



The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form

Gage McWeeny

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form

Gage McWeeny

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form Gage McWeeny

In most accounts, literature of the nineteenth century compulsively tells the story of the individual and interiority. But amidst the newly dense social landscapes of modernity, with London as the first city of one million inhabitants, this literature also sought to represent those unknown and unmet: strangers. Focusing on the ways that both Victorian literature and modern social thought responded to an emergent "society of strangers," *The Comfort of Strangers* argues for a new relation between literary form and the socially dense environments of modernity, insisting upon strangers in these works not as alienating, fearsome others, but a relatively banal yet transformative fact of everyday life, the dark matter of the nineteenth-century social universe.

Taking up "the literature of social density," Gage McWeeny engages with a range of generically diverse works from the age of Victorian sympathy to illuminate surprising investments in ephemeral relations, anonymity, and social distance. Life amidst strangers on urban streets and markets produced new social experiences, both alluring and fearsome, and McWeeny shows how realist literary form is remade by the relational possibilities offered by the impersonal intimacy of life among those unknown and the power of weak social ties. Reading works by Charles Dickens, Matthew Arnold, George Eliot, Oscar Wilde, and Henry James, he discovers a species of Victorian sociality not imagined under J.S. Mill's description in *On Liberty* of society as a crowd impinging upon the individual. Instead, McWeeny mines nineteenth-century literature's sociological imagination to reveal a set of works diverted by and into intensities located in strangers and the modern forms of sociality they emblemize.

Treating seriously the preference for the many over the few, the impersonal intimacy of strangers over those who are friends and acquaintances, *The Comfort of Strangers* shows how literature and sociology together produced modern understandings of the social, opening up canonical works of the nineteenth century to a host of strange, new meanings.

 [Download The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Litera ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form Gage McWeeny

From reader reviews:

Roger Waldrop:

Here thing why this particular The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form are different and dependable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it really depends in the content than it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no book that similar with The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your means home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form in e-book can be your alternate.

Paul Frazier:

The guide with title The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form possesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. That book exist new understanding the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you within new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Carl Vang:

Exactly why? Because this The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Michael Mantz:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your limited time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be study. The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form can be your answer because it can be read by an individual who have those short extra time problems.

Download and Read Online The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form Gage McWeeny #N953A21DBM0

Read The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny for online ebook

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny books to read online.

Online The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny ebook PDF download

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny Doc

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny Mobipocket

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by Gage McWeeny EPub