Presence of the Sensuous** Elemental Sensuous **Sensuous Seas** **Sensuous Magic** **Sex and the Intelligence of the Heart** **Sensuous Frazetta** **Visualizing Sensuous** **Suffering and Affective Pain in Early Modern Europe and the Spanish Americas** *Synaesthetic Perception as a Mode of Being* **The Sensuous Garden** **Elemental Philosophy** *Phenomenology of Perception* Irrevocable **Sensuous Architecture**

A Saint Bernard, despite its name, is unwelcome in church. Any dog, cat, sheep, terrapin, or bird clearly faces this same prohibition. Do animals have any relevance to humanity's continuing search for a spiritually rich life? Have they ever? Modern religions have all but banished the animal kingdom from our places of worship, and the non-human world has become increasingly marginalized and left out of religious discourse. And yet, just beneath the surface lies a lush tradition of animal archetypes, a spiritual bestiary in which Satan appears as a serpent, Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the Holy Spirit as a dove. Jehovah tests the depths of Daniel's belief in a lion's den. Our cathedrals teem with stone eagles, stags, and other symbolic fauna. Our deepest moral ideas find expression through animal stories like Aesop's fables, the Buddhist Jataka, and Orwell's Animal Farm. At the prehistoric heart of humanity's attempts to articulate spiritual sentiments, we find the caves of Lascaux and images, not of white-robed deities, but of the giant beasts of the Ice Age. Christopher Manes's groundbreaking *Other Creations* uncovers this tradition as it flourished in the past and as it lives on today. In this fascinating study, unlike any yet published, Manes shows how animals embodied our first attempts to express spirituality - as seen in the cave paintings of Ice Age Europe and how they continue to do so today in subtle, even unperceived ways, such as through sports team mascots, horror films, and toys. Drawing on both his literary scholarship and his personal search for a deeper experience of faith, Manes demonstrates that animals do not simply decorate our religious lives; they are part of the very texture of human spirituality. In *Rendezvous with the Sensuous* readers are drawn to, and become situated within, the dynamic place of the aesthetic experience. While there, human sensuousness comes into relief as it combines with the sensuousness that derives from nature. In this complex place where artistic expression coalesces with the natural world, readers are extended an invitation to share in the journey of a richly diverse synesthetic experience and to gain a greater appreciation of the important place of the sensuous in illuminating the role of aesthetics in the world of ideas. Co-published with the American Federation of Art, this book focuses on the exquisite

temple bronzes, created as portable images of Hindu deities, produced in south India from the 9th to the 13th century, a time of unparalleled creativity. The contemporary challenge of postmodernity draws our attention to the nature of reality and the ways in which experience is constructed. *Sensuous Geographies* explores our immediate sensuous experience of the world. Touch, smell, hearing and sight - the four senses chiefly relevant to geographical experience - both receive and structure information. The process is mediated by historical, cultural and technological factors. Issues of definition are illustrated through a variety of sensuous geographies. Focusing on postmodern concerns with representation, the book brings insights from individual perceptions and cultural observations to an analysis of the senses, challenging us to reconsider the role of the sensuous as not merely the physical basis of understanding but as an integral part of the cultural definition of geographical knowledge. In *Sensuous Scholarship* Paul Stoller challenges contemporary social theorists and cultural critics who - using the notion of embodiment to critique both Eurocentric and phallogocentric predispositions in scholarly thought - consider the body primarily as a text that can be read and analyzed. He argues that this attitude is in itself Eurocentric and is particularly inappropriate for anthropologists, who often work in societies in which the notion of text, and textual interpretation, is foreign. In many of these societies not only are reading and writing unimportant but vision is not the central perceptual mode. Instead, the "lower" senses are central to the metaphoric organization of experience. Throughout *Sensuous Scholarship* Stoller argues for the importance of understanding the "sensuous epistemologies" of many non-Western societies so that we can better understand the societies themselves and what their epistemologies have to teach us about human experience in general. The main topic discussed throughout the volume is the indissoluble relationship between body, mind and culture. By emphasizing the sensuous quality of human cognition, i.e. what Howes (2003: XVII) calls "the relation of the verbal to other 'nonverbal' (or sensual) registers of communication", the contributions in this book revisit the notion of embodiment by paying particular attention to its sensuous dimension without losing sight of its cultural and cognitive components. Vampirella, *Weird Science*, *Dejah Thoris*... No one renders exotic women better than Frazetta, the World's greatest Fantasy artist. Until now, only the most ardent collectors possessed the elusive grail items from the short period of Frazetta's early-1960s *Men's* magazine and risqué paperback illustrations. Often selling for hundreds of dollars each, these rare publications bridged Frazetta's exodus from traditional comics work, to his now-legendary *Conan*, *John Carter of Mars* and *Death Dealer* oil paintings. Now, in an affordable volume, Vanguard expands their authorized line of Frazetta books with this, the most complete collection ever, of rare, vintage, *Sensuous Frazetta*. This book includes a Foreword by popular *Cry For Dawn* creator, Joseph Michael Linsner. Contents: FOREWORD Joseph Michael Linsner; Chapter One *Between the Sheets* (Paperback Interiors); Chapter Two *Romance & Cigarettes* (Sequential Art); Chapter Three *Pretty Funny Women* (Sex in a Humorous Vein); Chapter Four *Saucy Stories* (*Men's Magazine* Art); Chapter Five *From Casting Couch to...* (Hollywood Vignettes); Chapter Six *Stars in her Eyes* (The Zodiac Calendar). Crosby, Vallee, Columbo. They are their own trinity. Bing is the universal dad. Rudy the misbehaving son. That leaves Russ. The holy ghost. New York, 1931: The curtain falls on the Ziegfeld Follies, a victim of the rising popularity of talking pictures; Rudy Vallee, radio's wildly popular "Vagabond Lover," worries that increasingly sophisticated microphones and Hollywood-minted heartthrobs will make his

megaphone-amplified vocals passé; a pugnacious, hard-drinking baritone named Bing Crosby cleans up his act, preparing to take America by storm on CBS radio; and handsome twenty-three-year-old Russ Columbo, a former violinist dating a Ziegfeld girl, makes his debut on NBC radio. In an America poised to take its dominant place on the world stage, the Crooner points the way forward. With his heated core of sex appeal wrapped in well-tailored layers of cool distance and cigarette smoke, the Crooner brings something new to the country's self-image: this is no Yankee-Doodle Dandy, but a suave and seductive figure, sophisticated as any European, flush with youthful strength and energy. It's all there in his voice, his croon: a soft, intimate, sensual form of singing that combines jazz sensibilities with the smooth and danceable rhythms of the Big Band sound and Swing. But who would embody the new archetype? Vallee crooned too soon. That left Crosby and Columbo to duel it out over the airwaves. Hailed as "The Romeo of Radio" and "The Valentino of Song," romantically linked to actresses Pola Negri and Carole Lombard, Columbo is all but forgotten today, his limitless promise cut short in a tragic and controversial accident as he stood on the verge of winning the stardom that Crosby, his great rival, would soon achieve. In this impressionistic tour-de-force—a musical history combining the drama of a bestselling novel and a soundtrack from the Golden Age of Broadway and Hollywood—master musician and critic Lenny Kaye trains a spotlight on Columbo while crooning a love song to an earlier America—a pitch-perfect evocation of one of the most romantic, creatively exuberant periods of our past—an era whose influence still burns brightly in the music and popular culture of today. This book examines the promotion of the sensuous as part of religious experience in the Roman Catholic Church of the early modern period. During the Counter-Reformation, every aspect of religious and devotional practice was reviewed, including the role of art and architecture, and the invocation of the five senses to incite devotion became a hotly contested topic. The Protestants condemned the material cult of veneration of relics and images, rejecting the importance of emotion and the senses and instead promoting the power of reason in receiving the Word of God. After much debate, the Church concluded that the senses are necessary to appreciate the sublime, and that they derive from the Holy Spirit. As part of its attempt to win back the faithful, the Church embraced the sensuous and promoted the use of images, relics, liturgy, processions, music, and theater as important parts of religious experience. Learning marine biology from a textbook is one thing. But take readers to the bottom of the sea in a submarine to discover living fossils or to coral reefs to observe a day in the life of an octopus, and the sea and its splendors come into focus, in brilliant colors and with immediacy. In *Sensuous Seas*, Eugene Kaplan offers readers an irresistibly irreverent voyage to the world of sea creatures, with a look at their habitats, their beauty and, yes, even their sex lives. A marine biologist who has built fish farms in Africa and established a marine laboratory in Jamaica, Kaplan takes us to oceans across the world to experience the lives of their inhabitants, from the horribly grotesque to the exquisitely beautiful. In chapters with titles such as "Fiddler on the Root" (reproductive rituals of fiddler crabs) and "Size Does Count" (why barnacles have the largest penis, comparatively, in the animal kingdom), Kaplan ventures inside coral reefs to study mating parrotfish; dives 740 feet in a submarine to find living fossils; explains what results from swallowing a piece of living octopus tentacle; and describes a shark attack on a friend. The book is a sensuous blend of sparkling prose and 150 beautiful illustrations that clarify the science. Each chapter opens with an exciting personal anecdote that leads into the scientific exploration of a distinct inhabitant of the sea world—allowing the reader to

experience firsthand the incredible complexity of sea life. A one-of-a-kind memoir that unfolds in remarkable reaches of ocean few of us can ever visit for ourselves, *Sensuous Seas* brings the underwater world back to living room and classroom alike. Readers will be surprised at how much marine biology they have learned while being amused. *Spa: The Sensuous Experience* provides a timely exploration of 40 of the very best spas created over the years, from more recent examples to traditional destinations that have become classic icons in the spa world. Buddhist philosophy of Anicca (impermanence), Dukkha (suffering), and Winner of the International Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction *Animal Tracks*, word magic, the speech of stones, the power of letters, and the taste of the wind all figure prominently in this intellectual tour de force that returns us to our senses and to the sensuous terrain that sustains us. This major work of ecological philosophy startles the senses out of habitual ways of perception. For a thousand generations, human beings viewed themselves as part of the wider community of nature, and they carried on active relationships not only with other people with other animals, plants, and natural objects (including mountains, rivers, winds, and weather patterns) that we have only lately come to think of as "inanimate." How, then, did humans come to sever their ancient reciprocity with the natural world? What will it take for us to recover a sustaining relation with the breathing earth? In *The Spell of the Sensuous* David Abram draws on sources as diverse as the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty, Balinese shamanism, Apache storytelling, and his own experience as an accomplished sleight-of-hand of magician to reveal the subtle dependence of human cognition on the natural environment. He explores the character of perception and excavates the sensual foundations of language, which--even at its most abstract--echoes the calls and cries of the earth. On every page of this lyrical work, Abram weaves his arguments with a passion, a precision, and an intellectual daring that recall such writers as Loren Eiseley, Annie Dillard, and Barry Lopez. The sight of a colourful border or the scent of a rose may excite the senses and provide the elusive "feelgood factor". In this text, journalist and broadcaster Don shows how to exploit the sensuous qualities of your garden to the full. Each sense is examined in turn, with an explanation of how it works and how the messages we receive from the garden affect our moods and emotions. He takes a sensuous journey through every part of the garden, from the soil itself, through plants and garden wildlife, to walls and surfaces and features such as pools and pergolas. The journey reveals how each season brings its own distinct sensations, from the fresh smells and colours of spring to the cold, stark beauty of winter. The descriptions of sensory experiences are accompanied by practical guidance for creating your own sensuous garden, with ideas for planning and design. Photographs bring the sights, scents, tastes and sounds of the sensuous garden to life, and a directory describes the characteristics and needs of 200 of the best plants for stimulating the senses. What would make you comfortable with yourself to explore your sensual desires and excite you into taking action to realize your full potential as a sensuous woman? Can you believe that you created your sexual repression, not caused by the male, but rather by the belief systems you adopted about your "Sensual Self" and left it dormant, inactive? Perhaps after reading some of the pathways to enter and release your "Sensual Self," you will be inspired to live for fulfillment. Keep in mind you do not have to follow another woman's path. I am an authority only about my body. I unveil these apparent secrets to inspire your personal journey. Your journey will be unique to you as mine was for me. Here I will share some techniques, exercises and provocative thoughts regarding the "Sensual Self" and what

arouses it to bring fulfillment, pleasure and gratification. The rest is up to you. The book that fired the first shot in the sexual revolution Not too long ago only “bad” girls had a good time in bed. “Good” girls endured—and wondered what they were missing. Then along came “J” and suddenly everything was different. She opened the eyes—and minds—of millions of American women with her explicit step-by-step account of her pursuit of the ultimate in sexual pleasure. Now here’s the book that has set off fireworks in bedrooms across America, the book that will teach every woman how to free her body, train her senses, and tap her own hidden sensual resources. The book designed to make you the woman every man yearns to make love to—the woman you yearn to be. With *Sensuous Surfaces*, Jonathan Hay offers one of the most richly illustrated and in-depth introductions to the decorative arts of Ming and Qing dynasty China to date. Examining an immense number of works, he explores the materials and techniques, as well as the effects of patronage and taste, that together have formed a loose system of informal rules that define the decorative arts in early modern China. Hay demonstrates how this system—by engaging the actual and metaphorical potential of surface—guided the production and use of decorative arts from the late sixteenth century through the middle of the nineteenth, a period of explosive growth. He shows how the understanding of decorative arts made a fundamental contribution to the sensory education of China’s early modern urban population. Enriching his study with 280 color plates, he ultimately offers an elegant meditation, not only on Ming and Qing art but on the importance of the erotic in the form and function of decorations of all eras. Materialism asserts that the universe and everything within it, including ourselves, is a deterministic machine, trapped until the end of time on the rigid tracks of inviolable laws. Only the mechanisms of physics - forces, electrical charges, and so on - are consequential; nothing else matters. Experiences, such as the taste of honey, feelings, thoughts, choices: everything concerning the mind is an illusion, or is at best a useless and absurd epiphenomenon. This accessible and engagingly-written book is a serious philosophical work, giving solid reasons for rejecting materialism, and proposing an alternative metaphysical framework that is fully consistent with science. In the sensuous cosmos, our essence is that we experience the world in all its exquisite, sensual beauty and unbearable suffering. An elegant, deeply intelligent meditation of human sensuality and the pleasures of the garden, this is one of the most original gardening books ever produced. A leading garden expert and science broadcaster celebrates the intoxicating sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of the natural world. 200 full-color photos. Architecture comprises sensuous, even erotic elements. In this ground-breaking book the authors undertake the first-ever examination of this aspect of architecture. Having introduced us to the concept of sensuous architecture, the book presents us with a chronological analysis, starting with the summer residences on the Loire and in Germany, and continuing with discussions on English landscape garden and the Marquis de Sade's torture chambers, before coming full circle with immaterial: media architecture and cybersex. "Sensuous Architecture: The Art of Erotic Building" lends insights into the cultural history of the bathroom, the erotic symbolism of towers and grottoes in various cultures, and anthropomorphic architecture. Examples of particularly sensuous residential buildings are certain to provide architects and their clients with stimulating ideas. In a chapter on present-day urban ambiances, the author argues that personal well-being and the general quality of life in our cities depend on architecture satisfying both the mind and the senses in equal measure. Painting, sculpture and

wrapping art, as well as the relationship between architecture and eroticism in film, are examined. The book concludes with a plea for an architecture of the senses. Under the guidance of phenomenological insights, this book presents the sensuous in its elemental sense. The elemental is not to be confused here with the classical notion of the atom, which is viewed as a self-contained entity into which all reality is reducible. Rather, the elemental is a living creative force that resists categorization. This force embodies the principle of openness and opening, a principle celebrated and given expression by numerous artists and other friends of the sensuous. As elemental, the sensuous irreducibly expresses itself in multiple ways. The editors of this volume avoid posting themselves between the sensuous and those to whom it presents itself. Each of the contributors here responds to the call of the elemental, and each finds his or her starting point where everyone else starts and ends. The multiple voices brought together here constitute a concert, with the elemental sensuous as the conductor. In reading this book, the reader will become more aware of himself or herself, and more aware of the world in which he or she lives. Winner of the International Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction Animal tracks, word magic, the speech of stones, the power of letters, and the taste of the wind all figure prominently in this intellectual tour de force that returns us to our senses and to the sensuous terrain that sustains us. This major work of ecological philosophy startles the senses out of habitual ways of perception. For a thousand generations, human beings viewed themselves as part of the wider community of nature, and they carried on active relationships not only with other people with other animals, plants, and natural objects (including mountains, rivers, winds, and weather patterns) that we have only lately come to think of as "inanimate." How, then, did humans come to sever their ancient reciprocity with the natural world? What will it take for us to recover a sustaining relation with the breathing earth? In *The Spell of the Sensuous* David Abram draws on sources as diverse as the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty, Balinese shamanism, Apache storytelling, and his own experience as an accomplished sleight-of-hand of magician to reveal the subtle dependence of human cognition on the natural environment. He explores the character of perception and excavates the sensual foundations of language, which--even at its most abstract--echoes the calls and cries of the earth. On every page of this lyrical work, Abram weaves his arguments with a passion, a precision, and an intellectual daring that recall such writers as Loren Eiseley, Annie Dillard, and Barry Lopez. In *Touch*, Laura U. Marks develops a critical approach more tactile than visual, an intensely physical and sensuous engagement with works of media art that enriches our understanding and experience of these works and of art itself. These critical, theoretical, and personal essays serve as a guide to developments in nonmainstream media art during the past ten years -- sexual representation debates, documentary ethics, the shift from analog to digital media, a new social obsession with smell. Marks takes up well-known artists like experimental filmmaker Ken Jacobs and mysterious animators the Brothers Quay, and introduces groundbreaking, lesser-known film, video, and digital artists. From this emerges a materialist theory -- an embodied, erotic relationship to art and to the world. Marks's approach leads to an appreciation of the works' mortal bodies: film's volatile emulsion, video's fragile magnetic base, crash-prone Net art; it also offers a productive alternative to the popular understanding of digital media as "virtual" and immaterial. Weaving a continuous fabric from philosophy, fiction, science, dreams, and intimate experience, *Touch* opens a new world of art media to readers. The widely acclaimed films of Wong Kar-wai are characterized by their sumptuous yet complex

visual and sonic style. This study of Wong's filmmaking techniques uses a poetics approach to examine how form, music, narration, characterization, genre, and other artistic elements work together to produce certain effects on audiences. Bettinson argues that Wong's films are permeated by an aesthetic of sensuousness and "disturbance" achieved through techniques such as narrative interruptions, facial masking, opaque cuts, and other complex strategies. The effect is to jolt the viewer out of complete aesthetic absorption. Each of the chapters focuses on a single aspect of Wong's filmmaking. The book also discusses Wong's influence on other filmmakers in Hong Kong and around the world. *The Sensuous Cinema of Wong Kar-wai* will appeal to all who are interested in authorship and aesthetics in film studies, to scholars in Asian studies, media and cultural studies, and to anyone with an interest in Hong Kong cinema in general, and Wong's films in particular. "In this carefully written study, Gary Bettinson offers a critical assessment not only of the stylistic features of Wong Kar-wai's films but also of the scholarship that has developed around them.

Arguing against the facile culturalism that tends to dominate such scholarship, this book does full justice to Wong's cinematic methods in a series of impressively well-informed and informative readings." —Rey Chow, Duke University

A trans-cultural collection of studies on early modern imagery of the phenomena of pain and suffering and viewers' potential responses. Authors variously consider pain and suffering as somatic, emotional, and psychological experiences. Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book.

Sample Book Insights: #1 I was once in a trance while gazing at the stars in eastern Bali. I felt myself falling through space, and between the constellations below and the constellations above drifted countless fireflies, their lights flickering like the stars. #2 I had traveled to Indonesia on a research grant to study magic, and I had been a professional sleight-of-hand magician for five years back in the United States. I had spent some months in London, England, exploring the use of sleight-of-hand magic in psychotherapy. #3 The focus of my research shifted from questions regarding the application of magical techniques in medicine and ritual curing to a deeper consideration of the relation between traditional magic and the animate natural world. I came to recognize that it was through the agency of such rumors that the sorcerers were able to maintain a basic level of privacy. #4 The traditional or tribal shaman acts as an intermediary between the human community and the larger ecological field, ensuring that there is an appropriate flow of nourishment from the landscape to the human inhabitants and back to the local earth. In *Sensuous Knowledge*, Minna Salami draws on Africa-centric, feminist-first and artistic traditions to help us rediscover inclusive and invigorating ways of experiencing the world afresh. Combining the playfulness of a storyteller with the insight of a social critic, the book pries apart the systems of power and privilege that have dominated ways of thinking for centuries - and which have led to so much division, prejudice and damage. And it puts forward a new, sensuous, approach to knowledge: one grounded in a host of global perspectives - from Black Feminism to personal narrative, pop culture to high art, Western philosophy to African mythology - together comprising a vision of hope for a fragmented world riven by crisis. Through the prism of this new knowledge, Salami offers fresh insights into the key cultural issues that affect women's lives. How are we to view Sisterhood, Motherhood or even Womanhood itself? What is Power and why do we conceive of Beauty? How does one achieve Liberation? She asks women to break free of the prison made by ingrained male-centric biases, and build a house themselves - a home that can nurture us all. *Sensuous Knowledge* confirms Minna Salami as one the most

important spokespeople of today, and the arrival of a blistering new literary voice. [In this book, the author] draws on sources as diverse as the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty, Balinese shamanism, Apache storytelling, and his own experience as an accomplished sleight-of-hand magician to reveal the subtle dependence of human cognition on the natural environment. He explores the character of perception and excavates the sensual foundations of language, which - even at its most abstract - echoes the calls and cries of the earth. Explores how Nature underlies sexuality and intimacy • Examines how to regain intimacy in our relationships in a way that embraces our hidden wild nature and restores the sacred to our lives • Provides sacred sex and intimacy-building practices for partners and exercises to reconnect with the intuitive intelligence of the heart, remove our emotional armor, and cultivate a deeper relationship with the Earth • Shows how by healing our relationship with Nature and our sexuality, we move toward healing the whole planet Nature is having sex all the time--that's one of the reasons we feel so alive when we are immersed in it. Sexuality is essential to the sensation of Nature in your own body, of connecting to the piece of Earth closest to you--your own flesh and bones. Many a couple has been overcome by passion while walking in the woods or on the beach; many a soul has found solace or epiphany in Nature. Living in accordance with Nature depends on you being your true, whole self--a sexual, sensual, erotic, fully alive human being. Exploring the territory of intimacy, sacred sex, and emotional healing as a journey to wholeness, Julie McIntyre examines the sacred relationship between sexuality and the Earth and reveals how to create deep, lasting intimacy with your lover by recapturing the wild, spontaneous, natural sexuality that is your birthright. Detailing the process of moving from your head to the secret garden of your heart, she provides exercises to heal your psyche of old emotional trauma, reconnect with the intuitive intelligence of the heart, and cultivate a deeper relationship with the Earth in order to trust yourself and become vulnerable and open with your lover and thus truly intimate. She shows how there is a direct relationship between our beliefs and values about sex and intimacy and our beliefs and values about the environment and the Earth. She reveals how, by healing our separation from Nature and our sexuality, we can bring the sacred back into our lives, shape our own ecstatic sexual experiences, and move toward healing the whole planet. In his latest book, the prolific writer and thinker Alphonso Lingis brings interdisciplinarity and lyrical philosophizing to the weight of reality, the weight of things, and the weight of life itself. Drawing from philosophy, anthropology, psychology, religion, and science, Lingis seeks to uncover what in our reality escapes our attempts at measuring and categorizing. Writing as much from his own experiences and those of others as from his longstanding engagement with phenomenology and existentialism, Irrevocable studies the world in which shadows, reflections, halos, and reverberations count as much as the carpentry of things. Whether describing religious art and ritual, suffering, war and disease, the pleasures of love, the wonders of nature, archaeological findings, surfing, volcanoes, or jellyfish, Lingis writes with equal measures of rigor and abandon about the vicissitudes of our practices and beliefs. Knowing that birth, the essential encounters in our lives, crippling diseases and accidents, and even death are all determined by chance, how do we recognize and understand such chance? After facing tragedies, what makes it possible to live on while recognizing our irrevocable losses? Lingis's investigations are accompanied by his own vivid photographs from around the world. Balancing the local and the global, and ranging across vast expanses of culture and time, Irrevocable sounds the depths of both our

passions and our impassioned bodies and minds. Winner of the International Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction Animal tracks, word magic, the speech of stones, the power of letters, and the taste of the wind all figure prominently in this intellectual tour de force that returns us to our senses and to the sensuous terrain that sustains us. This major work of ecological philosophy startles the senses out of habitual ways of perception. For a thousand generations, human beings viewed themselves as part of the wider community of nature, and they carried on active relationships not only with other people with other animals, plants, and natural objects (including mountains, rivers, winds, and weather patterns) that we have only lately come to think of as "inanimate." How, then, did humans come to sever their ancient reciprocity with the natural world? What will it take for us to recover a sustaining relation with the breathing earth? In *The Spell of the Sensuous* David Abram draws on sources as diverse as the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty, Balinese shamanism, Apache storytelling, and his own experience as an accomplished sleight-of-hand of magician to reveal the subtle dependence of human cognition on the natural environment. He explores the character of perception and excavates the sensual foundations of language, which—even at its most abstract—echoes the calls and cries of the earth. On every page of this lyrical work, Abram weaves his arguments with a passion, a precision, and an intellectual daring that recall such writers as Loren Eiseley, Annie Dillard, and Barry Lopez. Mixing erotic vignettes with practical how-to suggestions and personal insight, 'Sensuous Magic' is Califia's classic beginner's guide to S/M for couples who harbour fantasies of erotic dominance and submission. Experienced players will appreciate the breadth of Califia's knowledge of safety and technique and his insights into the psychology of S/M. Novices will be reassured by Califia's honest, unpretentious approach. A pictorial survey of sculptural representations of the deities of Indian religions accompanies a textual survey of their influence on the arts of South and Southeast Asia. "Synaesthetic perception as a mode of being: Crossings of the sensuous and the poetic" seeks to disclose the harmonious interrelationship between synaesthetic modes of being, wildness, the poetic, and education. Merleau-Ponty (1962) and, more recently, David Abram (1997) have both proposed that synaesthetic perception, characterized by the overlapping and intertwining of the senses, is common to our direct, preconceptual experience in the life-world. Although we often disregard and discount synaesthetic capacities because they are non-linguistic and non-rational, they are an essential and rich characteristic of being human. The inquiry suggests that greater sensorial awareness that comes from awakening a trust in our sensuous embodied selves is promoted by being in the presence of the poetics of everyday circumambient wildness and in engagements with certain poetic writings which are grounded in the natural realm. Synaesthetic perception, a non-linguistic mode of knowing, must be accorded greater respect; it must be acknowledged and encouraged in all areas of education. Nature poetry, which is rooted in the texture of our ordinary sensuous experience amid wild others, can be an ally of education in this endeavour. The study proposes that it is through an awakening of the wisdom of the senses that we might recognize and value the importance of cultivating an ecopoetic rootedness in and reciprocity with the earth. The practice of a synaesthetic mode of being might bring about a positive transformative power, one that inspires a resistance to the encroachment of technocratic, dehumanizing controls on many aspects of our lives, and urges us to create a more wholesome, habitable earthhome for both human and nonhuman. This is a poetizing inquiry, an increasingly accepted form of qualitative arts-

based inquiry, that is written in verse, and presented in a poetic dialogic format. This methodology, which is congruent with the central position of the poetic in the study, is informed by the writer's background in poetry and literature. Each of the four chapter-long stanzas takes up one of the main themes: synaesthetic perception as a mode of being, the pulse of childhood knowing, a poetic sense of dwelling, and the intertwining of the senses and the poetic. A distinctive feature of the dissertation is that each stanza is fashioned as a polyvocal performative dialogue: an intertwining of poems, poetic fragments and the voices of others with the researcher's own verse-voice. The inquiry is offered as an experimental work in process. The reader is invited to engage in the dialogues by bringing her/his own sensuous experiences in the wild and knowledge of poetry to the piece, thus becoming a co-creator of the inquiry. David Abram's first book, *The Spell of the Sensuous* has become a classic of environmental literature. Now he returns with a startling exploration of our human entanglement with the rest of nature. As the climate veers toward catastrophe, the innumerable losses cascading through the biosphere make vividly evident the need for a metamorphosis in our relation to the living land. For too long we've ignored the wild intelligence of our bodies, taking our primary truths from technologies that hold the living world at a distance. Abram's writing subverts this distance, drawing readers ever closer to their animal senses in order to explore, from within, the elemental kinship between the human body and the breathing Earth. The shape-shifting of ravens, the erotic nature of gravity, the eloquence of thunder, the pleasures of being edible: all have their place in this book. Explores the ancient and perennial notion of the four elements as environmental ideas.

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